

Dreaming Dreams

Thank you to all at the first Messy Fiesta who shared their ideas so graciously. Here are your *Dreaming Dreams* responses, gorgeously colour-coded under each question. I need to muse upon them, chew them over with my Barnabas colleagues and Messy Church team and will write up my musings in my Blog: it's all very interesting.

Light blue = Woodfalls Methodist Church

Green = 'Bob'! (Hometeam, Janet, Alison)

Purple = Christine Jervis – Polegate, St John's

Pink = Stoneleigh and Morden Baptist Churches

Orange – Langley

Red – Chichester Baptist

Brown – Holy Trinity Claygate

Dark blue – New Malden Meths

Light green – Salvation Army

Mustard – Broadstairs

Mauve - Claire

What are you most excited about?

New opportunity

Unknown – people who come will help the shaping

People realise Christians smile and laugh

Non-Christians coming to know Christ – young children

Families come together

Renewal in faith for helpers / working together

Number who come and come back

New people

Christian input for adults

Opportunity for building relationships with families in a context they will feel comfortable in

New contacts without previous church involvement

That people want to come and lots of volunteers to help

The potential to familiarise families with the church as a loving and happy environment

It's possible for our church and seems to have come in God's timing

Setting up something new for non-church children (and their parents)

Experiencing new forms of church

Adult participation – older / younger MEN!

Fluidity

Bringing different groups of children together who already have some link.

They attract new children

To have a non-threatening environment in which to invite non-Christians to

Ideas that will encourage them to come eg gardening

What's your main challenge now?

Building bridges between our present youth/children's work and 'families'.
Recognising our interdependence of our existing church
Getting the two churches to exist

Cook a Christmas dinner
Communicate vision – give a taste – DVD
Staying with the growth
Getting participants on board as helpers

Building on foundation
Keeping it going
Keeping enthusiasm

Getting act together to get started
Capacity reached: what next? Satellite Messy Churches
Sustaining effort / enthusiasm

To get a Messy Church started within the parish (3 churches within the parish)

Communicating the vision
Setting up and team build

Getting buy-in from wider church & PCC
Recruiting the team

Communication / accepting
Advanced planning

Getting team together and money?
Support from church
Finding key helpers especially craft co-ordinator.
Maintaining present level of help and getting them to 'own it' and to talk about the crafts biblically
To reach the non-church community and get them to come
To encourage the older church members it's for them too

What would you like to see happening five years from now?

To be seeing more 'families' coming along

Maturity in faith

Those in receipt giving their time to lead activities

All church should be 'messy' in some way: that is inclusive

Carrying on

Monthly

More 'church family' involvement

More men

Regular family visiting

Local network – Messy Church network throughout S London

Involvement with wider church – personal relationship with God

What next? Teenager & family

For families to progress from Messy Church to becoming full members of the church family and developing leadership skills

Seeing local 'unchurched' families belonging to the church and being further disciple

Messy cathedral! Established, good reputation

A number of families to have come from \messy Church to mainstream church and established in their faith

Take Messy Church to the Masses

Different people participating, giving / receiving

Others share the vision

Thriving church where all different ages feel they belong

Visitation team?

The non-Christians targeting now to b running it...

That MC is so well-established that we're planning what next – how to expand

What would be the most helpful thing that Barnabas could do for you?

Be aware of resources they could help with as we go along

More all-age / all-stage material

Ppt material – resource CDs etc

Cross-cultural material – African

Bible studies by podcast for material (?) teenagers

Teaching materials

How to do things: follow on from original book

More ideas in another book

Another year's suggestions of programmes

To continue to publish guidance and new ideas

Resources and use of website

Website

District training – year / 6 months

Keep sharing resources and ideas

Days like today to share and learn

Day's training for Sunday Club leaders – how to evangelise

List of suitable family value / Christian music ie pop groups, computer games, Christian magazines (esp teenagers)

What's your prayer for Messy Church?

Holy Spirit to act on our doing
Boundaries not to be constrained

Prayer for children knowing Jesus. Christians not church-goers
Keep on growing / families altogether
Stays centred on Christ
Good news shared

Families will come to faith
Becoming its own church – midweek church

Messy Church will outreach to people and bring them to Jesus

That families will continue to stick with the commitment they are making to the Messy Church and not just fall away

That we get it 'right'. The whole established church 'get it' value it and support it

Get up and running and goodwill
God working through us

Involvement as a church family
'chill-out factor'

That people are excited by faith and that they will grow in quality of faith and quantity

To see it happen! Family atmosphere encouraged and strengthened

What other related reflections / dreams / hopes / fears do you have?

Other FX ideas – eg Olympics viewing

Be happy with children

Secular world will be so overpowering that efforts will get swallowed

Bible should be central, fear for churches where it is not

Political correctness run riot is a fear

Teenagers – how we accommodate them

Kidzone – future of our afterschool club

Baptism / dedications as part of Messy Church

Communion as part of Messy Church

People coming to ask for prayer

Rather than just coming to church that they will commit to Christ

Willing to attend on a regular basis

Fears: that many will offer to help but then, after a few weeks drop out, leaving a few to cope which could interfere with efficient and smooth running

What happens the other 30 days

Discipleship

Address potential mismatch in boys v girls

Need challenges / games for older boys

How to make it easy for parents with small children

Unmanaged crèche area near parents' zone

Holiday club 'attitude'

Staffing

Quiz with prize if simple related questions

Quiet area