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Introducing Messy Church – A fantastic model

Since launching the idea in the previous Newsletter, Introducing Messy Church sessions have been held in Mornington (Victoria) and Launceston (Tasmania) – with two more planned for Victoria (Bendigo and Geelong) in the coming term. Suitable for people who want to find out more about Messy Church and minimal extra work for the host Messy Church, Introducing Messy Church sessions are a fantastic way for churches to find out more about Messy Church.

Contact chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au if you are interested in hosting an Introducing Messy Church afternoon.

A Reflection

The recycled construction models will disintegrate; the balloons will burst; the writing in the sand will be brushed away; the decorated biscuits will vanish in the twinkling of an eye and the fridge magnets will fall apart. The sound of a song or story will dissipate into thin air. Meal after meal will be cooked, eaten and forgotten. But what goes into these activities - the love, discernment and prayer; the kindness, generosity and sacrifice; the joy, wisdom and yearning for God's kingdom - these are things of Christ, of eternity and it is through these invisible means that we will all be transformed and healed and saved.

Judyth Roberts.



Some Snippets

"We have held 2 Messy Church events. The first one we kept 'in house' to see how we would go and iron out any bugs. The second one we publicised a little bit and ended up with 56 people attending. Our congregation is quite excited about this new service and very supportive."

Judi (St. Peter's, SA)

"At our most recent Messy Church, we hosted a group of eight first and second year students from the Anglican Theological College. They had been encouraged to come to experience 'Messy Worship' first-hand. The feedback I've had from both students and the College Principal has been very encouraging."

Sue (Sherwood, QLD)

"We have three churches that have regular Messy Church events. Some churches meet once a month while others meet once per term. All have reported good numbers attending, many from their non-church local community, with members of the congregations excited to be engaging in ministry to their 'neighbours' and those of all generations—children, parents and grandparents."

Jodi (Lutheran Church, VIC)

Dapto Messy Church has bravely pushed the boundaries with paint and gloop and food and [has the pictures to prove it.](#)
(Dapto, NSW)

St John's at Wairoonga only began getting messy at Easter but the spaghetti-paint-splattered 'JOY' created during the fruits of the Spirit-themed Messy Church shows they have got the idea! [See their pics.](#)
(Wairoonga, NSW)

Messy Ideas – Psalm 80

We used the focus of Psalm 80 for “Messy Church” to tell a simple message about the vine that God planted.

Activity 1: Soil Testing - identifying 3 different soils. Which one was the best and why. One soil even had worms in it which created many squeals and laughs.

Activity 2: Planting Seedlings. Each person planted one for themselves and one for our Spring Fair. Each plant has a label saying who planted it.

Activity 3: Building a model wall. Participants made a model wall together that went around a vine yard. It was constructed on a large sheet of butcher’s paper with small blocks and lego.

Activity 4: Ladder Making. People made ladders out of icy pole sticks and pieces of wood. It was a challenge using glue to stick it all together. A bit like our lives and how it can be a challenge at times to live the way God would like us to.

Activity 5: Grape Fruit Salad. Naturally the main ingredients were many green and red grapes. Other fruits were added and the we could not wait to eat it with our evening meal.



After 20 minutes of activity, we all came together to link what we had done back to Psalm 80 - how the people were brought out from Egypt into the wilderness, where God cleared the land and planted vines in the best soil and how God wanted God’s love, like the vine, to spread over the mountains to the sea, to reach us all. Sharing the grape fruit salad at our evening meal was like sharing God’s love!

Roxanne (Gosford, NSW)

Messy Church Merchandise



Now is a fantastic time to become familiar with [Messy Church merchandise](#). An entire range is available for you to view. Tees and Polos can be ready for your team to wear during the summer season, raising awareness of Messy Church wherever they go.

Contact Robert and the team at Your Brand Unleashed on (03) 9738 0879 or promo@yourbrandunleashed.com.au; for more information and pricing.



Getting Ready for Christmas

Make sure you check out these excellent Messy Church resources full of ideas for Christmas and Advent

[Get Messy!](#)

[Messy Nativity](#)

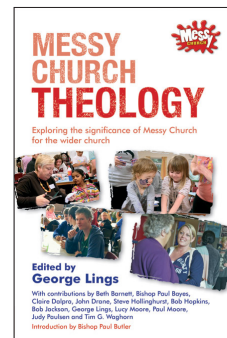
[Messy Christmas](#)

[The Gingerbread Nativity](#)

[Get Messy! – extra resources](#)

Messy Church Theology

This is a wonderful exploration of Messy Church and its theological significance for the wider church. *Messy Church Theology* brings together essays and case studies from a wide range of contributors (including two from Australia – Beth Barnett and Tim Waghorn) examining the growth of Messy Church and discussing questions of sustainability, discipleship, all-age church, sacramental, interdenominational, ecumenical and international possibilities, and the future of Messy Church.

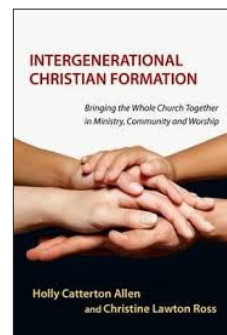


See more at [Messy Church Theology](#)

Intergenerational Christian

Formation

Throughout biblical tradition and the majority of history, communities of faith included people of all ages together in corporate worship, education and ministry. The church was not just multigenerational; it was intergenerational, with the whole church together as one family and people of all ages learning from one another in common life. In this comprehensive text, Holly Allen and Christine Ross offer a complete framework for intentional intergenerational Christian formation.



See more at [Intergenerational Christian Formation](#)

Making Disciples in Messy Church

Written with clarity and conviction, *Making Disciples in Messy Church* is a timely and helpful book for a movement that is deeply serious about discipleship. Drawing on biblical, monastic and catechetical approaches, the book contains much wisdom and inspiration for those seeking to make disciples in all forms of church, not just the phenomenon that is Messy Church. The affirmation of the place of family and community in discipleship formation is especially welcome.



See more at [Making Disciples in Messy Church](#)