

Messy Church Newsletter—November 2010

Hello Messy colleagues,

Some big news this month!

Cerys Hughes starts work as the Messy Church Adviser for the Shrewsbury Episcopal Area in the Diocese of Lichfield—this is a diocesan post with huge potential and we wish Cerys all the very best. Her commissioning service was on Sunday, 7 November.

If you are in the roll-off-the-tongue Shrewsbury Episcopal Area, either as an Anglican or as a member of another denomination, you may want to contact Cerys over the next few months via cerys.hughes@talktalk.net.

We look forward to seeing the area getting deeply messy.

500th Messy Church

We're thrilled to bits that we now have **500 Messy Churches** registered on the Directory! Not only does this mean that people looking for a Messy Church nearby will find it ever easier to track one down, but it means we have a delightfully fat number to celebrate. Of course we all know there are far more Messy Churches out there who haven't yet registered, so the number is a little misleading, but I'm still highly chuffed (except that it's going to cost me a fortune in making good the promise to a colleague that come the 500th I'd take him out for a celebratory meal...). The 500th place goes to the Messy Church in Dyffryn Ardudwy—in Wales, in case you weren't sure—and we look forward to sending them appropriate goodies.

Authorised Mess

Thanks to all of you who enthusiastically bagged books of the Bible for our Authorised Mess project for 2011 after the last e-news: there are still some really meaty ones left, so do pick one while you can. Here's what we have left:

Numbers	1 Chronicles	2 Chronicles	Ezra
Obadiah	Nahum	Habakkuk	Zephaniah
Haggai	Malachi	1 Thessalonians	2 Thessalonians
2 Timothy	Titus	2 John	3 John
Jude			

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Discipleship

Lots going on in the merry world of Messy Discipleship as we follow in Jacob's hipsteps and wrestle with God and ourselves to find the way forward. Keep an eye on the blog for ongoing musings and do contribute your own thoughts: *gently* please, as we haven't time for too many dislocated limbs.

Ecumenical Mess

Thanks too for all the examples of ecumenical Messy Churches. I'm busy compiling them and working out how best to use the offers of help. We really are grateful to get such a warm, generous response. Do keep sending them in for our planned 'how to' guide in collaboration with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland—email me at lucy.moore@brf.org.uk.

Travels

Messy pilgrimages continue with very happy times at the Telford Christian Resources Exhibition Messy Church stream, a spree up to Lincolnshire, an afternoon in Sunbury on Thames and a day trip to Guernsey (so jet-setty!): all delightful in their different ways, but I'm looking forward to the Messy DVD coming out next year and—I hope—saving wear and tear on my spine, my tyres and thus the ozone layer. Trouble is, it's always such fun meeting people face to face, so I hope I'll still be able to do some travelling even post-DVD release.

It's brilliant to hear your stories! Thank you for sending them to me. It's always so valuable to read and learn from your reflections. God's given us a great gift in Messy Church—a sort of Pass the Parcel, and we've still got such a lot of layers of wrapping paper to go to find out what's waiting at the end of the game. Fun, eh?

With warmest wishes and prayers for you and your Messy Churches all over the world,

Lucy, Jane and the Messy Church Team

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