



# Northgate News



News and events for  
February and March 2026



Warwick Methodist Church, Northgate  
and  
Whitnash Methodist Church

***Our Sunday services are  
at 10:30am***

***Coffee, tea are served  
after the service***

Further details of special  
services will be in the weekly  
notices,  
on the website,

and in this  
newsletter!



***Be Joyful,  
Be Prayerful,  
Be  
Thankful***

***Check out the website for  
latest news and  
information  
[www.warwickmethodist  
church.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)***

**Rev Sally Jones**

**Minister of the Warwick,  
Wellesbourne and Whitnash  
Methodist Churches  
01926 740846**



The next edition of Northgate News will be for :-  
**APRIL AND MAY 2026**

Don't forget you can advertise and share your news for  
dates and months **beyond** those in this newsletter -

Please send any articles/contributions by the  
**Deadline date of Sunday March 22nd**

To:- **noelle\_trevor@hotmail.co.uk**  
Have a chat to me at Church, or contact me on 07962232158

### **oDE To THE SPELL CHECKER**

Eye have a spelling checker  
It came with my pea sea  
It plainly marques four my revue  
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.  
Eye strike a key and type a word  
And weight 4 it 2 say  
Weather eye am wrong oar write  
It shows me strait a weigh  
As soon as a mist ache is maid  
It nose bee fore two long  
And eye can put the error rite  
Its rare lea ever wrong  
Eye have run this poem threw it  
I am shore your pleased two no  
Its letter perfect awl the weigh  
My chequer tolled me sew!

*Graeme Russell*

*Thank for sending us this Graeme - think we have all been there!!!! Ed*

**PRE LOVED SHOP**  
**In the Church Community Centre**

**First Saturday each month 10:00 - 1pm**



Ladies, men's and children's clothes  
Household items, Toys, puzzles, books and plenty more.....

***Offers of help during the morning would be very welcome,  
please see Dave Mann***

***Refreshments of tea, coffee  
and hot chocolate available***

***Come along and enjoy a  
welcome break from your shopping,***



**Prayer Circle**



There is a quiet corner by the 'Prayer Net',  
where there is a box for  
confidential requests for prayer.

Or you can contact the prayer circle through  
**Rev Sally 01926 740846 or Ann 01926 774734**

## Community Tuesdays



**TLC - Tuesday, Laughter and Chat**

**Every Tuesday**

**from 10.30am - 12:00 noon**

*Come along and enjoy refreshments ,  
fellowship and chat!*

**All are very welcome.**



**During the morning on the 10th February and 10th March ,**

**MIND will be at Bread Church/TLC**

**With a small theme/topic for each month.**



**10th February: Five ways to Wellbeing**

**10th March: Mindfulness**





## Bread Church



**Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday**

Come along to enjoy fellowship and friendship

We start baking bread from 10:30am until 11am

At 12 noon, after a short reflection and prayer -  
a lunch of soup and scones are served, all freshly made!!!

Lunch and Fellowship are free,  
donations welcome - but optional

*Please do come, why not invite a friend?*



Do join us, to bake bread (10:30-11am),  
or just for lunch, or drop in anytime for a coffee and chat.

The choice is yours.



During the period of Lent, from 24th February,  
Bread Church will be meeting **WEEKLY**

There will be a short Lent Reflection at  
12 noon

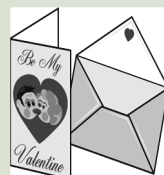
followed by a lunch of soup and scones

**DO JOIN US, ALL ARE WELCOME**

### Looking for Hand made cards for all occasions?

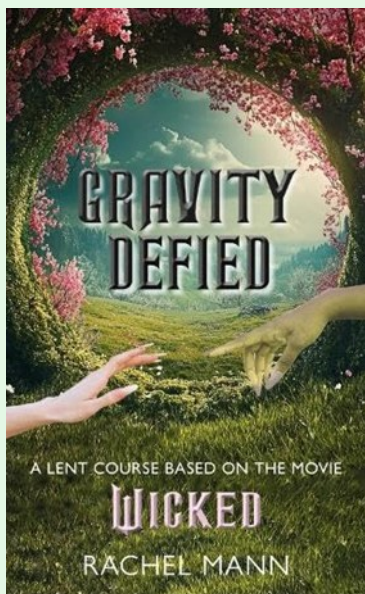
Jane Phillipson makes cards for Birthdays,  
thank you cards, blank for your own messages,

You will find Jane at  
Bread Church and TLC on Tuesdays.



