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As another term begins, there's plenty of Messy excitement around the country – especially in relation to the upcoming visit to Australia of Jane Leadbetter! Jane will spend time training and encouraging leaders in Western Australia and Queensland before taking a well-deserved holiday. I'm very much looking forward to hearing (and receiving) many great stories (and pictures) from Jane's visit and your Messy Church over the coming term.

Blessings,  
Chris

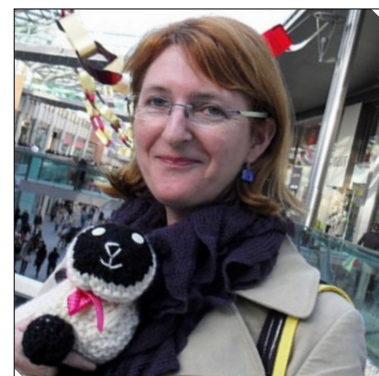
## Jane Leadbetter – Coming to Australia!

Jane Leadbetter, a core member of the Messy Church UK team, is coming to Australia! We are indeed privileged that Jane will be spending time with us in **Western Australia** and **Queensland**.

In **Western Australia**, Jane will be presenting three different training events over three big days – **August 29, 30, 31**.

In **Queensland**, Jane will be presenting two major seminars – on "Growing a Messy Church" and "Discipleship from Messy Church"- on **September 6,7**.

For anyone currently running Messy Church or considering starting a Messy Church, these are opportunities not to be missed. For more information, go to [Jane Leadbetter in Australia](#).



## Some Snippets

We had nearly 70 people at Messy Church!!! One of the new Drama Club families brought along friends who then asked about coming to church and joining the Drama Club. Another new family just came in off the street in response to our banner. Kids who had been to KCO (a Uniting Church South Australia camp) came along with their mum, encouraged by another Messy family. The KCO kids' mum said "Yep, this is church I can do."

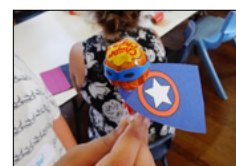
*The Corner, South Australia*

Towards the end of last school term, the R.E Coordinator, a small team and Rev. M of the Crow's Nest Parish (a little bit west of Toowoomba) went "paddling in messy waters" when they gathered the R.E. classes from Crow's Nest and Goombungee schools to have a trial Messy Church. There were mixed feelings expressed by some team members: Would they be able to restore the church to order? What if it didn't work? However, it all went swimmingly. One helper said that she was so involved in the activity she was leading, she was disappointed when it was time to pack up. Another remarked that they must be "a real Messy Church now because of the specks of glitter in the carpet". But best of all, one of the children who had attended the session met Rev. M. in the street some time later. "Gee, that was beaut. When can we do it again?" was his comment.

*Crow's Nest, Queensland*

At our Superhero-themed Messy Church, activities included a photo booth, Ninja Turtle cupcakes, Spiderman target practice, bubble wrap run, playdough, face painting, bookmarks, superhero ID cards, capes, lollipop superheroes, slime, sticky spider web and a matching card game. We then moved into the church where we learned that Jesus is the ultimate hero - greater than any other superhero! We finished with a shared family dinner back in the hall - sausage sizzle, zucchini slice and salad.

*Dapto, New South Wales*



## The Parable of the Potato

Our planning meetings for Messy Church began, and continue, around a meal - to build community, develop trust and confidence as a team, to model simple meals that can be used for Messy Church, and to say THANKYOU to our wonderful leaders.



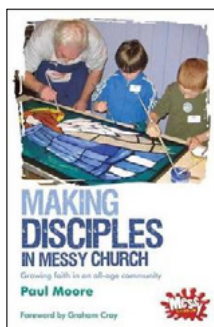
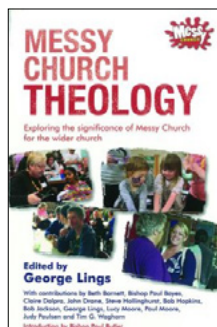
On the day of the first meeting, I was digging compost into the vegie garden which I had weeded 10 days prior. But there was one weed left, so I went to pull it out. It was growing near a potato plant, and when I pulled up the weed, at the base of the potato plant was ...you guessed it: a potato! "If there is one here, are there any others?" I wondered.

So I began to dig, and as I dug and dug, potatoes of all shapes and sizes appeared; some as small as a thumb nail, some medium and some larger, ending in a large container half full of potatoes. This may seem insignificant, but that day I experienced a revelation - a modern day parable. It was as if God was saying, "In the deep, dark places, where you may not water or nurture, places you don't even see, I am growing people of faith. Some have a little faith, some a medium amount and some a lot. You may not know about it, but they are mine, and it just requires someone to put the spade in and dig them up, to help them come together in a community." Is this not what Messy Church is about? Building and growing Christian community? This was amazing affirmation of the step we were taking, combined with the provision of a team of people to lead.

And so that night, we gathered. The concept of Messy Church was explained, and it was received with joy, excitement and anticipation by the team. With confidence in the grace and provision of God, we were ready to begin our Messy adventure together.

*Susan, Stawell*

## Messy Theology 2 – A request



Following on from [Making Disciples in Messy Church](#) and [Messy Church Theology](#) (both worth checking out if you have not already done so), plans are underway for the publication of Messy Theology 2. If you have any requests re chapters for the Messy Theology 2 publication, please e-mail them to [chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au).

## Messy Meet-Up - Adelaide

At our Messy Meet-Up there were six Messy Churches represented from across Adelaide. There was time for networking together, hearing each other's stories and enjoying cake and coffee. We then gathered for a Q&A time (people asked about discipleship and promotion); discussed the Messy Church values; and highlighted some of the recent Messy Church resources and accessing them here in Australia through MediaCom. We closed the evening with a reflection time in Messy Church teams that involved lolly pops (taste something new from God); bubbles (blow your prayers) and Messy Church bookmarks (designed and sponsored by MediaCom) with space to write prayers of thanks and requests.

*Melissa, Adelaide*



## Great, Free Messy Church Resources

- [Messy Remembrance](#)
- [Messy Church session on Christian Aid](#)
- [Messy Church and Operation Christmas Child](#)
  
- [Nine Messy Church Logos](#)
- [A Liturgy bridging traditional and Messy Church](#)
- [Twenty ways to develop Messy Church out of an event, festival or pilot](#)

## Can Messy Church work anywhere?

As part of the BRF Messy Church team, Martin Payne has had the privilege of visiting and being part of many Messy Churches. First and foremost his aim has been to listen and learn from what is going on in Messy Church, and to record people's stories and reflections about how God is at work reaching new people through this particular expression of church for the 21st century. One area of focus for Martyn has been Messy Churches in areas of social disadvantage...[Read More.](#)

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Does your Messy Church attract people of any age with special needs and disabilities? Would you appreciate further assistance in responding to those with such needs? Messy Church is delighted to welcome Trish Hahn as the new Messy Church SEND Coordinator! Trish currently coordinates a SEND Messy Church in her local community and is keen to offer support and advice to other Messy Churches. Trish can be contacted via [mcsendcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcsendcoordinator@gmail.com)

Nb. Whilst not Messy Church specific, [Luke 14](#) is another great resource for this area of ministry.