



Term 3, 2016

Welcome to the Term 3 Australian Messy Church Newsletter!

As you read it and share it with your team, I trust that you will be inspired, challenged and resourced for your ongoing Messy journey.

Chris Barnett

Messy Church International Conference

"Messy Church is about mission, worship and community; not just a bridge back to 'real' church... You [Messy Church] are still finding ways, but draw on the wisdom of the past and stretch yourselves out of present boundaries... you are part of reasserting that messy is normal in Christianity."

George Lings, Director of Church Army's Research Unit

This was an extraordinary conference. There were 220 people from 12 countries around the globe, from many denominations; yet it felt like we were a family. Amongst people I had never met before we talked as though we had known each other for years. We learnt from each other as we asked questions and admitted that we hadn't worked out all the answers to the big Messy Church questions.

Our times of worship were filled with exuberant messiness – songs with signing and crazy actions, creating with clay, beautiful materials, woodwork and food, learning from each other... and profound moments of prayer and quietness as we encountered the work of the Spirit among us.

It was inspiring to be at a conference where we were not just talking about the theory of Messy Church but where everything was part of being Messy Church. We shared our own experiences and stories in an atmosphere of openness and love – free to speak the truth and ask questions of each other, knowing that over time we would learn the answers together, or find better questions to ask.

Dorothy Hughes ([full article here](#))

- [Conference Highlights](#) (page)
- [Conference Highlights](#) (video)
- [Showing the way](#) (George Lings presentation)
- [Finding the way](#) (George Lings presentation)

Another Messy Baptism

At Messy Church we celebrated the baptism of another new member of our community. A family whose son was baptised at our traditional congregation a few years ago, now worship regularly as part of the Messy Church community. Keen for their wider family to experience 'their' church at the baptism of their second son, the baptism took place at Messy church. We explored the theme "Jesus: the light of the world" which fitted perfectly with a baptism. Nearly 100 people were present for the craft activities, games and celebration time. It is wonderful that so many families are finding our new Messy Communities to be welcoming and inclusive intergenerational churches where they are able to explore Christian faith as a whole family.

Sandy, Ivanhoe



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Gladstone Messy Church Training

It was a great day in Gladstone when a dozen wonderful people met to hone their Messy Church leadership skills and discover how to further the Messy Church vision in their own contexts. There was lively Messy Conversation with questions flying thick and fast, thoughts being aired and copious notes being taken. Everyone joined in the hands-on craft time which gave the opportunity to road-test a range of crafts for use in future Messy Church gatherings.

Sue, Brisbane.

Regional Co-ordinator Update

"The gathering was really positive – 20 people from 7 churches ... the enthusiasm and engagement was high, the discussion was fantastic, people were really thinking and shared some great insights, some people were writing copious notes, and you could see light-bulbs going on all morning."

Bacchus Marsh Messy Meet-up, July 2016



There has been a flurry of activity in NSW with the appointment of three new RCs (Richard Turnbull, Kaye Lewis and Emma Parr), gatherings coordinated by RCs of local Messy Churches in Victoria (Bacchus Marsh, Chelsea and Geelong) and there is growing enthusiasm for the inaugural Messy Muster in WA (Oct 22, 23). There are still plenty of opportunities for new RCs, including for the Sunshine Coast to Hervey Bay, Brisbane Suburbs north of the Brisbane River and the Northern Rivers of NSW from Ballina to Port Macquarie.

Get Messy! (Sep-Dec.) Contents

September is a time for saying thank you. The story of Jesus and the ten people with leprosy is a reminder that a sense of gratitude not only makes God happy but also blesses us and makes us happy.

October follows the theme of Jesus describing his followers as salt and light, a theme which many churches pick up around the Halloween festivities - a challenge to be different and distinctive.

In November we are enjoying Psalm 23, with its wonderful journey from the sheepfold through the dark valley to safe arrival home to the feast at the King's table.

In December we've chosen to concentrate on the angel coming to Mary - so a good Advent-themed, preparation-focused sort of session - as well as thinking about the message of Christmas itself.

[Get Messy! magazine – Sep to Dec 16](#)

[Get Messy! magazine – extra resources](#)

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...and don't forget that there's a FREE Australian Get Messy! Supplement also. E-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au for a copy.

Beginning with a bang!

Thanks be to God! After months of planning, Messy Church started with a bang. Partnering with a local Chinese church, our worship was bilingual as we sang in English and Chinese. Our meal together was an international feast - delicious vegetable dumplings, cooked chicken drumsticks and salad vegetables cut into finger food.

Margie, Watsonia

A Multi-Cultural Theme

Recognising that every culture has things we can learn from, the craft activities were based on some of the travel locations of the early apostles. Participants had the chance to lay on their back and draw like Michelangelo, make mummy bananas and design a map drink coaster or a flag wind spinner. The celebration explored being prepared for travelling and that being a Christian involves a journey through life with different experiences that we should never be afraid of.

Wayne, Drysdale

Messy Togetherness (new book)



In *Messy Togetherness* Martyn Payne looks at Messy Church as a multi-age expression of church and the benefits of this to the church community. He explores current thinking about faith development, gives a biblical rationale for the all-age approach, offers practical advice and shares stories and ideas from across the Messy Church network. *Messy Togetherness* and contains three complete outlines for Messy Church sessions (from the Old Testament, the Gospels and the Epistles), which offer Bible stories with insights into what it means to be intergenerational as church.

Messy Merchandise

Looking for Messy Church branded merchandise? There is a supplier, *Your Brand Unleashed*, who is a stockist for Messy Church merchandise. From Tee's, to Pens, to banners and mugs –all your Messy Church merchandise covered.... and they can brand Messy Church on many other products for special orders as well. Check out [Your Brand Unleashed](#) or contact Robert Williams on 03 9738 0879 or robert@yourbrandunleashed.com.au with any queries.