

# Messy Matters NZ

Issue 4

April 2013

## Who Knows about Your Messy Church?

It seems like a pretty straightforward question, doesn't it? If you're running a Messy Church, then I'm pretty sure that your church members know about it. Your leadership teams know about it, too. Maybe you have a notice in the weekly bulletin, a sign out front, or a verbal announcement at your mainly music or after school programme and your advertising.

Recently New Zealand had a visitor from the UK. This woman was keen to experience an Aotearoan Messy Church service.

The problem?

None of the Messy Churches in the area she was visiting were listed on the UK Messy Church website.

"Not a real problem", you say. "We have our own Messy page." Yes, we do. But unfortunately the choices on our website were very limited.

Not to be daunted, this British tourist contacted the local library, looked at church listings online and finally did a thorough (long and involved) Google search. After going to the church beforehand to check for a notice or sign out front (there was none), this woman used the published email contact to confirm that the service was on as scheduled.

The result was a wonderful Messy Church experience, but it took a lot of work for her to get there.

I have two questions for you:

### 1. Who knows about your Messy Church?

There are people of all ages in your communities who would love to come to your Messy Church. We are surrounded by families in need of Jesus, who are desperate for real relationships and a chance to have fun together as family. At the same time, our Messy Church teams work with such love, prayer, dedication and enthusiasm to provide just those things to a world in need.

So how does your community know about your Messy Church? Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

- Notices in your weekly church bulletin.
- Flyers and announcements in mainly music, after school clubs, holiday programmes and preschool music sessions.
- An up-to-date website with Messy information and contacts.
- School newsletters - contact your local schools and ask about this. Many schools are happy to publish community announcements.
- Local newsletters.
- Local libraries - contact them about putting up a poster and getting your information onto their data bases.
- List your Messy Church on [www.eventfinder.co.nz](http://www.eventfinder.co.nz)
- Posters in local shops.
- Email us at [messychurch@strandz.org.nz](mailto:messychurch@strandz.org.nz) to have your Messy Church put on

the website here in NZ.

- Contact [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk) to list your Messy Church on the worldwide site.

### 2. How easy are we making it for people to attend Messy Church?

Messy Church is primarily aimed at those who don't already come to church, so if people can't confirm the time, are not sure where to find you, don't know what to bring, are worried that they'll have to pay or have a myriad of other questions that they can't get answers to, they just might not come. "Messy Church" won't mean a lot to most people, so it can be helpful to explain in a few words what people are likely to find at your Messy Church. And make sure to include a contact number, email or website address where they can ask questions or find out more.

The journey from the car through the front door of your church might be an easy walk for you, but can be an insurmountable obstacle for people who don't usually come to church. Let's make it easy for people in your community to come and hear the Good News of Jesus, enjoy crafts and activities together, share a meal and build relationships! Love and smiles

*Julie*



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## We carry the light of Christ

Our Messy Church is called Families@4. We meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon from 4-6pm.

For our Easter session we played some parachute games and relay games with dyed eggs as people arrived. We then made candles from all the lovely beeswax candle ends we seem to collect in Anglican churches, with a few melted down Advent and Christmas ones too. It was fun, creative and a reminder that we carry the light of the risen Christ into the world. We put the candles into glass jars & lovely little glasses left over from the garage sale the day before. Recycling!

Following our craft we went into the church for a short service. Our Resurrection story began with asking the children what they knew about Easter, we then had an interview with our Mary and the women at the tomb, Thomas, two friends on the road to Emmaus and

Peter. They retold what happened that first Easter. We had a prayer and the song 'Lord I lift your name on high' with actions and then shared our highs and lows for the week. Our meal was a delicious shepherds pie followed by dessert for tea. We all went home glad we had come and with a light to shine.

We have been running Families@4 since 2007 when I had the privilege of spending some time with Lucy Moore from the UK while on study leave. We have a regular core of people who come with some new families who have joined along the way. Our desire is to go out and invite families from our neighbourhood who don't have much contact with the church and share the hope we have in the risen Lord.

**Joanne Latham**

**Vicar Belfast Redwood Anglican**

## New Resources

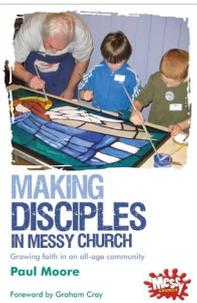
Read all about the new magazine, Get Messy! order a copy or subscribe on at

[BRFonline](#).

All sorts of exciting information including session outlines, planning sheets, take-home handouts and so much more.



There's a new **Get Messy! Magazine Facebook** page for you to ['Like'](#)



**Making Disciples in Messy Church** contains much wisdom and inspiration for those seeking to make disciples in all forms of church.

Click [here](#) link to read more about it, including an extract from the forward.

If you would like to purchase any of the Messy Church Resources please do contact us and we can give you a NZ\$ Price.

## Upcoming Events

### Messy Meet Up

**Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 7.30pm**

Epuni Baptist Church  
304 Waiwhetu Road  
Lower Hutt

If you would like to attend please contact Sue Fenton [revsuefenton@gmail.com](mailto:revsuefenton@gmail.com)

### Whangarei

One Day Conference

**Saturday 8th June 9.30am—4pm**

**Sunday 9th June 4pm for Messy Event**

If you would like to register or get more information please contact Emma Parry [parry@clear.net.nz](mailto:parry@clear.net.nz)

[messychurch@strandz.org.nz](mailto:messychurch@strandz.org.nz)

