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**Austalian Messy Church website** <http://messychurchaustralia.com.au/>



It's hard to believe that we are already half-way through the year! Hopefully your local experience of Messy-ness in 2015 has been marked by my much joy, celebration and growth in faith. As we head into the second half of the year, regional/state-based activity is ramping up in many places. Feel free to contact the person listed above for your state/region to find out more about the exciting things that are planned for your part of the country.

Chris Barnett

## Messy Emmaus Labyrinth

One of the things that really struck me about our Emmaus Labyrinth is that it's a truly All-Age kind of worship. I took Sophia (aged nearly 4) through today and we read through the stations (with a bit of editing by me) and she engaged with all of the tasks. Here's her response to the station where you had to think about a time in your life that had been filled with sadness: a picture of our dog "Lulie" (Lucy) who died. When we got to the station where it was time to pray, she prayed that "God would look after Lulie, and Mummy's mummy and daddy who have died." We also had some wonderful feedback from adults who walked it and found it deeply moving - including some who emailed afterwards to say it had affected them profoundly. I'm thankful that we've been able to help people of all ages engage deeply and profoundly with God.

Heidelberg (Victoria)

## What a Wonderful World!

Messy Church was back for 2015 with 70 Mums, Dads, Grandparents and kids gathering to celebrate God's wonderful world. We made suncatchers to remember our beautiful Earth, and bird baths to remind us to look after God's creatures. We planted seedlings to recognize the importance of plants, flowers and food. We explored nature's wonderful textures with our hands, eyes and noses! We chatted about ways in which we could live responsibly to help save the planet. And we wrote our prayers and praises for God's world on little colourful cards that then became an awesome praise quilt (which subsequently has formed a striking focus on the communion table in the church, helping connect the Messy church congregation with the Sunday morning congregation)! Then we had a time of celebration and shared a meal together.

Wahroonga (New South Wales)



## Welcome back, Judyth!

"I'd like to introduce myself and my role to the Australian Messy Church community. My name is Judyth Roberts and I am based in Sydney. For more than 20 years I have worked in Children and Families ministries and community development. I have written extensively about Messy Church in Australia and helped launch it here in 2011. I love the sense of fun and laughter at Messy Church, the honesty about our messy lives. I love the life and hope that Messy Church can bring to older congregations, when a whole group of new people of all ages begin exploring their faith, with many generations learning and worshipping together, sharing the fun and the journey.



Recently I started working in a part time role for the VCCE (Victorian Council of Christian Education) to encourage and support the Messy Church ministries in Australia. In this role my focus will be on advocating for Messy Church, writing about Messy Church and supporting communities of practice. I will be talking to leaders about what is working and what the challenges are. I will be part of the Australian Messy Church Roundtable, contributing to exciting projects like the development of the website. It is a great joy to be part of this amazing work that God is doing through Messy Churches all around Australia!"

Judyth Roberts

## Messy Church International Conference May 16-18, 2016

An unmissable opportunity for all those involved in or interested in developing Messy Church in their country to come together to share good practice and discover the latest developments in the fields of Messy mission and discipleship. Particularly for those with a strategic missional role locally, regionally or nationally, it is a chance to meet the Messy Church team and other practitioners from across the world. For all of us it will be a joy to seek God's help with the way forward in our different nations and to make sure that, as Messy Church grows, it remains a global interdependent network based on godly friendship and mutual respect.



More Information [here](#)  
Registration Information [here](#)

Nb. If you are planning to spend longer in the UK, it may be possible to arrange a visit to a Messy Church, and / or the BRF office in Abingdon near Oxford or spend longer with team members. Please contact the Messy Church UK Team to discuss possibilities.

## Australian Messy Church Website

There is now a [Messy Church Australia website!](#)

On this site you will find many resources, inspiration and encouragement. There are also links to the Facebook page for Messy Church Australia (which is a great place to share your photos and stories), the Messy Church Australia blog and Messy Church Australia resource sites. As this site is still being developed, your feedback and suggestions are especially welcome. Please check out the site and e-mail any comments to [judythroberts@gmail.com](mailto:judythroberts@gmail.com).

## Using the Messy Church Logo

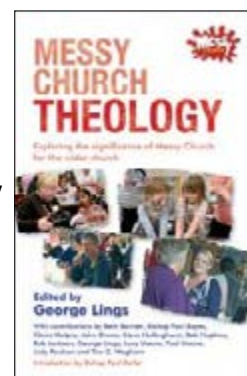
People often ask if they can use the Messy Church logo to advertise their Messy Church to everyone. The answer is usually yes, provided that you have registered your Messy Church on the [Messy Church Directory](#) and you follow the directions at [Messy Church Logos](#).

Note, too, that there is a new section of logos for use in Messy Churches outside of the UK.



## Messy Church Theology – Book Review

Originally launched in Australia by Rev. Dr. Darren Cronshaw (more commonly known as "Daz"), Messy Church Theology is the first title to encapsulate the theology of Messy Church. Through essays by contributors from a variety of church and academic backgrounds and case studies by Messy Church practitioners, it gathers together some of the discussions around Messy Church and assesses the impact of this ministry, placing it in the context of wider developments within the church community. Daz has recently had a review of Messy Church Theology published, which can be [found here](#).



Available from [Mediacom.org.au](#) and [SU Victoria](#)