



Queensland & Nth Rivers NSW Quarter 3, 2016

Hello to Messy Churches and Messy Contacts,

Messy Church, for me, is all about ENCOURAGEMENT. What an awesome opportunity we've been given to be able to encourage the folk who attend Messy Church to "taste and see that the Lord is good", to get to know Jesus and explore faith matters together in a lively and creative way.

Glen's and my role as Regional Messy Church Coordinators is, among other things, to promote and support the growth of Messy churches and to encourage their team members on their messy journey.

We love to hear Messy stories from your Messy Churches, to be encouraged by your journey and those messy moments when God turns up in an unexpected way.

To encourage you to share your stories, I'll start the ball rolling by sharing about our closing prayers at Sherwood's September Messy Church.



Because our theme was "The birds of the air and the flowers of the field" (one of our craft activities is pictured) we carried the flower theme through to the prayers. In Jane Leadbetter's book on Messy Prayers we found a flower template. These were printed and cut out on coloured paper, a prayer written on them, and the petals folded in on each other.

We then took our "prayers" and floated them on water in our two large shell paddling pools. Everyone surrounded the pools in prayer-filled silence as they watched their flowers unfurl.

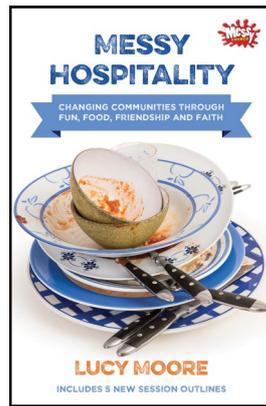
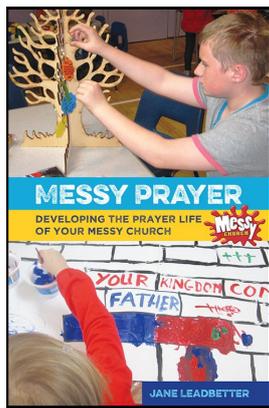
One visitor later commented that they'd felt "quite moved". It's such a simple but profound prayer activity - a large washing-up bowl would do if you don't have a paddling pool! It's a lovely way to encourage prayer and include everyone.



Sharing Messy Stories

A great place to share messy stories or messy moments, or to ask questions is the Facebook group "MESSY CHURCH BRISBANE AND BEYOND". It's an open group, so anyone can sign up to join. I post very regularly and I will certainly respond to you.

New Publications from Messy Church and BRF



Highly recommended for all those in Messy Church leadership. *Messy Prayer* - lot's of great interactive prayer ideas; *Messy Hospitality* opens up new dimensions of growth using fun, food, fellowship and faith; *Messy Togetherness* plumbs and deepens that core Messy Church value of all-age. Available from Media Com, details further on.

Advent Calendar 2016

Advent 2016 will see us produce our Calendar for the 6th year in a row. This year we have done a major revision of the daily links using some ideas from the recent *Get Messy Mag* (BRF), added some real Aussie flavour, and changed most of the daily images.

It is a great activity for November's Messy Church involving the preparation of the Calendar's hanging board and hanging ribbon. Links can be done at Messy Church or taken home to be added.

Great daily activities and a great way to reach out to neighbours and family.

A number of Messy Churches in our patch have used the Calendar in previous years. If you are interested contact Glen via email.

Glen & Sue - How best to use us as Regional Coordinators

We've now been in our role nearly two years trying to look after quite a large patch of Australia!! We've learnt a lot, so here's how we now see it:

- For churches in suburban Brisbane and near surrounds considering starting Messy Church - we invite you to come to Sherwood's Messy Church (3rd Sunday of each month at 9.00 am). Let us know you are coming and we will give you a great welcome. After the service we will talk with you as to going forward and how best we can help you.
- For churches outside the previous and within a radius of 200 kms from Brisbane we are happy to drive to you and run a Starting Messy Church training session, including craft activities, prayer, etc. What we will ask is that together we contact other churches in your area (ecumenical) who would be interested to come along.



- For churches further away we would have to fly to you and we would ask that our airfares and accommodation are provided. Training session would be the same as outlined in point 2. We are happy to be billeted. Once again we would try to have as many as possible interested churches come along.
- We have come to the conclusion that, given our very large patch, we cannot do separate Messy Meet-ups (for up and running Messy churches). Where we are driving or flying to a training session and it is an area with established Messy Churches we would stay over and hold a separate Meet-up.
- Our intention is to hold a Brisbane Messy Church weekend in March 2017 covering the full suite of training modules followed by a Meet-up for established Messy Churches. This would be held at Sherwood Anglican. Hopefully this will coincide with Sherwood's March Messy Church. More details to follow.

Registration:

"Registration" as a Messy Church simply involves becoming affiliated with the world wide Messy Church movement through the UK Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF). Messy Church is a core ministry of BRF. It costs you nothing, it does not bind you to regular administration or reporting, and it is easy to do. You will join around 3,500 other Messy Churches worldwide in this amazing move of God. Go on to the website and find out more. There is a wealth of information. If you are stuck send one of us an email.

Seeking Regional Coordinators.

In order to continue the development and growth of Messy Church in Queensland and the Northern Rivers of NSW we really need three additional MC Coordinators to join ourselves and Beth Nicholls in this amazing work of God. If we could find people willing to fill these roles it would allow us to concentrate on North Queensland and Western Queensland and continue the work started in Central Queensland. We feel a strong call of God to these regions of Queensland. The regions we need Regional Coordinators for are:

- **Northern Rivers of NSW from Ballina to Port Macquarie.** With Beth Nicholls looking after Brisbane South and Gold Coast her role currently extends to Brunswick Heads in NSW. From Ballina south to Port Macquarie there are currently around eight Messy Churches registered. They need support and so our plea is—is God prompting you?
- **Brisbane Suburbs, North of the Brisbane River.** An area with six registered Messy Churches, some unregistered Messy Churches and a number of contacts interested in exploring Messy Church further. Several well established Messy Churches in this area. A Regional Coordination role without substantial distances being involved. Anyone interested to discuss?

- *Sunshine Coast to Hervey Bay. Another area we have been trying to place a Regional Coordinator without success and really deserving of one. Around thirteen Messy Churches registered and unregistered. An early growth area of Messy Church in Queensland. Interested? We would love to have a chat with you.*

Very Messy Blessings

*Sue & Glen Taylor - Regional Messy Church Coordinators
Qld & Nth Rivers NSW
(excluding Brisbane South &
Gold Coast - Beth Nicholls RC)*

(Useful email addresses)

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(Useful Facebook names)

*Messy Church Brisbane and beyond (Open Group but you have to join)
Messy Church-BRF (Community / Religious Org, no joining needed)
Messy Church at Sherwood Anglican (Community / Religious Org, no joining needed)
Messy Church Australia (Community / Religious Org, no joining needed)*

Web Addresses

*messychurch.org.uk (The home of Messy Church and where you register your Messy Church)
messychurchaustralia.com.au*

Purchasing

Media Com (Purchasing Messy Church books, etc.) - mediacom.org.au

