



So much has been happening this term, we may need to expand the Newsletter! May you enjoy reading about some of the exciting things that have been happening around the country (such as new Messy Churches beginning, the Mega Messy Meet Up in South Australia and the Messy Church Big Picture event in Queensland) and some great new resources to explore (including the latest Get Messy! and fresh Pinterest boards).

Chris.

New Messy Churches Begin!

Our first Messy Church went really well ... about 35 there, so not bad for a first effort. Pleasingly, we had people from our three congregation clusters (Anglo, Samoan & Korean) as well as both 8.30 & 10am congregations, plus a couple of baptism families. A good start to build on.

Faith, Essendon (Victoria)

Our second Messy Church is about to take place. We had a total of 17 at our 1st one (11 plus the team) including 2 families who don't come to Sunday worship. We've hoping for more this time. We're using the "Get Messy" magazine as the main theme resource and we've got about 11 or so activities organised. We have some members of our uke orchestra to play the songs and have arranged soup and a bbq for the main meal. All those involved are very enthusiastic.

Iain, Grovedale (Victoria)

We've just had our third Messy Church. They've been great! The first was just before Easter, with an Easter theme. The second was on Pentecost Sunday, with the theme of Spirit...Breath...Wind. The third was on the Winter Solstice, with the theme "Light for the World". Each time so far we've made a banner as part of the night. The second probably had the biggest turn-out, with families unseen before and at least 40 people all up. Good fun, and going well!

David, Ashburton (Victoria)

Looking at the Big Picture

Around 80 people from 25 different churches gathered together in Brisbane recently to engage together with some of the big Messy Church issues. The guest presenter was UK author and Church Growth consultant Bob Jackson, who has described Messy Church as "the biggest single churchgoing growth phenomenon in his country since the rise of Sunday schools and Methodism at the end of the eighteenth century" (reference: [Christianity Today article](#), published July 2015)

Organised by Glen & Sue Taylor, lively discussion took place and good ideas emerged around a variety of matters relevant to the Messy Church context – including discipleship, conversion, whole of life church and Messy Church as a full expression of church. For a copy of the ppt shared on the evening, please e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au.



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Mega Messy Meet Up



Around 80 people from 27 different churches came together in Adelaide recently for the inaugural Mega Messy Meet Up. Many denominations were represented, including people from The Salvation Army, Uniting, Lutheran, Anglican and Catholic churches.

The format of the evening was that of a typical Messy Church. We started with games, moved to craft and activities and then moved into a time of celebration and worship with various churches taking part. After the celebration and worship two speakers from different churches spoke on Messy Play Days and Messy Discipleship. This was followed by supper which like everything else was centered around our theme for the night, Christmas. Over supper there was time to network and chat and check out the resources. Each church represented received a Take Home Bag full of resources and ideas for games, recipes, craft and worship ideas.

Overall, it was a fantastic evening enjoyed by all! Full of hospitality, creativity, celebration, all ages and Christ-centeredness, it was lovely to hear how well Messy Church is going across South Australia and wonderful to see so many churches keen to reach out to people who do not yet go to Church.

Bev (South Australia)

Messy Church & Guardians of Ancora (new App)



[Guardians of Ancora](#) is now available to download for FREE! This groundbreaking game is an amazing opportunity for children you know to discover the incredible adventures of the Bible for

themselves. Available for [Apple](#), [Android](#) and [Kindle Fire](#) devices, Guardians of Ancora is a world-class digital game – an amazing virtual world that 8 to 11 year olds can enter and a place where Bible stories come alive!

From a Messy Church perspective, it would be wonderful to hear your stories as to how you are utilising this new resource – perhaps as an activity, in the celebration time or as a follow-up option for families between Messy Church gatherings. Please e-mail any contribution to chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au.

Latest Get Messy! (Sep-Dec 2015)

Have you signed up to receive [Get Messy!](#) yet? The latest edition, as usual, includes excellent session outlines to consider, great articles to read (such as on Messy Church and teenagers) and many resources to explore (such as Jane's soon to be published book [Messy Prayer](#)). You'll also find a blog with a list of [extra ideas](#) to use on the highlighted themes.

Click here to [order a hard copy](#) or here for the [downloadable version](#).

Messy Church and Pinterest (New!)



At last! The Messy Church team are delighted to launch the [Messy Church Pinterest board](#).

Over twenty boards have been created and there are more still to be pinned. There are boards on hospitality, celebration time ideas, creative prayers, SEND, extreme crafts and so many more. Pop the kettle on and explore the wonderful visuals, videos and soak up the ideas to plan exciting sessions for your community. Help us help you in your Messy ministry by 'Following' and letting us know anything we might have missed out.

Messy Faith, Sticky Church

Oct 6 Melbourne 9.30am-3pm

- How can we more effectively connect with teenagers?
- How can we more genuinely partner with families?
- How can we more authentically engage with teenagers in intergenerational community?

Featuring Judyth Roberts (National Messy Church Consultant) and Brad Griffin (Fuller Youth Institute), participation in Messy Faith, Sticky Church will enable you to be more effective in your ministry engagement with teenagers in intergenerational spaces, such as Messy Church.

More information and registration: <https://ucavt.goregister.com.au/messyfaith2015>

NB. If you are unable to attend, but would like to receive material distributed on the day, please e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au