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So much has been happening in the Messy Church world! As you read this Newsletter, I trust that you will be excited about the amazing things God continues to do through Messy Churches - not just in Australia, but around the globe. If you would like a story from your Messy Church to be included in the next Newsletter, please e-mail your input to [chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au) by November 30.

Blessings,  
Chris.

## Reflections on a Messy Baptism

For some time both my husband and I had been talking about regularly participating in a church community, and when our daughter was born we felt this would be an even more important



commitment to make – but then with a very active little one we felt regularly attending a “traditional” church might not be achievable. So when we heard about Messy Church we were excited to give it a try!

The open and welcoming atmosphere, where creativity was really encouraged, and with children and adults alike being able to engage in worship at different levels made for such a positive experience. We felt that here was a community of faith we could really belong to and grow in, and that led us to ask about of having our daughter baptised. Samantha’s baptism was a lovely

celebration, which also coincided with the second birthday of Messy Church Ivanhoe. The service was themed “Welcome to God’s Family”.

Afterwards our wider family who had attended reflected on how inclusive, interactive and experiential Messy Church is. As a teacher, my father-in-law in particular found it touching to see how valued and appreciated the input of children was to the service.

The Messy Church approach of having a range of creative activities for all ages to explore the Christian story, a worship time and then opportunity to talk with others over a meal, provides an accessible alternative to the traditional approach to church services, and has been a really positive experience for our family.

Ivanhoe, Victoria



## Another Messy Church begins

We began Messy Church earlier this year. We meet the first Sunday of every month 4-6 pm. We have been unpacking the theme God’s family, through the first Messy Book.

The first time we met we had 60 people and the second time we met we had 40 attending.

We are loving the all age heartbeat behind Messy and are engaging families within our community well. We are excited for the future.

Suzanne, South Australia

PS. Did you know that there are now 160+ Messy Churches registered via the Messy Church website? If your Messy Church is not yet registered, please [register here](#) as soon as you are able.

## Telling the Messy Church story

After the Brisbane floods, a young woman cutting my hair said that she had seen our Messy Church signboard. She asked if that meant our church had been flooded and we were calling on the local community for help! I explained to her, as best I could, that Messy Church is all about connecting with people and families that live on the “messy edge” of faith matters. Families that have little or no connection with the church are welcomed as equals, encouraged to be creative, engaged in celebrating what God has done and invited to eat together. Families that do not have to understand strange language, know when to sit or not sit, feel out of place, and worry about their children making a noise. Like my hairdresser, many people in traditional congregations may not understand what Messy Church is about - focusing on the “messy” aspect, rather than what it is really about in reaching people for Jesus.

Sue, Queensland

## A Wonderful Time with Jane!

Around 150 people from more than 35 churches had a wonderful time with Jane Leadbetter over the course of two days at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Sherwood (Queensland). The Saturday event focused on churches considering starting Messy Church and the Sunday event focused on Discipleship within Messy Church.



Across the two days, some challenges from Jane's in-put included...

- Thinking outside the square with regard to Discipleship
- The absolute importance of the value of Multi-Age to Messy Church
- The need to tell and keep telling your church about Messy Church and what it really is

## Messy Church Around the World

(edited snippets from a recent [Messy Church UK Newsletter](#))

"Starting in the UK, we begin with a short hop to Ireland, waving enthusiastically at the Isle of Man en route. Some wonderful hard work is going on in Ireland to attract families, including a Teddy Bears' Picnic held in September. We go westward, to Canada, where we cheer on our new relationship with Wycliffe College in Ontario. The USA is next, followed by Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago and the Falklands. Over to New Zealand (another couple of islands) where Lucy has been charging around and onto Australia where Jane's visit was a great blessing. Continuing around the globe, there's South Africa where we pray for Jesus to be at the heart of the lives of families across this huge land and for the churches thinking about starting Messy Church. Skimming across Europe, there's Messy Church friends to greet in Ibiza and southern Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Latvia, France, Germany and the Netherlands.



Praise God for this movement of his Spirit across such a lot of geography and for this global Messy family into which he has welcomed us through the hospitality of his Son. May your summer (or winter) and your travels (or resting) be a time of blessing."

Very Advance Notice – International Messy Church Conference, May 16-18 2016 Hertfordshire UK

You're invited! This will be a great event with Messy Church friends and colleagues and other interested parties from around the world. Early Bird discount available for bookings made before May 15 2015. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Messy Advent & Christmas

Great ideas for your Messy Church can be found in the following...

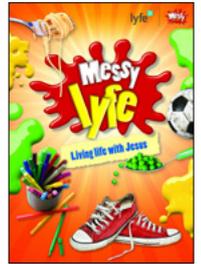
- [Get Messy](#)
- [Messy Nativity](#)
- [Messy Christmas](#)
- [The Gingerbread Nativity](#)
- [Family Fun for Christmas](#)
- [Bethlehem Carols Unpacked](#)
- [Creative Ideas for Advent and Christmas](#)



## New Messy Church Resources

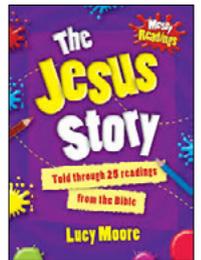
### [Messy lyfe](#)

Using a family-friendly approach, the Messy lyfe material draws all ages into a closer understanding of God's love. Through activities, thoughts to reflect upon and short suggested Bible readings, the whole family is given something to think about, be thankful for, to consider in their own lives.



### [Messy Readings: The Jesus Story](#)

Telling the story of Jesus through 25 short readings from the Bible, Messy Readings: The Jesus Story is ideal for giving away over the Advent season. Provided as Christmas present, it can help individuals and families see a fuller picture of Jesus.



## Australian Messy Church Survey

One of the great suggestions from the 2014 Australian Messy Church Roundtable was for a national Messy Church survey. Watch your in-box for this short (but potentially very useful) survey that should arrive early in November. When it does arrive, it would be greatly appreciated if you could take the few short minutes it will require for completion. Your feedback and data can then be included in the results which will be distributed following the 2015 Australian Messy Church Roundtable.

## Australian Messy Church Roundtable

In February each year key Messy Church leaders from around Australia gather to spend a day together reflecting on the previous year and planning for the year ahead. As we work together to grow Messy Church expressions in our congregations, across our regions, throughout our states and across the country, it would be wonderful to hear your ideas and suggestions regarding the on-going development of Messy Church in Australia. Please feel free to e-mail your comments, suggestion and feedback to [chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au) by November 30.