

## 5 The Messy Church Network

Messy Churches run across all denominations and across several countries.

Belonging to the Messy Church network costs nothing and you can pull out at any time.

It merely involves signing your Messy Church up on the website Directory. (The Directory itself is at: [www.messychurch.org.uk/5270](http://www.messychurch.org.uk/5270). You can sign up your own Messy Church at: [www.messychurch.org.uk/addresource](http://www.messychurch.org.uk/addresource)). You can start a Messy Church without signing up on the Directory, or sign up when you have been going some time.

Signing up serves several purposes:

- Most importantly it allows a family looking for a Messy Church to know you are there.
- It also allows other churches in your area to know you exist and to be in a position to visit you and learn from your experience.
- It makes it easy for your local Regional Coordinator to be in contact with you and support you.
- It is also useful for BRF in its advocacy work to gain support for Messy Church to have as full a picture as possible of what is happening across the country.

**The BRF Messy Church Team** consists of Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter. Lucy has overall leadership of Messy Church and Jane is responsible for resourcing and supporting the Regional Coordinators who in turn resource and support Messy Church leaders in their areas.

**The Regional Coordinators** are a group of about forty volunteers who are passionate about Messy Church and want to help it grow in their areas. They work closely with the BRF Messy Church Team to provide support on a one-to-one basis, responding to phone calls or emails, visiting your Messy Church if invited, providing useful local contacts in a similar position to you, putting on training or 'Messy Meet-Ups' to give local leaders a chance to swap ideas and stories and to pray for each other. They are in no way 'inspectors', rather they want to help local Messy Churches find a sustainable way forward together especially when the going gets tough for an individual Messy Church. (Find a current list of these regional coordinators at: [www.messychurch.org.uk/pages/5192.htm](http://www.messychurch.org.uk/pages/5192.htm).)

### **The international network**

Messy Churches also find themselves part of a vibrant international network together with Messy Churches in twelve or more countries, and the possibility of mutual learning and sharing of ideas across continents is happening through 'twinning' and news items in the Messy blog. This too can help prevent the feeling of isolation that some leaders can feel, and can help congregations feel they are part of something global that goes far beyond their own horizons.

### **Messy Champions**

Churches, trusts, families or individuals of any age who want to show their support for Messy Church through their enthusiasm, their prayer and a one-off or regular gift. (Find more at: [www.messychurch.org.uk/champions](http://www.messychurch.org.uk/champions).)