



£100 Appeal



Messy Church helps people follow Jesus



Mona's story

'Messy Church is such a good way for all generations to enjoy each other's company'

In our remote Church of Scotland parish, Messy Church has been happening for over six years and is reaching all generations. In the middle of March 2018, we celebrated the 100th birthday of a lady who regularly enjoys Messy Church. As one of the children said, 'Wow!'

Mona comes along each month and enjoys being part of the extended church family. One afternoon the story being explored was Moses and the burning bush and the noisiest table was one with no children, but a group of adults sitting [and] colouring in a burning bush and all talking at once! Mona was in there too! Messy Church is such a good way for all generations [to] get to know and enjoy each other's company.

Fiona, a Church of Scotland minister



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Natalie's story

'I found myself becoming more and more interested in the whole Christian story'

I first attended Messy Church at Caterham Community Church in Surrey. I was completely wowed by how welcoming and friendly the experience was and my children absolutely loved it. It was organised chaos, but it was like walking into heaven. It was also amazing that my children could spend time with their father, as he is always at work.

I started to attend the sessions more regularly and found myself becoming more and more interested in the whole Christian story. My children began to ask questions and I felt I wanted to answer them in a way that was connected to God, so I needed to know those answers first! I completed a Christianity Explored course and then an Alpha course, and now we go as a family to St Mary's Caterham, where I have been confirmed and my children baptised.

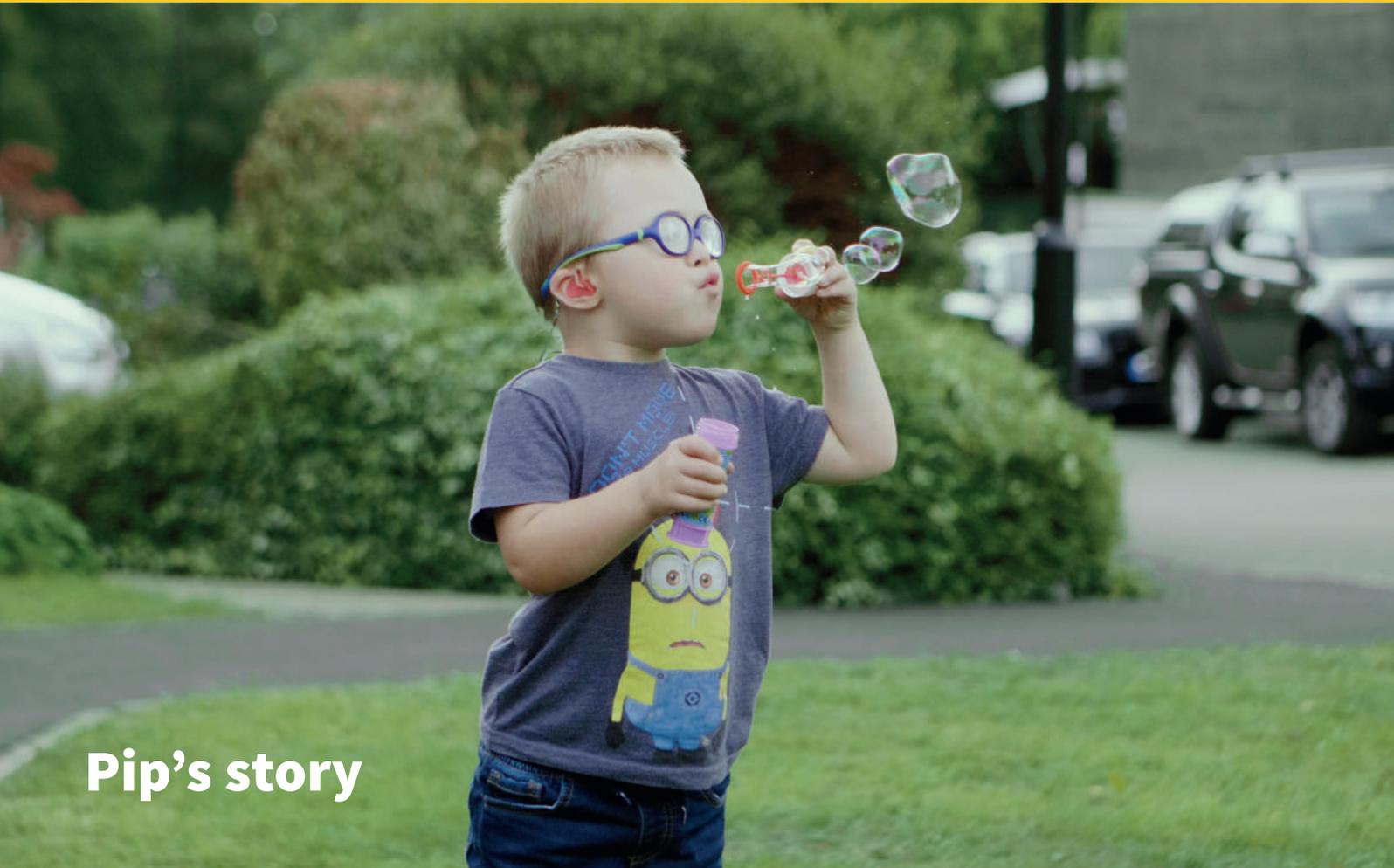
Natalie, a Messy Church mum (originally published in *Get Messy!* Jan–Apr 2016)



