



Winter, 2018

On behalf of the Australian Messy Church National Team, I trust you find this latest Australian Messy Church Newsletter encouraging, enjoyable and energising for your on-going Messy adventures. It has been an exciting year thus far for Messy Church across the country and I'm confident that there will be much more to celebrate in the weeks and months ahead.

Looking forward to hearing more of your stories (and seeing more of your pictures) as the year progresses. Chris.

Beginning well

We had an encouraging start to the year with a planning dinner with the Messy Church community members (a first) and a Messy beach gathering. I had one of our, original and still attending, Messy children who is now nearly a teenager asking about Baptism out of the blue. She comes from an unchurched background, exciting! Looking forward to see what God will do throughout the year.

Jo, Hampton Park

A Minor Messy Miracle

By trying something new a small country church under the threat of closure has received an unexpected gift, a fresh lease of life. Located in the town of Howlong, alongside the Murray River 28km west of Albury, St. Andrews Uniting Church has been hosting Sunday morning worship attendances that typically range from two to six people. Whilst they would have been happy with an extra handful of people at their first Messy Church event, 35 people (including a number of young families) attended. Read more of their story [here](#).

St. Andrew's, Howlong

continuing to grow

Messy Church continues to grow in Pakenham! Our Messy Easter Event was attended by 25 children and about 10 adults. All present enjoyed hearing the Easter story whilst tasting various types of food that may have been enjoyed in Jesus time - only two children knew what a fig was. There was foot washing, making crowns of thorns and building a wooden cross as part of the story telling. We enjoyed a meal together and celebrated a birthday as well.

Ann, Pakenham

Messy Vintage

Have you checked out Messy Vintage yet? [Messy Vintage](#) is a version of Messy Church focused around older people. It is alive and growing in churches and aged-care homes. Check out the [Pinterest Board](#) of ideas to go alongside the twelve [online session plans that are currently available](#). A great way to demonstrate that Messy Church is not just for younger generations!



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Messy Science

All across the Messy Church world, there's a 'craze' for science. Books have been written. Resources produced. People are sharing ideas. It's a great way to encourage people of all-ages to think about the relationship between the created world and the God who created it. So how fortunate it was for us to have not one, not two, but three Professors of Science who were keen to help out with our Messy Science afternoon! Not only did they assist with the range of activities that helped children and their parents to explore the themes, they also participated in a fascinating discussion about what inspired them, as people of deep faith, to embark on lives passionately engaged with science. All this plus an explanation of how surface tension works using Thomas the Tank Engine!

[nb. [extra Messy Science links](#)]

Sandy, Banyule Network

Family Jesus Time - NEW

Love God... Love your neighbour... Love yourself. The gospel is good news for messy people, young and old, and this resource is designed for those who are ready to make it their own. Written in an interactive, user-friendly and jargon-free style, [Family Jesus Time](#) helps individuals and families alike to take the next steps in their Christian journey.



Messy Together in SA

The *Messy Together* conference in Adelaide was a fantastic day! There was a great atmosphere, delicious food, a useful expo and simple table decorations (flowers, colouring in pages, textas and air-dry clay) that contributed to the Messy Church "feel". Beth Nicholls (from Queensland and part of the national Messy Church team) shared about Messy Discipleship, including the new BRF tool, there was input around the 5 Core Values and there were 5 workshops on offer (Messy Science, Hospitality, Story-telling, Being Missional and What next: Messy Add-ons). About 50 people attended from across South Australia from 12 different Messy Church teams and three churches who are exploring Messy Church. Feedback from participants has been incredibly positive!

Melissa, Adelaide

Messy Church Self Review Kit

How are you going with regular reviewing of your Messy Church? Whatever your usual process as a team, you might want to consider changing things up next time and using this [Messy Church Self Review Toolkit](#) (developed in the UK by the Diocese of Bristol). Of course, if you have anything similar that you would like to share with the wider Messy Church community, please e-mail it to chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au.

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

Have you considered the possibility of participating in the upcoming second [Messy Church International Conference](#), taking place in the UK next year? It will be an excellent opportunity to learn new approaches and ideas, to be inspired and inspire others, to make new friends and enjoy the company of old ones. It will be a gathering of Messy Church practitioners and friends from around the world, from all denominations with stories to share, experiences to pass on and wisdom to build up the Messy network from hugely different countries and cultures. As it will be expensive to get there, why not start exploring funding possibilities with your church now?

Mess with us

When Lucy Moore established the first Messy Church in 2004, she never imagined it would grow into a worldwide phenomenon. From the initial seeds planted in a small Anglican parish in a village north of Portsmouth in the UK, fourteen years later Messy Church has spread to more than 35 countries, including Australia, United States, South Africa, Germany, Mauritius and Mongolia. There are now more than 4000 Messy Churches throughout the world. When Lucy was in Melbourne earlier this year for the Australasian Messy Church Conference (at which more than 120 people from Australia and New Zealand gathered to network and share stories of faith and discipleship), Lucy was interviewed by *Crosslight*. Read more of the article [here](#) or check out this [vimeo link](#).

Aussie Add-ons + Get Messy!

Finding an Australian voice as Messy Church has taken some time, but as Messy Church matures here, Messy Church Australia is keen to find ways to give expression to our Southern Hemisphere life and seasons, our way of talking and living and our way of being Messy Church.

Each [Aussie Add-Ons](#) supplement will offer ideas and experiences to extend the material in the UK edition of [Get Messy!](#) We hope you find it helpful and we welcome feedback and your own contributions.

Resource Treasure Trove

Messy Church at Sherwood now has a digital record stretching back to 2013 of everything they have done in Messy Church. This includes Planning Sheets, Themes, Bible Readings, Biblical Crafts, Instructions, Videos, Power Points, Songs, Interactive Prayers, Take Home Material and more. Glen and Sue are happy to share it all with other Messy Churches. If you are interested in accessing this material, please e-mail them - messychurch@tpg.com. As they often say in their training throughout Queensland and Northern New South Wales, "you don't have to reinvent the wheel all the time".