## SAVE THE DATES - LENT COURSE 2026

Lent Course this year, which, as Northgate News goes to press, is being decided upon – but (assuming the technology works out!) may well be a 5-week course by Rachel Mann: **Gravity Defied – A Lent Course based on the film *Wicked***. We might also have a **movie afternoon** together so we can watch the film before the course begins (with tea, cake – and popcorn of course!!). More details to follow!



The course will run on Wednesday afternoons, 2-4pm, and Thursday evenings, 7-30 - 9:30pm

**Thursday evenings will be a repeat of Wednesday afternoons.**

You can swap between days each week, depending on your other commitments.

Week 1	Wed 25/2	&	Thurs 26/2
Week 2	Wed 4/3	&	Thurs 5/3
Week 3	Wed 11/3	&	Thurs 12/3
Week 4	Wed 18/3	&	Thurs 19/3
Week 5	Wed 25/3	&	Thurs 26/3

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



*IN A SOCIETY THAT HAS YOU COUNTING  
MONEY, POUNDS,  
CALORIES AND STEPS.*

*BE A REBEL AND COUNT YOUR  
BLESSINGS INSTEAD*

## From the Leadership Team:



We started the new year with a very special Covenant service on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Not only did we welcome new members Jan & Mark, but we launched our new pastoral support system and blessed those co-ordinating our pastoral care. Every member and adherent is now in a small group, tasked with supporting each other, and passing on any concerns to the pastoral secretary or minister, via their pastoral link. The old class system with pastoral visitors was no longer fit for purpose, as each pastoral visitor had too many in their group to be able to keep in touch properly. We hope that everyone will embrace this new system and support one another as Christ called us to do. It was lovely to see everyone sitting in their new groups during the Faith Lunch after the service.

We hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas services. Our friends from the learning-disabled community certainly enjoyed the Christingle service, and the puppets at the Carol service were well received. Around 100 small, knitted angels, with a card from church, were left around the town in the run up to Christmas and all were quickly taken. Thank you to everyone who contributed to all our Christmas activities.

The refurbished kitchen and toilets have received much praise, and I'm pleased to let you know that the lower ground floor facilities will be upgraded in February (the men are very pleased!). Remember that we are improving our facilities to attract outside users as well, so please spread the word around potential hirers.

We could do with some help on Community Tuesdays please, particularly at Bread Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday (and every week in Lent). We need a couple of extra people each week who will be there to chat to and help our guests, particularly those arriving for the first time. Please chat to Trevor Blades, Ian Meddoms or Anne Oliver to find out what is needed.

We will soon be in Lent, and I'm sure that Sally will be telling you all about the Lent groups which will meet each week, with the session on a Wednesday afternoon being repeated on a Thursday evening. We hope that everyone will find time to attend one each week; this is a great opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Our social event for February will be on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, a screening of the film on which the Lent study is based.

Anne Oliver (Senior Steward)

*\*\* For more details of the Lent Groups - see previous page! .....Ed*

## *Our Ministers Letter.....*



*Dear Friends,  
My warmest greetings to you all,*

Here are some wonderful words from 1 John 4:

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; **but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.**

One of the ways in which we are called to live as the body of Christ – probably the most important way - is in the giving of our love, care and support to others. Wesley was the catalyst for many amazing things and he called for the early Methodists to “watch over one another in love,” to practically love and care for each other, and to encourage each other. One of the most important things we all need to remember is that pastoral care – watching over one another in love – should be at the very heart of who we are as Methodists. Pastoral care is everyone’s responsibility, but it is also everyone’s joy and delight.

