



# GETTING YOUR CHURCH ON BOARD

It's important that you don't end up running this event all on your own, but how do you make sure you really get the church behind the event?

Once it's been agreed with the leadership team and the event has been registered with Pentecost Festival, announce the event to the church and give everyone the opportunity to get signed up to be part of the team to make it happen. You don't need a huge team to run one event but if you get an overwhelming response, you could always think about putting on a few events over the week.

Beyond the organising team it's important to keep the rest of the church informed and excited about the event.

Here are five ways to keep church members connected with the event and to make sure it fits into the wider mission of your church.

## 1. PRAY TOGETHER

Organise a special meeting to pray particularly for the event. Announce it in church regularly and encourage people to contribute to the church's mission by attending the meeting and praying for the event and for the local community. Pray that you will really be able to engage with and positively impact your community through your event. In addition to this, take a few minutes to pray during services in the lead up to the event.

## 2. MAKE IT PERSONAL

Explain to the church that the purpose of this event is to connect with the wider community. It is therefore an ideal opportunity to bring their friends along. Encourage everyone to think about someone they can bring along to the event.

## 3. PROMOTE IT

Give everyone in the church five flyers that they should personally give to their friends and neighbours.

## 4. SHARE THE PLAN

Tell the congregation exactly what will happen at the event, not just the bare bones. If there is going to be an interview or a testimony let them know so that they feel prepared and know precisely what they are inviting their friends to.

## 5. PREPARE TO SHARE

Invite church members to come to the event expecting to meet people they don't know. Events like this are designed to provoke questions such as "Who is organising this?" "Why are you doing this?" and "What's the birthday party theme all about?" Church members should come to the event ready to give answers to questions like these and to tell their story if they get an opportunity to. Church members should be strongly encouraged not to see this as a social event to hang out with their Christian friends, but as a mission event, to share the love of Jesus with someone who doesn't know him yet.

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Share Jesus International  
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The Biggest Birthday Ever is a SJI project - Registered charity number: 1089784

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