



As Messy Church goes from strength to strength around the country, the incredible creativity on display is amazing! With the first ever Messy Muster and Messy Pet Blessing in WA, the multiplication of Messy ministry in the Blue Mountains and the growing array of images from Australian Messy Churches on-line, there is just so much colour and excitement around Messy Church in Australia. As you take a moment to reflect on the Messy year past, may you be encouraged by all that God has done in and through and around you and your Messy Community in 2016.

Messy Pet Blessing

We recently had our first ever Messy Pet Blessing - with 72 people attending - and lots of pets being blessed. We had chickens, guinea pigs and dogs in attendance and lots of photos of pets at home to bless. Everyone who had a pet blessed received a certificate and then got the chance to engage in wonderful pet based activities. We had one of the vets in town who is married to an Anglican Priest come along and share her story of how pets teach us about the love of God. Next month we are having multiple Baptisms (of people, not pets)!

Greg, Bunbury (WA)

Blue Mountains Messy Churches

We now have three Messy Churches in the Blue Mountains! Facilitated through Springwood Uniting, Messy Churches are now also running at both Leura and Blaxland Uniting Churches. Whilst each site explores the same topic, resourced from the Get Messy! magazine, the topic is contextually transformed by the experiences of the different people present. It is wonderful to be able to reach out into our communities in this way and I just wanted to say thank you for the resources that are made available for use by Messy Churches in Australia.

Mary-Ellen, Springwood (NSW)

A Harvest Theme

At Messy Church we explored the idea that whilst sometimes seeds take a long time to germinate, there is always hope. Our Messy Craft activities included a harvest cup, marble painting, corn print wrapping paper, popcorn collage, seed mosaic, seed growing and bird feeders. Our Messy Celebration incorporated a reading of the Parable of the Sower from the Bible and we thought about the importance of looking at where seeds are planted.

Wayne, Drysdale (VIC)

Handling Our Worries

We had a great Messy Church with about 50 in attendance. Our theme was "Handling our worries" – do we trust God to help us with our worries and troubles? Do we focus on what is important, or do we get too worried by too many different things? We did heaps of fun activities and made some fun, messy stuff to remind us NOT to worry, but always to trust in God! Look on our Facebook event page to see [live video](#) of our activities.

Fa, Chermside (QLD)



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The Growing Church is a Messy Church

The Messy Church movement has celebrated its 3500th church registration! Founder Lucy Moore said: "We're delighted with this milestone in the development of Messy Church around the world. The more Messy Churches there are, the more families there are getting to enjoy the good news of Jesus"...

Read more at [Christian Today](#).

Messy Church and Faith at Home

When offering support and resources for families at home, you might like to think about how you take into account the following factors...

- Appropriate language and content when selecting Bible stories
- Existing experience/knowledge of faith
- Time and financial constraints
- Appropriate length of time for activities
- Ages of children in the family

Read more at [Getting Started](#).

Messy Church and Discipleship

Be ready for the long haul — making disciples can be a long, slow process. It's more like parenting a child than microwaving a ready meal. Remember that...

- we're all work in progress
- we are disciples and we're becoming disciples
- none of us are finished, complete and perfect
- discipleship is an 'us' thing, not primarily a 'me' thing
- relationship and friendship are at the heart of discipleship

Read more at [Encouraging Discipleship](#).

Messy Church Retreat - New Zealand

Messy Church in New Zealand has graciously invited anyone who is interested from Australia to their inaugural Messy Church Retreat. Taking place Feb 24-26 2017, the retreat will be facilitated by Fran Francis (Spiritual Growth Ministries Director & Senior Pastor of Vineyard Church Auckland) and will be based around the theme "Our Quest". For more information and to register, please contact Debbie via dlsinz211@gmail.com.

Some Australian Christmas Music to Consider

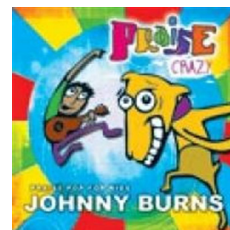
[Carols In The Sun](#) (CD Heather Price)

[King of Christmas](#) (CD Colin Buchanan)

[When Jesus Was Born](#) (CD Beth Barnett)

God in a Bod (Song from [Welcome Mat](#))

Song Bethlehem Bop (Song from [Praise Crazy](#))



State-Based Messy Gatherings

SA Mega Messy Meet-Up

The recent South Australian Mega Messy Meet Up was blessed with excellent in-puT from Andrew McDonough ([Lost Sheep](#)), Heather Price ([I am Loved](#)) via skype from Newcastle and Judyth Roberts (Uniting Church in South Australia). Following a typical Messy Church format across the afternoon, this Mega Messy Meet Up was greatly appreciated by all those present.

WA Messy Muster

More than 40 people from multiple churches gathered together from across Western Australia for the very first Messy Muster. Taking place across a weekend, the time together included a focus on networking, team building, sharing ideas and resources. The Messy Muster was a great opportunity for Messy Church teams to be listened to, cared for and supported in prayer and friendship.

VIC Make it Messy!

This annual training event for those engaged in engaged in Messy Church, churches contemplating beginning a Messy Church and people genuinely curious about the Messy Church phenomenon was an outstanding success. Participants from across the state enjoyed a day of active engagement, stimulating discussions, encouraging stories and helpful electives designed to empower ministry in their local contexts.