



New Zealand Messy Church Summer Newsletter

As I write this newsletter I reflect on the year that has been, with all it's trials and challenges and the exciting ways that many of you have thought differently, adapted to the covid restrictions, and continued to bring the gospel message through Messy Church to those you serve in Jesus name.

We now enter a different season in which we are encouraged to bring **Christ** back into **CHRISTmas**. So let's think, do some things and have some conversations about how we might do that. Think about **Hope**, **Peace**, **Love** and **Joy**, and what having the life of Jesus living in you really means. A focus on making disciples of Jesus has been more prevalent this year than any I have known so let us all keep on with that focus. Often I encourage gatherings of Messy Church folk to embrace the phrase of what we are about as - Building a discipling culture. Let's tell and share our story/ies of **Hope**, **Peace**, **Love** and **Joy** this **CHRISTmas** season.

I hear that some Messy Churches are planning sheep trails this year. If you have not got the knitted sheep this year, you may think of a different way of doing that or plan to consider it for next year. There are loads of ideas on the internet about activities you could encourage families of all ages to enter into at this time.

We have had the question raised as to whether our Messy Church times are a 'gathering' or an 'event'. Under the Covid 19 - Guidelines for places of worship PDF, on the Covid 19.govt.nz website, it is very clear that Messy Church comes under the 'gathering' definition. So those are the guidelines you will need to operate under in conjunction with the guidelines that your local or national church leadership has determined is best for you at this time.

"For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

May each and every one of you have a blessed **CHRISTmas** season with your loved ones and your extended families in your local church and in your Messy Church.

Richard - On behalf of the New Zealand Messy Church National Team.

