

One	in Heart
	in Spirit
	in Worship
South Warwickshire Methodists	

Born in Song – God's people have always been singing One Church to Pentecost 2026

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 with any offers of help.

Every blessing,

Your Ministers Iain, Sally, Tina and Jane

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will my church still be open on a Sunday morning?

One Church to Pentecost will be the only services on the plan.

2. Will there be evening services?

Yes, we hope to offer a variety of evening services with more information to follow.

3. When and Where will the joint service happen?

10.30 am on each Sunday from 26th April to 24th May 2026 at The Bridge House Theatre, Warwick.

4. What will the worship be like?

The services will have a broadly similar style and feel to a 'normal Sunday morning.' However, there will be some differences. Each service will be collaborative in nature, using the skills of Worship Leaders, Local Preachers and Ministers together. We hope there will be piano as well as a worship group. The biggest difference will be our size. On a normally Sunday morning approx. 320 people gather for worship in our twelve churches. Our hope is that all those people gather together in one service. Just think how amazing that might feel.

5. I like my small local community church where I know everyone and they know me. This is important to me.

By meeting in small groups, housegroups or other groups formed specially for One Church we will all be encouraged to continue our local relationships which we know are important places of discipleship.

6. What facilities will there be for young people and children?

We will offer a Young Church for those who wish to attend, with age-appropriate faith-based activities. We will also offer the ability for any young person to stay in the worship service. We aim to be as flexible and accommodating as possible.

7. I've never been in a housegroup before. Could I just go once to a One Church to Pentecost Group to see what it's like?

Yes of course, invites will come out soon. These will take place at different times and places to allow as many as possible to attend. If a conversation would be helpful speak to your Minister.

8. I'm already in a housegroup - do I need to change?

No, the One Church to Pentecost housegroup materials will be available to existing homegroups as well as new groups.

G. My church has a number of midweek activities e.g. bread church, toddlers, bible study, etc - will these continue?

Yes, absolutely. Churches are encouraged to continue their usual missional and discipleship activities.

10. Can I just take these Sundays off?

You can, but this is a unique opportunity to worship God together as one church family. By worshipping together, we hope to encourage each other as we look to the future and seek to build God's Kingdom. We will only know whether One Church is the right way forward if we come together seeking God's way for the Circuit. Aren't we better together?

11. What can I do?

Please pray for this initiative and pray for the Circuit Leadership as we seek to discern to build a sustainable vision for the future of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit.

We are looking for volunteers to help in many practical ways with the delivery of One Church. Please consider how you might contribute to this.

I have lots more questions not answered here?

It is early days yet and we know people will want to know more. Equally, we can't anticipate everyone's questions. This Question-and-Answer list will be updated from time to time on the Circuit website. Please send your questions to onechurchtopentecost@gmail.com.