



Programme

- 9.45 onwards drinks / welcome
- 10.00 intro, story, q&a's, sharing experiences
- 11.40 coffee and crafts
- 12.30 lunch break
- 1.15 presentation - ongoing story, next steps, & group work
- 2.15 q&a
- 2.40 Bible story
- 3.00 leave





How did it all begin?

- **At one Anglican church near Portsmouth**
- **Dreamed of a way of being church to appeal to the whole family**
- **Listening to the needs of local people**
- **Building on resources of the church and the building**
- **April 2004: first Messy Church**



The Shape of Messy Church

Once a month on Thursdays

- **3.30 welcome**
- **4.00 crafts**
- **5.00 celebration**
- **5.15 meal**





Aims ...



- **To provide an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together**
- **To help people of all ages feel they belong in church and to each other**
- **To help people have fun and be creative together**
- **To introduce Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship**





Values

**Creativity,
hospitality,
celebration**



Cornish Pasty

(not started yet)

1. Why are you thinking of starting Messy Church?
2. What do you think will be your main challenge?
3. How do you think Messy Church might change your community?
4. What would you love to see happening in your Messy Church five years from now?

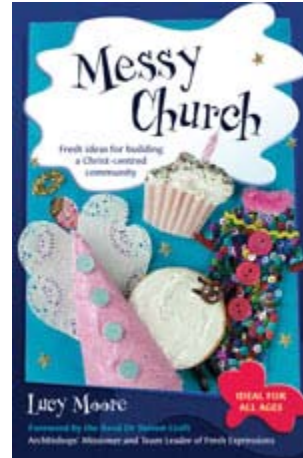


Cornish Pasty

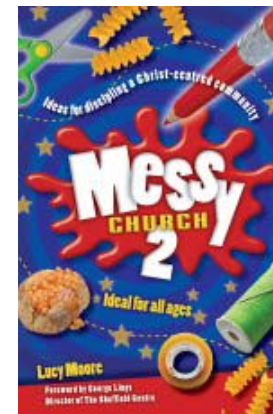
(already started)

1. What were your reasons for starting Messy Church?
2. What would you say were the main difficulties and problems you've had or still have?
3. What would you say are the biggest successes you've had or are having?
4. What would you love to see happening in your Messy Church five years from now?





- Fresh Expressions DVD
- Messy Church book
- Messy Church website
- Messy Fiestas
- Messy Church 2





September 2008

Going deeper... Going wider



BRF's Barnabas found funding for Lucy to work fulltime on Messy Church:

- To make Messy Church and its aims better known
- To support Messy Church leaders through Regional Coordinators, the website, Fiestas, a two-way flow of ideas and prayer
- To discern what God is teaching the Church through Messy Church



Regionally Nationally Internationally



Rochdale, Didcot, Hanham, Bournemouth, Hellifield, Newport, Brixham, Dawlish, Meade Vale, Bristol, Truro, Poole, Lymington, Exeter, Manchester, Buckingham, Saltburn, Hammer, Sea Mills, Warwick, Wolverhampton, Hayes End, Grimsby, Epsom, Polegate, Camborne, Kegworth, Rixton, Westgate on Sea, Christchurch New Zealand, Cowplain, Lightwater, Morden, Epsom, Westgate, Beccles, Cambridge, Kilburn, Surbiton, Lydd, Colchester, Hundon, Brookwood, Petersfield, Wootton, East Ham, Strood, Claygate, Oakley, Farnborough, Codsall, Grimsby, Redditch, Shipston on Stour, Macclesfield, Raunds, Lilleshall, Carlisle, Barrow in Furness, Wythenshawe, Liverpool, Jarrow, Neath, Leith, Stranton, Alderley Edge, Newcastle, Norton, Bebbington, N Aylsham, Sutton Coldfield, Newfoundland... (251 listed in Dec 09)



Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Sheffield:

... I believe it is one of the most significant developments in fresh expressions of church at the present time. ... Messy Church deserves every encouragement and support.

Revd George Lings, Director of Church Army's Research Unit – The Sheffield Centre:

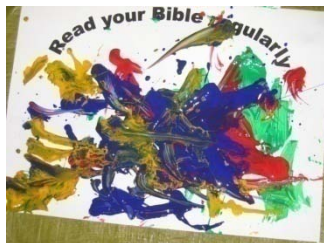
Messy Church is important within the current re-imagination of what it is to be Church. Don't dumb it down to kids, crafts and church-lite. It fosters inherent participation by contrast to congregational passivity. It connects across the generations instead of 'sending the children out'. It offers a holistic vision of church by weaving together community and creativity, out of which comes appropriate liturgy. This is positively different from laying on worship into which the attenders are assimilated. Moreover its spread shows it is accessible and transferable to many contexts. It has much to teach us all.



Helping Church grow



Could our church services be messier?
How important is food to fellowship?
How much should we strive to be all-age?
What about liturgy?
What does this say about women?
What about lay leadership?
How do we do faith at home?



Faith at home

- Were you brought up in a Christian household?
- How do you know?

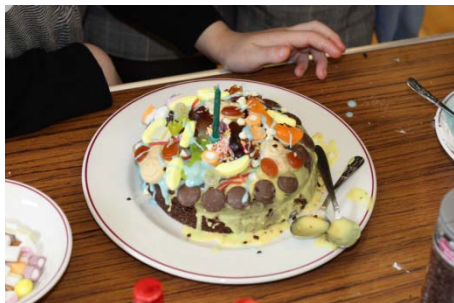




How does / could the Church help families bring their children up in the faith?

What Christian 'disciplines' do you think would help families in your area follow Jesus more closely?





Getting Going

Listening:

Do you feel this might be what God's calling you to?
How will you listen to your community?
What gifts does your church have?

Planning:

When is the best time for your Messy Church?
Where is the best place for it?

Expectations:

How many do you expect to come?
How will you publicise it?

Team:

List the people you will invite onto the team.
Core team (3/4)
Welcomers
Craft leaders
Cooks
Celebration leaders
Pray-ers



Getting Going ctd

**Which of these do you need to do next?
Plan deadlines and who will do them where possible**

- Speak to ministers / elders
- Speak to congregation
- Get team commitment to pilot session
- Date for pilot session
- Book venue
- Start publicity
- Plan activities for pilot session (core team)
- Plan date for evaluation session afterwards



www.messychurch.org.uk

