



Term 2, 2019

Welcome to this mid-year Australian Messy Church Newsletter – enjoy the news from Messy Churches in South Australia and Victoria, the excitement still reverberating from the Messy Church International Conference, Aussie Add Ons, the newest Messy Church book, and more.

Dorothy Hughes

## Mission Stimulus Sparking Messy Joy

We are very excited to have been awarded a \$25,000 Mission Stimulus Grant after we applied for further support for our Messy Church mission. We shared what God has been doing over the last three years, and the incredible potential we could see to further the mission through discipleship initiatives.

We are so humbled and blessed to have received this grant, and we are also excited to be a 'resourcing Messy Church' for other Lutheran churches throughout our LCA...and this is already happening!! Sharing our joy with you!

Sharon Green & Heather Kurtz, St Petri Lutheran Church, Nuriootpa, South Australia

## Growing Through Intentional Connecting

We had a huge turn-out for our May Messy Church because we specifically invited families from some of our outreach ministries.

Our playgroup and the children at our lunchtime program at a local primary school learnt a song with actions that we knew we would have at Messy Church. Our after-school drama program rehearsed a short drama for our story. The Playgroup is run in conjunction with a local childcare centre who advertised Messy Church to their families, and the childcare centre teachers came and ran an activity table.

Overall it was a huge community Messy Church event with 90+ attending. Many families filled in our visitor cards to receive information about our church. The childcare centre teachers and families said they would all be back next time.

So just when we were questioning the future of our Messy Church, we tried something new and had an amazing response. Hope our experience may inspire other congregations to try making direct connections with community groups and feeding into Messy Church.

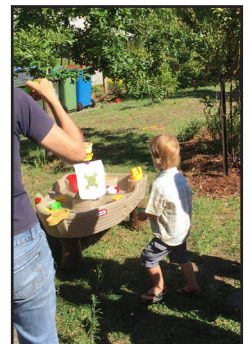
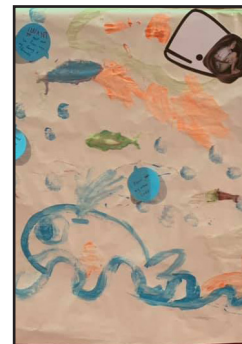
Carolyn David-Bergin, The Corner Uniting Church, Warradale, South Australia

## Easter Celebrations

We hosted a Messy Church Easter Family Celebration on the foreshore here in Lakes Entrance, with a huge number of people coming through. 23 of our Playgroup families came ... most of them don't know Jesus yet.

The weather was glorious and we are praising God for this amazing opportunity He gave us to proclaim His message.

Lyn Carlisle, Lakes Entrance Baptist Church, Victoria



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## Baptism Families Doing Messy Church

Our Messy Church continues to reach out to Baptism families and their friends. We have been averaging six families but have a lot more on the roll. In May it jumped to eleven families (48 people). We were delighted, and prepared for a sudden increase, waiting for the week they all started turning up at once. What does Lucy Moore say: 'HooRAH!'

Rev. Linley Liersch Horsham & District Uniting Church, Victoria

## Messy Church International Conference

The second Messy Church International Conference (MCIC) was a fantastic 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 was 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.

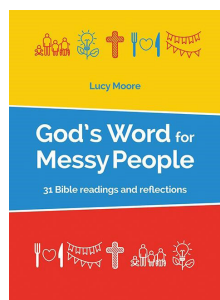
The resources and talks from the conference are now being shared on the Messy Church website so that everyone can enjoy and learn from a little bit of these amazing few days. There will be more to come so make sure you go back and look at what's new.

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/event/messy-church-international-conference-2019>

## Messy Church Aussie Add Ons

The June issue of Messy Church Aussie Add Ons includes 'Messy Experiments: learning from teenagers and poetry', Celebration Time Resources for Genesis 12:1-4, and much more. <https://intergen.org.au/shed/course/2019AussieAddOns>

## Bible reading resource for Messy Church teams



Wanting to go deeper in your journey as a Messy Church leader or helper, or are you just curious about what makes Messy Church a way of being church together? God's Word for Messy People: 31 Bible readings and reflections contains 31 short Bible passages, with a reflection on each passage by Messy Church founder Lucy Moore, exploring the core values of Messy Church and reinforcing the creativity, hospitality, joy, inclusivity and character of Jesus. <https://www.brfonline.org.uk/products/gods-word-for-messy-people-31-bible-readings-and-reflections>

## Messy Discipleship

A big theme of the Messy Church International Conference was discipleship and what it looks like in Messy Church. There are some great resources on the Messy Church website to help your Messy Church develop confidence and strategies to help your Messy Church continue on the journey of life with Jesus. The Messy Discipleship Pilot <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-discipleship-pilot> is a great place to start.

The Self Review Toolkit is a way of evaluating discipleship through the Messy Church values. You could choose to look at how your Messy Church is doing generally against the five core Messy Church values using the Self Review Toolkit. Developed by the Diocese of Bristol, this useful guide will help you reflect, review, explore and develop the key areas.

## Ideas Hub

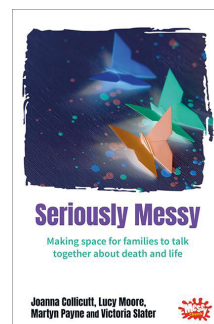
The fantastic Barnabas in Churches website has been rebuilt into the BRF Ideas Hub, full of excellent, creative ideas freely available for you to use in children and families ministry – plenty of inspiration for Messy Church planning!

<https://ideas.brf.org.uk>

## Seriously Messy

**Making space for families to talk together about death and life**

This newest Messy Church publication is for churches who want to know how to create a safe space to support people of all ages affected by these issues. <https://www.brfonline.org.uk/products/seriously-messy-making-space-for-families-to-talk-together-about-death-and-life>



## News from your Messy Church space

Your stories, photos and resource suggestions from your Messy Church for the next Australian Messy Church Newsletter would be greatly appreciated. Seeing photos or reading stories from your Messy Church experience can be a great encouragement to your Messy Church team!

Please e-mail any content (with appropriate permission, of course) to [chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au) or [dhughes@melbourneanglican.org.au](mailto:dhughes@melbourneanglican.org.au).