



New Zealand's Newsletter

From the Editor,

Talofa to all and welcome to any of you who are new to our New Zealand Network of Messy Churches.

Having recently celebrated Samoan language week I am reminded of the Hospitality value of Messy Church, one of welcome, acceptance and growing relationships.

Throughout our lives, how we experience hospitality evolves and changes as life changes around us. As young children we played tea parties or created mudpies in the back yard. As we grow and leave home the opportunities and doors opened for us to welcome friends into our flats or shared hostel spaces.

Perhaps we are the listener to our student colleagues grappling shared subjects of learning or politely ask a friend to take us home from somewhere we feel less comfortable about. Maybe like me you were the one being hosted in a stranger's house being billeted as a rep netballer.

With the delight and demands for young parents hospitality changes again as you welcome new lives into your families and learn how to juggle the social pressures of a tidy house in case someone called in to see the new arrivals.

Times soon change and our homes became hang out spaces for teens making sense of life's big questions or just somewhere safe to share laughter music and the contents of our fridge and pantry.

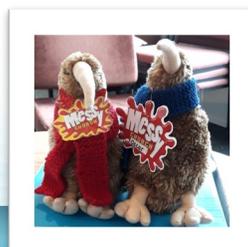
We may find ourselves hosting colleagues or friends and family in our houses or in the current culture of eating out in cafes or being the guests in our children's homes.

In the future we will face yet more change in what hospitality offers us as we face the best options for the elderly, will it be in our current home, a retirement village an apartment or a relative's home, where do we belong.

Sometimes we are the visitor taking hospitality to others, with a gift or wisdom or listening ear. As we all face the changing environment of Covid 19 and how we have had to adapt to a changing approach to hospitality through messy church, the main principle remains, embedded in Relationships.

Throughout Jesus' life he placed a strong focus on hospitality and relationship. We only need to think of Mary and Martha, or Zaccheus the tax collector or the woman at the well to know what mattered to him. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out onto Christ's friends and apostles to 'Go out and make disciples'. As we grow in our passion and hope for Christ's gift (taonga) of Messy Church in our communities, we can remain encouraged by the faith and strength that comes through our relationship with him, as we lead others to 'go out' in the hope of his discipleship in our changing world.

Nga Mihi,
Carrole





The International Messy Church Conference 2022

'The dates are 20th to 22nd May 2022

The Hayes Conference Centre

Swanwick and Derbyshire, UK

All accommodation, meals, drinks, and snacks included.

A chance to meet Messy Church friends from all over the world.

“Most excitingly, a world famous speaker: Paula Gooder is just brilliant”

Ideally it would be amazing to be there but there will be a limited number of places available for overseas participants, **so please let the NZ National Team know if you are interested in attending and being a NZ representative.**

For those of us who aren't going perhaps we could perhaps consider some regional or national gatherings to coincide with the conference running time.

Positive Bites

It is really encouraging to see a number of Messy Churches in NZ exploring great ideas about growing faith in others, attending Messy Church.

These ideas all take place between the monthly MC gathering and are proving invaluable in building relationships between the generations and providing further space for exploring and asking questions and growing in faith.

Cooking

Both the Chinese Mission in Wellington and the Putaruru MC team run regular cooking classes which have drawn wider support from MC families and the community.

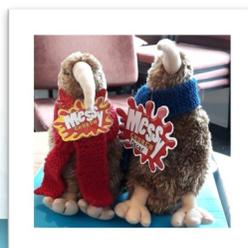
Messy School

Mary Addison and her Putaruru team, in response to a need in the community runs what the children now call, Messy School. This is an afterschool event once a week where children and parents participate in homework support activities, story, prayer and a meal.

Fridayzone

Angela Brown from St Barnabas in Christchurch says:

“Fridayzone is a messy Church style weekly after school club on Fridays 3:00 to 5:30pm for primary school aged children and parents, including games, craft activities, boardgames, celebration story time, prayer and ending in a sit down dinner. Preschoolers are welcome with a caregiver staying. It is part of the vision to offer community families Mainly Music for preschoolers in the morning., Fridayzone for primary aged children and their families and then youth group in the evening.”