In response to this, on January 11<sup>th</sup>, our Covenant Sunday, we launched our new system of pastoral care – a new arrangement that will help us to better watch over each other in love. Our wonderful Pastoral Visitors, under the careful guidance of Janice Witham, have done beautiful work of watching over us in love. But the previous system was showing signs of strain, and the Pastoral Team was concerned that they were not able to support everyone as they would like to do. So, as in many other churches, a new way of caring for each other has been designed. This has taken a good deal of work and effort by Janice, Anne and Julie, and I am very grateful to them for the commitment they have shown to getting this off the ground.



The foundation of this new way of doing things is our **Pastoral Groups** – small groups of people who know at least one or two people in that group. Groups are fairly small, around 4 to 6 in number. The groups are based on friendships, using suggestions people previously made about who they would like to be in a group with. The members of each Pastoral Group will keep in contact with each other, perhaps by phone, or face to face, or letter, or email, or WhatsApp, at church or by meeting up in the week. The group will be the main pastoral support for the people in it. We realised a lot of this happens naturally already and we wanted to celebrate that and build on it. We also wanted to ensure that people who can no longer get to church still feel supported by the people who can. With this in mind, each group also has some people in their group who are no longer able to attend.

Watching over the groups are the **Pastoral Link** people. Each group has a named Pastoral Link, who can be contacted if there is an issue or difficulty, in much the same way that a Pastoral Visitor could be contacted in the past. Each Pastoral Link is in a group themselves, too, so that they can be watched over in love as well. If the Pastoral Link hears of an issue that s/he thinks needs passing on, this can be communicated to Janice or myself, as before. Janice will continue to co-ordinate meetings of the Pastoral Links, and the Prayer Circle will still play a vital role. Prayer requests will still be made to them in the way they were previously.

A key part of ‘watching over each other in love’ is **prayer**. It would be wonderful if the Pastoral Groups could commit to praying for each other in a way that is comfortable for them – this could be done in any way the group chooses. Groups could simply say to each other ‘by the time we see each other again I will have prayed for you’. Groups could set a time and say, for instance, ‘on Tuesday at 4pm I am going to pray for you’. People could ring each other up and say the Lord’s Prayer down the phone with each other. I invite you to be bold and have a go!

After our Covenant Service we shared a Faith Lunch together, inviting the members of each group to sit with each other and use the time to chat and decide how best to keep in contact. It was a lovely way of seeing something that had previously only existed on paper come to life.

Anything new always takes a while to settle down – so if you have any questions, please do get in touch with Janice, Anne, Julie or myself and we will do our best to answer your query.

**Who else do we need to watch over in love?** Our love and care for others should not be insular, or restricted to those that look and sound like us, or those whom we feel ‘on a wavelength’ with. If we really believe that ‘all are welcome in this place’ (in the words of StF 409, ‘Let us build a house where love can dwell’) then our love and care must extend into much wider circles than our immediate church community. It was a beautiful God-moment for me when, a few minutes before the Covenant Service began, I happened to meet George and he gave me a copy of a poem that he had told me about a few weeks earlier. It is entitled ‘Refugee’, by Brian Bilston, and is reproduced in this Newsletter. First you read it top to bottom in the normal way, then you read it bottom to top, and see what a difference it makes...

May God bless you, those whom you love, and those you are called to love in God’s name.

And – let’s not forget to be joyful, be prayerful and be thankful!

**With my love and prayers,**

*Sally*



***Now see next page to read ‘Refugees’ by Brian Bilston .....***

## **REFUGEES**

**By Brian Bilston**

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

(Now read from bottom to top)

## **One Church to Pentecost 2026**

**Born in Song – God's people have always been singing**

Dear Friends,

This is the first bulletin of 2026 to update you on our plans for ONE CHURCH to PENTECOST 2026.

Its purpose is to clarify the dates and some of the details (more details will follow soon), to reassure you that this is an experiment and not a decision about our shared future, and to seek volunteers to ensure that we make this experience a good one.

All the twelve churches across the South Warwickshire Circuit will meet together at 10.30am each Sunday morning at the Bridge House Theatre in Warwick for five Sunday mornings, beginning on Sunday 26 April, culminating with Pentecost 2026 on Sunday 24 May.

There is plenty of parking at the theatre and transport arrangements from our current churches are being developed.

A Young Church option will be available for children and young people.

