

## **MESSY CHURCH - AN INSIGHT TO A NEW FAMILY MINISTRY APPROACH**

Messy Church is a common expression of church in the Church of England and it is beginning to find support in the Church of Ireland. It encourages whole families to come together for craft activities, food, story-telling and celebration around a Biblical theme. The idea is to make Church accessible and fun for the whole family, offering something different to usual Sunday morning services.

### **Messy Church at Mount Merrion, Belfast**

Messy Church at Mount Merrion Parish will happen once a month on Friday afternoons beginning at 3pm and lasting until 5.30pm. The idea is for parents or other adults to come with their children straight from school.

Refreshments will be served and then the families can play games or make crafts together. After an hour, everyone will move into church for some lively worship, puppets, a Bible talk and prayer. The session finishes with a meal together.

The first three dates at Mount Merrion are: 22 April, 27 May and 17 June.

<http://mountmerrion.down.anglican.org/>

### **Bangor Primacy has also been involved with Messy Church**

For an insight on their experience see:

<http://www.downanddromore.org/news/2011/03/reaching-families-gets-messy>

### **First ever BSL Messy Church for Liverpool Cathedral**

Liverpool Cathedral has hosted its first ever British Sign Language (BSL) Messy Church event.

The first BSL Messy Church took place in the Lady Chapel and was conducted in BSL as well as spoken English. It was aimed at families who use BSL because parents, grandparents or children are deaf. Activities included paper boat racing, cake decorating, painting and model making around a Biblical theme. The pilot event was so popular that there are now plans to run further sessions at various intervals throughout the year.

Rev Dr Hannah Lewis, Team Leader in the Liverpool Diocese for Work Among Deaf People, led the pilot session. She said, "The idea isn't about providing access to a hearing project for deaf people, but rather about establishing an entirely new group where all can participate together regardless of whether they are deaf or hearing. Messy Church is a fantastic way for all families to keep in touch with Church if going to the normal Sunday services is not possible. The first event was a huge success and very encouraging."

You can get a glimpse of the buzz and activity on the following picture link

<https://picasaweb.google.com/DeafHannah/BSLMessyChurch?authkey=Gv1sRgCIOamMzclYOa2AE&feat=directlink#>

## **Messy Church Training Day - Bangor June 25**

**The Messy Church Training Day will explore the underpinning values and principles of this model, equip churches to develop Messy Church in their context, and give ideas on how to resource the ongoing life of a Messy Church.**

Lucy Moore is the inspiration behind Messy Church which she first developed in 2004 in a local parish setting. She is a professional actor and storyteller. Based in the south of England, she is an experienced speaker, workshop leader and performer. Lucy is a member of the Barnabas Ministry Team and leads Messy Church in Portsmouth. She comes with a passion and creativity to see all ages experience Jesus for themselves through arts, drama, story and community.

When: Saturday 25th June 2011, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Where: Christ Church Primacy, Balloo Road, Bangor, BT19 7PG

Cost: £10 per person (including lunchtime meal) non refundable

Booking Form to be returned by 30th April 2011. Download [http://](http://www.downanddromore.org/cmsfiles/moved/files/m/Messy-Church-Booking-Form.pdf)

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Phone us: 07817 852 060 Email us: [k.metcalfe@churcharmy.org.uk](mailto:k.metcalfe@churcharmy.org.uk)

<http://www.downanddromore.org/events/2011/03/messy-church-training-day-25th-june-book-now>

### **Messy Church Publications**

Fresh Ideas for Building a Christ-centred Community  
by Lucy Moore

#### **Messy Church 2**

Ideas for Discipling a Christ-centred Community  
by Lucy Moore

Currently on offer at:

<http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/>

[messy\\_church\\_fresh\\_ideas\\_for\\_church\\_families\\_107632.html](http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/messy_church_fresh_ideas_for_church_families_107632.html)