



Spring, 2018

Welcome to another Newsletter celebrating much Messy-ness from all around Australia! May you, your team and all your Messy households continue to be greatly blessed through Messy Church.

Chris.

Messy Cathedral

Our first Messy Cathedral (possibly the first ever in the Southern Hemisphere) was worth every bit of the work that went into it. Four of our local Anglican Messy Churches stepped up to resource craft activities, host tables and tell stories. Using the theme “Listening to God”, we incorporated four crafts (Listening Ears, Plugged into God biscuits, Prayer Journal, Megaphone), provided a quiet space on the Cathedral’s Labyrinth rug and had the Messy Celebration led by two local Anglican ministers. It was a wonderful “coming together” of those involved in Messy Church and those wanting to find out more about it. In all about 110 people attended - more than we had ever imagined!

Glen & Sue, Brisbane (Qld)

Messy Circus

My 8 year old daughter asked if we could have a circus theme. I spoke to our minister Rod. He was very enthusiastic and so the circus with the theme “Life is a circus we are all a bit quirky” came to Messy Church at Adamstown. One mum who works at a preschool was able to borrow equipment, bringing in stilts, balancing beams and hula hoops. The theme seemed to ignite the imaginations of kids and adults and we all had a fantastic time. Through stories, play, bible readings and music we explored being unique, special and so totally loved by God.

Kathy, Adamstown (NSW)

More Messy Science

Our “Bible Science” themed Messy Church included a fizzing prayer showing how excited God is when we pray, a rainbow created with M&Ms (a lot got eaten before the rainbow was created), spinning tops, bubble makers, puffy painting, bouncing balls, straw airplanes and rainclouds. In the celebration time Rev Temukisa had us take part in a “Simon Says” game and talked about the wonders of creation. More information about the activities and program can be found at Messy Church Drysdale.

Wayne, Drysdale (Vic)



- **NSW/ACT:** Emma Parr
emmap@nswact.uca.org.au
- **QLD:** Sue Taylor
taylor.susanne.coral@bigpond.com
- **SA & NT:** Jenny Carver
carverjen@adam.com.au
- **TAS:** Jenny Cowley
Jenny.cowley@sutas.org.au
- **VIC:** Chris Barnett
chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au
- **WA:** Greg Ross
revgregross@icloud.com

Messy Prayer Tree

The latest Aussie Add-ons (Sep-Dec) features the usual range of excellent prayer, bible engagement and music ideas to complement the material offered through Get Messy! In particular, this edition features a prayer activity which can be developed across the four months. This activity is designed so that people who may not be used to spoken word prayers can find a meaningful way to engage. It is hoped that your community will find this a life-giving experience of prayer.

[Aussie Add-Ons Sep-Dec](#)

[Get Messy! Sep-Dec](#) (available in Aus via [MediaCom](#))

Messy Sessions Material

Have you checked out the resources available on the [Messy Session Material](#) page of the [Messy Church website](#) recently? If not, you may have missed out on helpful material such as [Real Me](#) (a Messy Session on self-esteem), this version of the [Lord's Prayer](#) with actions and [Messy Unfrozen](#) (a Messy Church session based on Frozen). Speaking of resources on the Messy Church website, now might also be a good time to remind yourself of the [Advent/Christmas](#) resources.

Mini Messy Church?

Recently, there have been a few requests from churches wondering whether it is okay for them to call what they are doing 'Mini Messy Church'. Is the idea of Mini Messy Church a really great idea, or is it something that actually goes against the values of Messy Church? There's a delicate balance to keep between the extremes of 'You can only call it Messy Church if you adhere exactly to our prescribed formula' and 'Oh, just slap the name Messy Church on anything involving a child, glue or a sausage'. We want to encourage mission in and through the local church; we also want to have integrity about what Messy Church is and isn't for the sake of transparency and clarity of communication...[read more at [Messy Mini Church](#)]

Messy Spirituality, Messy Everything

To pursue the ways of Messy Church over the long haul, to give ourselves to it as fair-dinkum church, church that counts, church for all of us, we need to be convinced that being messy is a reasonable, reliable, robust way of following Jesus. That being messy is a deep and diligent way of doing discipleship. That being messy is not a concession or compromise of our spirituality, but in fact a best-practice approach to faithful living. We need to know that being messy is theologically sound... [read more in [Aussie Add-ons](#)]



Messy, Not Careless

Some people mistake the idea of messiness in Messy Church as a lack of effort and care. A slap-dash, "she'll be right, mate!" attitude that signals lowering standards, and this grates against an old-fashioned notion of 'giving God our best' as reflected in formality, and upper class manners, customs and dress...but those of us involved in Messy Church know that mess in our communities isn't a reflection of lack of planning or care, lowering of standards, or of neglect. In fact, it takes a lot of hard work to make as much mess as we do! An important feature of what makes Messy Church effective is the degree to which every aspect of the Messy Church experience has been thought about intentionally and worked from the ground up...[read more in [Aussie Add-ons](#)]

Messy Logo

How up-to-date is the Messy Church logo that you are currently using in your promotional and other material? To check that you are using the current approved logo, please go to [Messy Church Logo](#) and download the relevant files.

Messy Church International Conference (May 3-5, 2019)

Looking for more reasons to attend the upcoming second [Messy Church International Conference](#), taking place in the UK next year? Wanting more than just a great experience over May 3-5? Why not consider also taking part in the (free) Messy Church Does Science Roadshow for the Cheltenham Christian Arts Festival (May 11), engaging with BRF in Abingdon (near Oxford) or arranging to visit some UK Messy Churches (check the [Messy Directory](#) for initial possibilities). Please contact BRF (programmes.administrator@brf.org.uk) for more information about these options.