



I trust your Messy year is off to a wonderful start! May you be greatly encouraged as you read this newsletter and share its contents with others. As Easter approaches, I pray that you, your Messy Church team and the people of all ages that you are engaging with are drawn more deeply into the ultimately good news story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Chris Barnett.

Messy Food Bank

Foodbank Albany was greatly blessed by a food hamper provided by the Lockyer Uniting Messy Church. As part of Messy Church, families put together food items to donate to the Food Bank. Messy Church at Lockyer began with around four children and has grown significantly over the past two years.

Lockyer, WA.

You're a Star!

What a fantastic time we had at our combined Messy Church and mainly music night! With Stars as our theme, for craft we had three dimensional star biscuits, meteor stars, clay stars, stained glass stars and polystyrene stars with lots of glitter. Our new minister joined us and explained the Christmas story with different types of chocolates. Feel free to check out the details of the crafts, the questions and some answers (from this and previous Messy Church gatherings) at [our website](#).

Drysdale, VIC.

Eating the Bible

Messy Church has been going - and growing in our Parish - since 2011. In 2016 we looked at the BIG STORY of God, focussing on the major times God blessed, helped, spoke, rescued and promised for God's people - for ultimately the whole world! We work creatively to connect all of what we do - including our tradition of a food/"cooking" activity - to what's being emphasised. Messy Church is hard, but hearing a precious gem like this from a 4 year old greatly encourages us - "I really, really like Messy Church!... We get to eat dessert FROM THE BIBLE!"

Kenmore-Brookfield, QLD.

Connecting with Community

It was the night before Messy Christmas and we were at Carols in the Banyo Park promoting Messy Church, handing out invitations and giving bottles of bubbles to children at our stall. One Mum said "Oh I'm not Anglican you know?". I reassured her that everyone is welcome to Messy Church and all our services at St Oswald's, Banyo. I wondered would they come and they did. It was so exciting to see so many come and engage in our worship and activities. We had 32 adults and 29 children come making it our biggest Messy Church for the year.

Banyo, QLD.



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

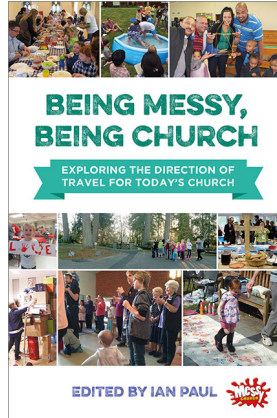
TAS: James Oakley
kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

VIC: Chris Barnett
chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au

WA: Greg Ross
revgregross@icloud.com

Australian Messy Church Survey

A big THANK YOU to all those who responded to the Messy Church Survey! Some of the key data of interest that emerged included approximately 70% of Messy Churches meeting monthly, approximately 70% meeting on a weekend afternoon (predominantly Sunday), approximately 70% growing or maintaining their numbers and approximately 60% of Messy Churches are using Get Messy! For a summary of the Survey data, please e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au.



Messy Specialists

Did you know that there was a team of volunteer Messy Specialists who bring a focus and expertise to specific areas of ministry? Whilst UK-based, they still have much experience to offer to our Australian context.

[Messy Science](#)

[Messy Social Action](#)

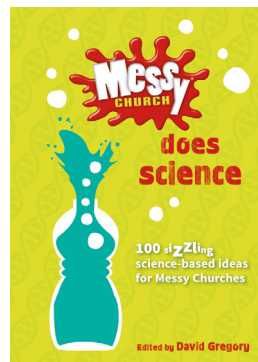
[Messy Vintage \(older people\)](#)

[Messy Forces \(army, navy, airforce\)](#)

[Messy SEND \(Special Educational Needs and Disabilities\)](#)

Messy Church Does Science

Excitement is building around this upcoming resource book for Messy Church! To find out more and see other great science ideas for Messy Church, go to [Messy Church Does Science](#).



Being Messy, Being Church

This series of essays by different contributors – including contributions from Greg Ross (WA) and Judyth Roberts (SA) – explores what Messy Church brings to the wider church, how these different forms of church community can coexist, and what this might mean for the future of the church. Questions addressed include: What will church look like in 20 years' time? How can Messy Church help Christians unite a passion for mission with a heart for ministry? What can Messy Church and Sunday Church learn from each other? See more at [Being Messy, Being Church](#).

The Day of Small Things

A totally subjective and exclusive reading of the brilliant Church Army's recent report [The Day of Small Things](#) [full report] gives us plenty of food for thought on the Messy Church front. The report looks at different fresh expressions of Church (fxC) and, though focused on the UK experience, gives us much to ponder from an Australian perspective. Read more at [Day of Small Things](#) [blog].

Australian Messy Church Roundtable

The fifth annual Australian Messy Church Roundtable (AMCR) took place in Melbourne across Monday February 27 and Tuesday February 28. Regional Coordinators and other key leaders from each state gathered together to discuss ways to support Messy Church, to grow Messy Church and to contribute to the sustainability of Messy Church in Australia. If you would like a copy of the Roundtable Summary Report, please e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au

Make it Messy! June 3 Melbourne

Located in Melbourne, open to anyone from around the country, this Messy Church training event will be a great day for all who attend. You and your team are invited to come along to explore intergenerationality and hospitality in the Messy Church context, participate in a range of excellent electives and experience a unique connection with other Messy Church leaders. More information and registration at [Make it Messy! 2017](#).

2018 - Australian National Messy Church Gathering?

One of the outcomes from the recent Australian Messy Church Roundtable was a decision to proceed with an inaugural National Messy Church Gathering for 2018. Initial thinking, that we would value your feedback on, is a Melbourne location across February 16, 17, 18. With possible participants from new Zealand (and beyond), this has the potential to be a very significant gathering of Messy Church leaders.