

TERM 2
2016



There's much energy and excitement at many levels throughout the Messy Church world. People of all ages connecting at local Messy Church gatherings, regional get-togethers of leaders, state/national gatherings and the upcoming international Messy Church Conference all continue to evidence the great things that God is doing through Messy Church. May you be greatly blessed across the term as you play your part in this grand adventure!

Our first Messy Church went very well. We had 58 people present, 30 of these don't go to our church, but were families who we have contact with through playgroup, holiday club etc. They all enjoyed the time and gave positive feedback. Now we need to start looking ahead to the next one! Thanks for your interest and support.

Robyn (Aberfeldie, Victoria)

At our Messy Church gathering we used the theme "Bible Seasides". We heard the tale of the wise man and the foolish man. Fr Robert enjoyed using his skills acting out the beach scene as part of worship! We enjoyed fish fingers and tuna mornay for our meal. And just like any trip to the beach, we enjoyed ice cream in a cone for dessert :)

Mandy (Leeton, NSW)

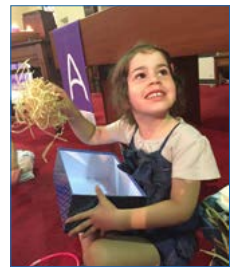
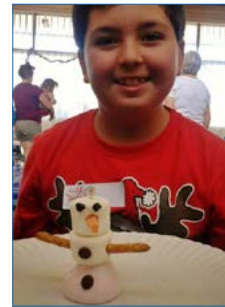
Had a really good Messy Easter last night. I am so tired! The team was fab. Playgroup families and they brought friends too, and a year 1 kid is now my techie powerpoint guy. It is so cool when they come scooting into the church and run into the hall to see what we're doing this time, closely followed by parents who look for their new friends from the church. So cool. One little guy got really excited that Jesus came back to life and the whole resurrection story and questioned me at length about how it could have happened and different scenarios over the toasted sandwiches. I don't often get that over a cuppa on a Sunday morning!

Claire (Carrum, Victoria)

'Promises, promises' was the theme for Messy Church and we decided to mix it up a bit from our usual format. This time we had story stations that families would visit before going into the hall where the activity tables were set up. After the story station encounters, groups were then ushered into the hall as usual where each table host showed them what was happening there and how it relates to the theme.

We also shortened our activity time and had an all age clue hunt. Adults and kids needed to work together to find clues that afforded the group wrapped parcels that they'd open together at the end of the hunt. All of the clues were rhyming verses and led to an activity that solved a part of the bigger picture. Some of the clues were written in invisible ink, were hiding in a hay bale, were inside of balloons that had scraps of paper that needed to be put together to find the 'bigger picture' portion of Scripture. When it was all done and dusted, the parcels were opened – and families were also offered a free New Testament to take home to read for themselves.

Janie (Banora Point, Queensland)



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

NSW/ACT: Judyth Roberts
judythroberts@gmail.com

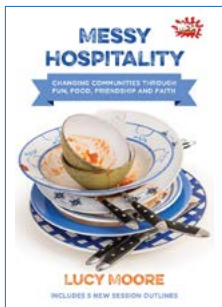
TAS: James Oakley
kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

SA & NT: Jenny Carver
carverjen@adam.com.au

WA: Brenton Prigge
brenton.prigge@wa.uca.org.au

QLD: Sue Taylor
taylor.susanne.coral@bigpond.com

Messy Hospitality



"Of all the books I've written, this was the most unexpectedly enjoyable so far to pull together and the one I got most excited about and the most fascinated by the subject"

– Lucy Moore.

In *Messy Hospitality* Lucy demonstrates how hospitality can be practised in Messy Church and other church contexts to promote mission

and faith formation, addressing the theology of hospitality and how it can be expressed at the welcome table, the activity table, the Lord's Table, the meal table, and in the home.

Also included are insights from the secular hospitality industry, how to train Messy Church teams in hospitality, audit-style questions for the reader to apply in their own context, and five complete session outlines for Messy Churches.

Available in Australia via [Messy Hospitality](#).

A Queensland/Northern Rivers Update



Beth Nicholls (a new Regional Coordinator) has held her first Brisbane South and Northern Rivers NSW Messy Church Training day. Twenty five

people from Anglican and Uniting Churches attended training that was streamed for both existing Messy Churches and those who are just setting out on their Messy Church journey. Participants appreciated the spirit of openness as ideas were shared willingly and everyone was encouraged in their Messy ministry. The main emphasis of the training was exploring the five principles or values of Messy Church: Christ centred, Multi-age, Creativity, Celebration and Hospitality. As a result of the training it is hoped that some new Messy Churches will start.

Glen & Sue (also Regional Coordinators) ran Messy Church Introductory training at Elevate (a joint Anglican/Lutheran Conference) in March. Training was for 2.5 hours and covered "Why the name Messy Church?", "The five values of Messy Church", "Getting started" and "Biblical craft activities". Eleven delegates from seven different churches attended and feedback from the day was very positive. An invitation to repeat the training at the 2017 Conference has been accepted.

More Resources to explore

[Messy Prayer \(book\)](#)

[The Lord's Prayer \(with actions\)](#)

[Messy Church and working families \(article\)](#)

[Welcoming people with additional needs \(tips\)](#)

"I am Loved" - New Music Resource

Heather and her family began attending 'Messy Church' and was inspired to write songs reflecting what she saw there. Songs about unconditional love, community, friendship, acceptance and fun!

"As a minister at Adamstown I get a lot of feedback about how kids enjoy Messy Church. Very happy parents come along and tell me the key is the absolute pleasure in which children enjoy to sing... the kids love to sing the songs that Heather has written for us." – Rev Rod Pattenden

Go to ["I am Loved"](#) for songs, backing tracks, lyric book and sheet music.

Get Messy! (May-August) + Australian Supplement

Get Messy! is a four-monthly subscription resource for Messy Church leaders. Each issue contains four session outlines (one per month), including planning sheets and take-home handouts.

May is when many churches remember Pentecost, so we'll be thinking how the Holy Spirit draws us together as the worldwide family of Christ to celebrate the Church's birthday.

June we look at the noisy story of the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel, picking up on the idea of that same Holy Spirit breathing life into dead situations.

July we'll enjoy the reassuring words of Jesus about handling our worries. As many of our families are going through real worries about food, clothes and money, what do Jesus' words mean to us?

August it's the Olympics in Rio, so we pick up on the sporty theme by discovering what it means to be on Team Jesus. Enjoy getting messy!

Available as a download via [Get Messy!](#) or as hard copy in Australia via [MediaCom](#).

Nb. A FREE Australian supplement to *Get Messy!* is also being trialled. To obtain your copy, e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au.