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Another Messy Year Begun! 2014 promises to be another amazing year for Messy Church in Australia. New Messy Churches are continuing to launch, existing Messy Churches have fired up for another year and many congregations are exploring Messy possibilities. Thank you, as always, for the contribution you are making to the Messy Church story!

One exciting event that has already taken place in 2014 was the Australian Messy Church Roundtable. This was a wonderful opportunity to hear stories, share challenges and discern new ways forward for supporting Messy Churches across the country. Watch out for some of the significant outcomes arising from the Roundtable – including more information about the visit to Australia by Jane Leadbetter planned for later this year and our first ever National Messy Church Survey.

Looking forward to supporting you in another year of Messy-ness,
Chris.

Some Snippets

Messy Church went really well. We had 60 people ranging in age from 4wks to 60+ and everyone enjoyed it. We are now organising the next one. Thank you for all your encouragement and interest in how we are doing. We really appreciate it.

Debbie, New South Wales.

You may be interested to know that the Messy Church we run at Nelson Bay Baptist was profiled for the Revive conference in Sydney which was put on by the Baptist Church of NSW & ACT. The profile was a professional 3min video that was filmed at one of our evenings. From that we have had a few phone calls from people enquiring about Messy Church. There was also an article written about Messy Church in which we were profiled that was published in the Baptist magazine a few months ago in both NSW and Victoria.

Wayne, New South Wales.

Messy Church @ Immanuel, Adelaide SA, was set up by the local congregation in the Immanuel Primary school (on the same campus) in May 2013. It has gone from strength to strength with attendances ranging from 70 – 140 on a Sunday afternoon 2-3 times a term. Through Messy Church @ Immanuel we are building a new family faith community with many families coming from the primary school community and some from beyond.

The early success meant we were looking for help to keep this mission sustainable. We applied for mission stimulus funds from the district of our Lutheran Church to employ a Messy Church coordinator to help make Messy Church @ Immanuel sustainable for the long term. We were successful and have just employed for approx. 10 hours a week for 12 months our very own Messy Coordinator.

Nigel, South Australia.

Research into Messy Church

Recent research around Fresh Expressions of Church in the UK has highlighted many aspects of interest to those engaged in Messy Church. Click here for the [Research Report](#). Whilst it is a large file, a quick read of the Executive Summary may help you decide whether you want to read the whole document.



Messy Church Logo

Many people ask about the use of the Messy Church logo. Helpfully, many answers to the commonly asked questions can be found at [Messy Church logos](#) (note, though, the Australian supplier of branded merchandise is Your Brand Unleashed). If there are further questions to be addressed for your context, the best person to e-mail is usually Carole.Darius@brf.org.uk.



Another Messy Church begins...

Messy Church went really well. I don't think we could have hoped for a smoother start. The numbers were really good. We had a total of 75 in attendance. Of this, 32 were children (this includes, babies, teens, as well as the kids who came as helpers). Of the total number, 31 were "helpers" in some way shape or form. There were three family groups who were not connected to our church (ie. kids or grandkids). Given that there were several things on around town and the busy time of year, I think our numbers were amazing... a prayer answered.

Yet again, I was impressed by how excited everyone in our congregation was about starting and then running Messy Church. I marvelled at the leaders' ingenuity and creativity in leading the activities. We had incredible support, to the point that we found all our helpers without having to tap people on the shoulders. Many of the helpers were newer members of the congregation as well. We impressed upon everyone from the beginning that everyone in our congregation has a role to play, whether it was through prayer, baking a cake or leading in the activities.

Kathryn, Victoria



Get Messy!, Messy Mag and More

If you have not already subscribed to the [Get Messy!](#) magazine, be encouraged to do so! In addition, you might also like to check out [Messy Church Mag](#) on Facebook. As always, there's also plenty to read on Lucy Moore's [Messy Church blog](#).

An opportunity for reflection

Here's an invitation to grab a coffee and reflect on your current experience of Messy Church.

- What two words best describe your Messy Church?
- Name two great things about the way you welcome people to your Messy Church.
- Which two people have you seen grow in Christ since they started coming to or helping at Messy Church?
- What two craft or construction activities have you really enjoyed recently?
- What two happy all-age moments have you most relished recently?
- What two celebrations have been most memorable to you?
- What two things are you most grateful for?

Should you feel so inclined, it would be greatly appreciated if you were able to e-mail your responses to the above questions to chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au.

Australian Messy Church

Roundtable 2014

The second annual Australian Messy Church Roundtable (AMCR) took place in Adelaide on Monday February 24. Comprising a number of people committed to supporting Messy Churches in their own state,



participants gathered to engage with what is happening with regard to Messy Church in Australia and to be part of the shaping of the development of Messy Church across the country. Appreciation is expressed to the Uniting Church in South Australia for their generous hosting of the event, the Uniting Church in Victoria/Tasmania for the facilitation of the event, BRF for its prayerful support and to each participant for their willingness to contribute their time, energy and resources to the development of Messy Church in Australia.

If you would like a copy of the 2014 Australian Messy Church Roundtable Report, please e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au.



Year of the Family - Messy Month

2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. [The Messy Month 2014 Resource](#) celebrates the gift of family in its widest sense—both the messily diverse families who come to Messy Churches, the messy family of the church into which we've been adopted and the messy family that is the community in which we live—locally and globally.