In preparation for our worship together, existing house groups and those who would like to join a One Church to Pentecost group in their locality will have the opportunity to get to know others and to study together. Groups will meet in churches and in homes during the five-week period running up to Pentecost.

We are aware that the initial announcement of this proposal caused anxiety. We want to stress that this is an experiment to explore a different way of working together. As a Circuit we are aware that we will not have the resources in the future to continue to support twelve churches. Over the long term we need to think creatively about our options.

The December Circuit Meeting carefully considered the concerns raised and decided that the need to address the future challenges justified the plan to go ahead with One Church to Pentecost in 2026.

This admittedly radical idea allows us a period to trial an option which may or may not work. If it is successful in 2026, the Circuit Meeting might decide to repeat it in 2027 before making any long-term decisions.



**For those who want to know more about the background to this idea we are offering an information sharing evening on Wednesday 25 February at 7.30pm Warwick Methodist Church.**

So how can you get involved or help? Could you offer to assist on one or two Sundays with making One Church happen?

Could you, for instance,

- ☐ Join a prayer group starting now to support the planning?
- ☐ Help with organization of getting people and resources to the Theatre?
- ☐ Contribute to worship – musically, reading, serving communion, etc.
- ☐ Steward or provide refreshments at one of the services?
- ☐ Help with Young Church?
- ☐ Host or Lead a House Group?
- ☐ Is there something else you would like to offer?

Please email [onechurchtopentecost@gmail.com](mailto:onechurchtopentecost@gmail.com) with any offers of help.

Every blessing,  
Your Minister's

Iain, Sally, Tina and Jane

.....

*This is an extract of a recent letter sent to Church members by email, relating to Church services in the month before Pentecost.*

***Hard copies of the letter are being made available***



### *Blessing Bags*

*If anyone would like a Blessing Bag for Lent please see Julie. They will be available from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February (Lent starts on the 18<sup>th</sup> February). The money raised from this will go to the charity Action for Children.*

A big **THANK YOU** for all the donations to the

Charity, Action for Children on Christmas Day and for the Church Christmas card.

We raised a fantastic total of £332 for the charity.



### **FLOWER MINISTRY**

**Would you like to contribute to the beautiful fresh flower decorations that grace our sanctuary each week?**



You may like to donate towards the cost, perhaps for a special date in your calendar, help arrange the flowers, or even do your own arrangement one week.

Did you know there is a calendar of dates on the Church Noticeboard in the foyer for any special date particular to you.?

See Sylvia for more details

**In our time of Prayer -  
please hold in your prayers .....**



Our housebound friends,  
for those alone,  
in care homes, for those who are bereaved,  
for those in poor health,  
anticipating or recovering from surgery,  
sick, troubled in spirit,  
For those seeking care and strength,  
making life changing decisions.  
**Amen**

Speak in the stillness, God, we pray  
come to our hearts and meet us here. Bring us your peace for each new day  
- the gift of grace to earth from heaven.

When, in the anxious rush of days, we lose our hold on faith and you,  
reclaim us with your calm embrace -  
the gift of grace to earth from heaven.  
So may we be renewed in love, held and sustained by you alone.  
Strengthened by you that we may prove  
a gift of grace to earth from heaven.

**Thank You!!**

Norma Richards would like to say:- "A big thank you to my  
Northgate friends for the lovely surprise gift I received at  
Christmas. And the card, showing the church window, is now  
displayed on the mantelpiece!  
Many good wishes and Peace for the New Year"

**Norma Richards**



# Branching Out



## LIFE SKILLS FOR EVERYONE!

### FREE WORKSHOPS FOR WARWICKSHIRE RESIDENTS 16+

“Money made  
simple, futures  
made strong”



#### Our workshops

##### Power Down

energy saving hacks to reduce  
your utility bills

##### Savvy Shopper Secrets

the art of shopping for less

##### Cheap Eats, Big Flavour

tips for cooking on a budget

#### Upcoming Workshops:

##### Mondays

16 February 2026- 11am-12.30pm

23 February 2026- 11am-12.30pm

2 March 2026- 11am-12.30pm

##### Venue:

WARWICK METHODIST CHURCH,  
BARRACK STREET  
WAWICK, CV34 4TH

SCAN ME



Free light lunch with  
workshop 3

Help with SIM card  
if needed

\*subject to availability

Free pack of cleaning  
products

\*subject to availability & eligibility



COMMUNITY  
FUND

To find out more visit our website or contact the Branching Out team at CWCD A

[instagram.com/@CW\\_CDA](https://www.instagram.com/@CW_CDA)

