

Helping you fund your own Messy Church: Top tips for community fundraising

BRF and the Messy Church team work hard to raise funds to sustain and develop the Messy Church ministry. We want to help individual Messy Churches to think creatively about their own funding so they can invest and grow as well.

1 Get your team planning and praying

Get together, get praying and get planning. Then keep together, keep praying and keep planning.

2 Do the maths

Work out how much it costs to run your Messy Church each year, including materials, food and any overheads. What funding do you already have? What do you need? Is there something you'd like to be able to do but can't afford? Have a goal.

3 Be clear why people should give

Ask a friend to look at everything that describes your Messy Church (posters, flyers, website, Facebook) and see if they can figure out there's a funding need. Seek to be specific and clear about what you need funds for. See if you can get a reason for people to make a donation into a couple of sentences.

4 Think regular

One-off gifts are great, but if people can give regularly to support your Messy Church (and Gift Aid donations too) that's much better. Giving by standing order or Direct Debit is one option, but regular events or updates are another way to help people understand your needs.

5 Local research

Ask your team to look on notice boards and Facebook groups, or ask your council what events there are that happen locally that your Messy Church could be part of.

6 Figure out who to ask

Identify the people or communities who already know about your Messy Church. What links do you have? If you buy locally for your Messy Church, ask those businesses if they could support you – or at least put up a poster for you.

7 Don't overextend

Once you've got some ideas, make sure that you don't exhaust yourself or your team with fundraising. Keep sharing and praying.

8 Host a fundraising event

Games night? Pudding party? Messy Café? Murder mystery party (messychurch.org.uk/murdermystery)? You could play one of our Messy Church £100 videos if that helps (messychurch.org.uk/messy100). Invite in plenty of time, and invite more than once!

9 Go to local events

Is there a local summer fair or equivalent where people could get a taste of Messy Church? Could you enter a team into a local quiz or a sponsored walk or run? Building links with the community can help to raise your profile and start conversations.

10 Say thank you and keep in touch

If people give to your Messy Church, do say thank you. Make time to keep people up to date with your ongoing needs. If your Messy Church team helps to raise funds for your Messy Church, thank them as well.

And finally, dear Messy Church leader, just in case you're feeling left out, **THANK YOU!**

Giving back

Some Messy Churches choose to give a donation back to Messy Church, often a proportion of the funds they raise locally. Is this something your Messy Church could do?