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Pip's story

‘The people at Messy Church have blown us away’

Pip was born [in] July 2009. We didn't know about his diagnosis with Down's Syndrome until he was born. He's partially deaf and incredibly long-sighted, and has hyper-mobility, low muscle tone and a learning delay. We've had to work hard to get Philip to a point where he's coping with life outside of our four walls.

The people at Messy Church have blown [us] away [with] how easily they have accepted Pip and our family. There are people in the group who understand Pip for who he is, not just a list of diagnoses. They [also] understand that we may need support or just the opportunity to talk about what's happening in our lives. We wouldn't have done as well without them there... such an accepting community, they are the best people around. They are what [we] see as true Christians.

Pip's parents, Robin and Jayne



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‘Messy Church gives churches the confidence to share the gospel – I praise God for that’

Messy Church is a circle of all ages meeting together to engage in who God is, in a way that works for them. It’s genius... and wonderful and a gift of the Spirit. This is not church for children; it’s church for everyone. Go on pushing out the boundaries, being flexible, being imaginative, being a circle of love that joins people, with Christ as the centre. You are a gift to the church. I praise God [that] you’ve set churches and parishes off on journeys they never imagined they could make in a million years. Somehow you’ve enabled them to have the confidence to do it. You give them confidence to share the gospel – I praise God for that.

The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, addressing the Messy Church International Conference 2016



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94% of Messy Churches feel enabled to **share the gospel**

About **half a million** people go every month
1 in 3 wouldn't normally go to church



68% of families attending go on to read the Bible, pray together or talk about God at home



 The Bible Reading Fellowship is the home of Messy Church

It costs around **£280,000** a year to support and resource the Messy Church network



The network is supported by



3 staff and the wider resources of BRF



150 volunteer Regional Coordinators

81% of Messy Churches appreciate being part of the Messy Church network



3% of Messy Churches donated last year to support the network



7 in 10 Messy Churches say they'd struggle without BRF's help



Will you support Messy Church?
Could your church give £100?
brf.org.uk/donate-messy-church



£100 Appeal



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Messy Church helps people follow Jesus

Dear Church Leader

Messy Church helps people follow Jesus. Could your church give £100 to support us?

The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) is the home of Messy Church and we're thankful that your church has joined with us, and many others around the world, to use this approach to share the gospel.

BRF relies on grants and donations to fund our work with Messy Church, and gifts from the network are vital in helping it grow and thrive. As the enclosed infographic shows, many rely on BRF's help to keep going, particularly those leading Messy Churches that are new, struggling or in deprived areas. Would your church consider helping us in this mission by donating to our Messy Church £100 Appeal?

We know there are many demands on your mission giving, so we've enclosed a selection of testimonies from people whose lives have been changed through Messy Church. We also thought you'd like to hear from other leaders about why they think Messy Church has a crucial role to play in today's church:

Messy Church is brilliant at bringing people together as an expression of the body of Christ. What we're seeing is people coming to faith [and] also growing in faith. It's not just some evangelistic mission. It's looking at long-term discipleship. It's no accident that we've got [so many] Messy Churches. Something is going on that's very exciting, a movement of the Spirit.

Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester and BRF's Chair of Trustees

Messy Church is meeting a need for families and communities, which is vital. [It] is offering a space for people to ask questions [and] think about what they believe; there are very few spaces in life which allow us to do that. We shouldn't underestimate the impact it can have on people.

Gail Adcock, Family Ministry Development Officer, The Methodist Church in Britain

It costs BRF around £280,000 a year to support Messy Church. Could you help by giving just £100?

We realise that some churches may not be able to donate, but if you are able, please consider donating at brf.org.uk/donate-messy-church or by completing the form overleaf.

We're so grateful to the 3% of churches running Messy Church that donated last year. We hope the stories in this pack, and the testimonies that we will be sharing online, will encourage many more to give this year.

Thank you very much for your support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Fisher".

Canon Richard Fisher, Chief Executive



brf.org.uk