[facebook.com/CoventryandWarwickshireCDA](https://www.facebook.com/CoventryandWarwickshireCDA)

T: 02476 633911

W: [cwcd a.co.uk](https://www.cwcd a.co.uk)

E: [info@cwcd a.co.uk](mailto:info@cwcd a.co.uk)



## Churches Together in Warwick

**Prayer Breakfasts** - are open to all and take place on the first **Saturday** of each month at **8am**,

for 30 minutes of reflection and prayer,  
followed by a simple breakfast.

They are led and hosted by each church in turn making them all different .



**All are very welcome .**

Next Prayer Breakfasts are on:-

February 7th @ St Paul's Church  
March 7th @ St Mary Immaculate

### Future Events

**Friday March 6th @ 2:30pm** World Day of Prayer service at  
St Mary Collegiate, with refreshments.

The 2026 service, led by World Day of Prayer Committee of Nigeria, has the theme "I Will Give You Rest, Come" from Matthew 11 v28-30

**Friday 3rd April @11:45am** Good Friday Procession of Witness to  
Market Square for a service at 12:15

## PILATES

**Are you looking to keep fit?**

**Come to a Pilates Class on Wednesday mornings  
10:00am - 11am in the Community Centre, Barrack St, Warwick**

*Pilates improves and helps to retain our mobility and balance,  
(use it or lose it), in a fun and relaxed environment.*

*Men and women of **ALL** ages are welcome.*

*Why don't you try it, you won't regret it!*

*For further information please contact Elaine.*

### **SPOT THE DAFFODIL!!**

This picture was taken at  
Newquay in Cornwall on  
Boxing Day!!!

Is that the earliest one you  
have seen?



### **Dates for your Diary**



17th February @ 10.30am: Holiday Club

18th February @7pm: Ash Wednesday Service

21st February @ 2.30pm: Movie afternoon with refreshments

24th Feb - 24th March weekly: Bread Church with Lent reflection @ 12 noon

15th March: Mothering Sunday with Holy Communion

29th March @10.30am: Palm Sunday

2nd April @7pm: Maundy Thursday service

3rd April @ 11am: Good Friday service followed by the Walk of Witness to the Market Square for a service at 12:15

5th April Easter Sunday: 9am breakfast; 10.30am Holy Communion.

26th April – 24th May – “One Church to Pentecost”. Sunday worship at the Bridgehouse Theatre, Warwick School. (See pages 12/13)

31st May@ 10.30am: Church Anniversary with Holy Communion

## Forthcoming Services at Warwick Northgate



All services at 10:30am unless stated otherwise



**Please join us for tea and coffee after the service**

Sunday Feb 1st                      Rev Sally Jones                      Communion

Feb 8th                      Mr Trevor Pethick

Feb 15th                      Mrs Anne Oliver

Wednesday Feb 18th      Service for ASH WEDNESDAY AT 7PM -  
Led by Rev Sally Jones

Feb 22nd                      Rev E Brian Mason

**\*\* At the time of going to press, details of preachers for the services in  
March, were not available**

**Look out for more details of our services on the opposite page,  
in the weekly notices, or on the website  
[www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)**

***Do you want latest news and information?***

*please check out the website, it is updated every Friday*

**[www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.warwickmethodistchurch.org.uk)**

# WARWICK METHODIST CHURCH

Barrack Street, Warwick CV34 4TH

## HOLIDAY CLUB

Shrove Tuesday



**Where:** Warwick Methodist Church

**When:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**What time:** 10.30 am until 12 noon, then lunch 🕒

**Who for:** children aged 0-11 years

**What to bring:** your grown-up to stay with you!

CRAFT + FUN + FOOD + FRIENDS

## Bring your own picnic

## See you there!

