



Northern Rivers, NSW

June 8, 2018

Hello to Messy Churches in the Northern Rivers of NSW,

Quite a lot has happened since Sue and Glen last had face to face contact with Messy Churches in the northern Rivers of NSW. Our last get together was a Messy Meet-up in Ballina and some of you made it to the Bob Jackson evening at St Matt's Sherwood, both in 2015. Beth Nicholls has had contact with a number of Messy Churches, particularly to the northern end of the Northern Rivers region. Sue has maintained contact via email and Facebook.

Why have you not heard from Sue & Glen in 2018 until now?

After returning from our Last North Queensland Messy Church trip in September 2017 we settled back into Messy Church at Sherwood and started to plan for Messy Advent and Messy Christmas. Unexpectedly, Sue lost a sister in November and which resulted in a trip to Melbourne. On that trip Sue experienced real problems with her walking and, as such, we decide to seek medical advice. The result was that it was finally determined Sue needed a hip and knee replacement!

Sue had the double replacement on February 5, 2018 and spent 5 days in hospital and then 20 days in Hospital rehabilitation.

Now 4 months from surgery, Sue is walking without aids and returning to "normal" while realising that knee replacements are typically 6 to 12 months before "normal" is actually a reality.

Messy Church Coordination in Queensland & Nth Rivers NSW.

While all of the above was happening, The Australian Round Table and BRF UK were attempting to reorganise regional coordination in our very large patch. After many months of dialogue throughout 2017 the result is:

- North Queensland - RC's, Glen & Sue Taylor.
- Central Queensland - RC, Suzy Sitton.
- South East Queensland - RC Team, Beth Nicholls, Brenton Prigge and Sue & Glen Taylor.
- Nth Rivers of NSW - RC Team, Beth Nicholls and Sue & Glen Taylor.

(Suzy, Beth and Brenton are Uniting Church Ministers)

Messy Churches known to us in The Northern Rivers.

Registered with BRF Website (10) - St Margaret's Anglican, Bellingen; Yamba Uniting; St James Anglican, Kyogle; Alstonville Anglican; St Barnabas Anglican, Wardell; St Mary's Anglican, Ballina; Lismore Regional Mission UC, Lismore; St Peter's Anglican, Lismore; Banora Point Uniting; and St Mark's Anglican, Pottsville.

Not registered (1) - Mullumbimby Messy Church, joint Uniting & Anglican.

Messy Church at Sherwood Anglican in 2018 to date.

Numbers have ebbed back slightly from an average over 2015 to 2017 of 95, to an average of 87 in 2017 to date. Messy Good Friday attracted 100 attendees and Messy Pentecost 115.

In January we again themed Messy Church on "Back to School" and a great success. While many Australian Messy Churches shut down for the school holidays we find this theme easy to run and people really like it. Worth considering for your Messy Church?

February and March saw us, again, focus on Lent (getting ready for Easter), Messy Good Friday and The Upper Room with a Passover Meal / Last Supper.

In April our theme was "Listening to God" using the story of Samuel and Eli from the OT. We found this theme in an issue of *Get Messy Mag* and would recommend it to you. The story telling idea we found very successful.

Finally in May it was Messy Pentecost. Always a real blessing.

Some 'photos follow. Messy March - Upper Room:



Messy April - Listening to God (with our Listening Ears)



Messy May - Pentecost (the morning after)



Can we help you with your Messy Church?

- Beth Nichols has a Messy Church Meet Up & Training day scheduled for Saturday July 21, 2018 at Beenleigh Uniting Church. **Flyer attached.** Particularly suitable for Messy Churches and churches considering starting Messy Church located at the top end of the Northern Rivers.

- Sue and Glen Taylor, as part of Sue's recuperation are having a holiday at Yamba from July 16 to July 26, 2018. Unintentional that it coincides with Beth's Training Day but it may suit the Messy Churches from Ballina to Bellingen to take advantage of them being at Yamba? They would love to host a Messy Meet-up with Messy Churches during this time. Would Saturday 21st July be a possibility? And would there be a Messy Church in the Ballina to Yamba area who would make facilities available? Please email Sue or Glen or Sherwood Parish as to yours thoughts on the proposal.
- Sue & Glen also have a digital record now stretching back to 2013 of everything they have done in Messy Church at Sherwood. This includes Planning Sheets, Themes, Bible Reading, Biblical Crafts, Instructions, Videos, Power Points, Songs, Interactive Prayers, Take Home Material and more. They are happy to share it with Messy Churches starting with a print out of all their themes (attached). If one interests you then please get in touch. As we say in our training "you don't have to reinvent the wheel all the time".

Contacting us.

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By Facebook:

- Messy Church Brisbane and Beyond
- Messy Church at Sherwood Anglican

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- 0412-068-280 (Glen Taylor)
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Very Messy Blessings

Beth Nicholls, Sue and Glen Taylor