



What Messy Church isn't!

.. Just for children

It's much easier to aim a Messy Church at one particular age group, but do stop and reflect on whether the non-verbal messages it sends are what you want to say about God. If your Messy Church's teaching, crafts and food are all aimed just at the under elevens, think what message you're giving both children and adults: church is only relevant / fun / meaningful / interested in you until you're twelve? God is for babies? No, Messy Church needs to be constantly creative in its thinking about how to involve very different people: young and old, families and single people, male and female, academic and practical, poor and rich.

... A club

The whole of Messy Church is about worshipping God, having fellowship, exploring faith matters. It welcomes everyone, involves everyone, values everyone, is always there for the outsider. It's a church.

... A way of getting people to come to church on Sunday

It won't, except in a few rare cases. If people wanted to come to established church, they would be coming by now. Messy Church is interdependent with established church, but will usually operate as a separate congregation or church.

... Just for church families

Anyone already belonging to church should be thinking about serving on the leadership team of Messy Church, however old or young they are and helping others come to know Jesus.

... Just for families

All are welcome: single, widowed, childless, divorced. Church is inclusive, not exclusive.

... A quick fix

Growing disciples takes time. Messy Church has only been going a few years anywhere. It usually only meets once a month. Growth will probably be slow.

... An easy option

It takes money, time, prayer, commitment and energy from the church and leadership team.

... A drain on church resources

Yes, it will take money and time, effort and gifted people to run it, but it will give back in return a group of people who are fired up for mission, empowered by using their God-given gifts. It will spark off ideas and inspiration about what church is all about and will renew vision. It will grow goodwill in the neighbourhood towards the church, and most importantly, provide the opportunity to do effective mission in your own community.

... Set in stone

We're learning all the time. As the network of Messy Churches grows and develops, so the best ways of delivering Messy Church will develop and grow. BRF has deliberately chosen to have a 'non-controlling', 'hands-off' approach in the way we promote Messy Church in the hope that this will give God space to grow his church as he wants to and that it will give everyone encouragement to experiment and innovate.