



Messy Church - Sharing the vision

Messy Church began in April 2004 in an Anglican church near Portsmouth. It is a church for families who find it hard to go to church on a Sunday, and a typical session would include chilling, creating, celebrating and chomping. It meets once a month at a time most suitable for a local area, either after school or at the weekend. Perhaps the most significant aspects are those of:

- welcoming the whole family together not just the children
- being a church not a club
- eating together

The session would typically run along these lines:

3.30 welcome
4.00 crafts
5.00 celebration
5.15 meal

The aims are:

- 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

The concept has spread by means of the first Fresh Expressions DVD, *Messy Church* the book, the website and Messy Fiesta training days. There are currently over 600 Messy Churches listed on the website Directory and many more that are not listed.

In September 2008, thanks to the generosity of one individual and a charitable trust, Barnabas was able to second Lucy Moore to work fulltime on Messy Church within the Barnabas Team. This work will entail:

- Making Messy Church and its aims better known
- Supporting Messy Church leaders through the website, Fiestas, a two-way flow of ideas and prayer
- Ensuring sustainability through setting up Regional Coordinators
- Discerning what God is teaching us through Messy Church