Share the Cheer!

Ollie and Oscar the Messy Church Kiwis enjoy an adventure and would love to hear about new ideas that can be shared with others on their facebook page and the Messy Church NZ website.
messychurch.nz



This could be either themes, songs or music ideas, prayer or science activities, crafts, or even inspirational conversations or question prompts. Perhaps you have success stories around how to grow and maintain engagement for teens and preteens. If you are sending photos please ensure you have permission for publication or images that omit faces. Send them to your regional Coordinator who will post them on line.

Book Review

The latest addition to our Messy Church resources available is the new book titled 'Messy Discipleship', looking at discipleship through the lens of the Messy Church values. ' This collection of perspectives, edited by Messy Church founder Lucy Moore, brings academic analysis and practitioner wisdom to bear on a key question for today's church, capturing the latest thinking and learning from the Messy Church context.

Individual chapters examine each of the core Messy Church values and how these work in practice to promote

discipleship.' Well worth getting a copy from the messy Church Library or purchase from brf.org.uk or Book Depository

Video Worth a Look.

'21st Century Christian, Following Jesus Where Life Happens' video

This video is about fresh expressions of church from the messy Church context.

Search on line for: 21st Century Christian Messy Church UK

Then find the link Messy Church BRF POST FB. This takes you to a black screen with the number 29 on it. Video runs for 30mins well worth watching.

Where Can we Find You!

Recently two of our national team members had been travelling and wanted to connect to a local Messy Church in the area they were visiting but struck a barrier in finding one.

We would love to post your 'up and coming' MC dates on the national FB page so anyone travelling in your area can pop in and visit your Messy Church. This is a great way to encourage each other and to share ideas. But more importantly for our families who may be travelling over the next school holidays to be able to

complement their holiday visit to your area, with a meal and messy mayhem which could leave lasting memories, and reinforcing the reality of being part of a much bigger whanau/family.



Tarore's Story

St Paul's Putarau recently held a Messy Church based on Tarore's story, which is about a young Maori girl living in the 1830's who was given a Gospel of Luke by missionaries. Joy Cowley is the author of the book.

Mary Addison writes:

Archbishop David Moxon kindly came and told Taoroe's story during our celebration time. Afterwards when he spoke to me, he said "that as he was talking about the great feast in Luke he looked out and though it was right before him"! Which is a lovely way of looking at MC. He loved being part of our MC and has been telling people about how wonderful MC is.

So, he is now a great advocate for Messy Church.

He also led us on a Tarore pilgrimage. She lived in the Matamata district, so we boarded a bus for the day and visited the base of Wairere Falls where she was killed, then to the site of the mission school where she learnt to read. Followed by a visit to her grave site. Each part of the journey had stories, singing and prayers. We finished the day at All Saint's Church in Matamata where they have a beautiful stained-glass window depicting Torore's story. Bishop David anointed our Messy Church children and families, a very special experience for all on our trip.

Our recently retired Vicar Jan Tarrant had been talking with

Bishop David about his recent attendance at our MC and the word he used to describe it was "miraculous"!

Regional Coordinators

Our present Messy Church Regional Coordinators and contact emails are as follows:

Claire Wyeth - Auckland North Auckland - claire@cots.org.nz

Jocelyn Czerwonka - Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Eastlands

Joclyn@messychurch.nz

Mary Addison-Waikato, Addison.family@xtra.co.nz

Diane Stevens - Wellington - Hutt Valley - diane@messychurch.nz

Angela Brown - Canterbury - angela@messychurch.nz

Richard Stevens - Nelson - Marlborough, Richard@messychurch.nz

Mandi Geustyn Otago - Southland - mandi.geustyn@gmail.com

These Regional Coordinators are there as your first point of contact and support of your Messy Church.

