

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Messy Church

### New volunteer support structure to enable and empower the network

The Covid-19 pandemic created a huge opportunity as well as enormous challenges for Messy Church Pioneer Lucy Moore and others in her team. Seizing that opportunity has led to a radically new volunteer structure to support the growth of this worldwide ministry way beyond Lockdown 3. Lucy Moore explains:

‘When Covid-19 struck, Messy Church support was based on a great team of volunteers organised geographically as Regional Coordinators. When Covid-19 meant everything went online, it helped us realise that we could reorganise the volunteer support we offer Messy Churches to be need-based rather than geographically based.’

#### Managing change well

The process began late last summer with an emphasis on managing the change well and doing everything possible to prepare loyal volunteer Regional Coordinators for such a major change in the way they work.

The central team looked at the main areas Messy Churches need help with and created teams of volunteers who can respond to those needs from anywhere in the country.

The nine new teams include the Prayer team, the Getting Going team, the Trainers team, the Specialists team and the Readers and Writers team. They began trialling the new way of working in November 2020 and there will be a preliminary review in March 2021. There are encouraging signs that the new structure is working well.

The former Regional Coordinator for Wiltshire, Hannah Tarring, is on both the Readers and Writers team and the Specialists team. She’s enthusiastic about the change:

‘It has been really exciting! I think having the more focused teams will be really beneficial for Messy Church. We’re on teams that we’re really passionate about and our particular skills are being harnessed a bit more. It’s very clear where Messy Churches can come for support now, and I think the new structure will help Messy Churches to ask for help and support more than they have in the past. I want Messy Churches to know that they’re not alone and that they can ask for support when and where they need it.’

#### For more information, please contact:

Eley McAinsh, Press and Media Officer +44 (0)1865 319708 | [eley.mcainsh@brf.org.uk](mailto:eley.mcainsh@brf.org.uk)  
or +44 (0)1865 319700 | [enquiries@brf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@brf.org.uk)

BRF’s vision is to enable people of all ages to grow in faith and understanding of the Bible and to see more people equipped to exercise their gifts in leadership and ministry. BRF ministries include Anna Chaplaincy, Living Faith, Messy Church and Parenting for Faith. Find out more at [brf.org.uk](http://brf.org.uk).



## **Introducing the new Messy Church Coordinator, Jane Butler**

The new support structure created a new role in the central team, and in January Jane Butler began work as Messy Church Coordinator. After 23 years in IT, Jane had just taken voluntary redundancy when her 'dream job' was advertised. As a mum to two boys, she had helped her local church's children's ministry develop into a fully fledged Messy Church with a monthly congregation of 70, and she also worked on parish communications. In short, she was a perfect fit.

'What I'm really looking forward to,' she says, 'is meeting people, albeit virtually – and eventually spending time with them in person. I want to help equip people for where we are currently, hooking up those that need support with the right expertise through the new Messy Church volunteer teams.'

### **Looking ahead**

Everyone in Messy Church is focused on both current challenges and exciting new plans for the future. Initiatives such as [Messy Church at home](#), regular [Facebook Live](#) sessions and events like the upcoming [Messtival](#) are providing support and continuity through the pandemic, and the new support structure will help to enable a smooth and creative transition as restrictions eventually loosen and face-to-face gatherings can resume.

Hannah Tarring is hopeful for the future: 'I think that the new structure will help to equip Messy Churches more efficiently, and that it will encourage and empower them. I hope it will enable Messy Churches to reach out even more.'

Lucy Moore shares Hannah's hopes: 'The new teams are made up of brilliantly committed and experienced people who have many gifts and are willing to share them with the wider Messy Church network. Their generosity means that, as a network, we can support many more local Messy Churches in their ministry. That might be helping a church start up well or developing what they already do to be even more effective in mission and ministry. We're very blessed to be working with so many gifted people who are so ready to share what they have learned.'

For background to Messy Church, visit [messychurch.org.uk](http://messychurch.org.uk).

For full details of the new support teams, [click here](#).

To contact Messy Church Coordinator, Jane Butler, email [jane.butler@brf.org.uk](mailto:jane.butler@brf.org.uk).



### **For more information, please contact:**

Eley McAinsh, Press and Media Officer +44 (0)1865 319708 | [eley.mcainsh@brf.org.uk](mailto:eley.mcainsh@brf.org.uk)  
or +44 (0)1865 319700 | [enquiries@brf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@brf.org.uk)