

PRESS RELEASE

from BRF



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A fond farewell to Lucy Moore and a new season for Messy Church

After 20 years of working for BRF, we are saying farewell to Messy Church pioneer and founder Lucy Moore as she takes on a major new role with the Church of England. We celebrate and give thanks for Lucy's extraordinary contribution to the growth of Messy Church throughout the world and to its recognised impact on the lives of people of all ages, on and beyond the edge of traditional church.

Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, BRF's Chair of Trustees, praises Lucy's work

'As BRF's Trustees it has been a privilege to work with Lucy to enable what began as a local initiative to blossom into a hugely significant church planting development both in this country and in many parts of the world. Her new role with the Growing Faith Foundation will play to all her strengths and we look forward to working with her and to seeing her thrive in her new ministry. We will also be working closely with her successor and BRF's Messy Church team to discover what God has in store for its continuing life, as one of BRF's four key ministries, in the years to come.'

About Messy Church

Messy Church is a way of being church for families and others. It is Christ-centred, for all ages, and based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. From its tiny beginnings in Cowplain, near Portsmouth, there are now more than 3,750 Messy Churches in 30 countries.

Some serious misconceptions about Messy Church persist in both church and media, the most common being that Messy Church is somewhere to entertain the kids and is solely a way to get people 'back into (real) church'. For a full list of what Messy Church is, and isn't, check out the Messy Church website, but here are the highlights:

What Messy Church is...

- Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. All elements are for, and should include, people of all ages, adults and children.
- It's primarily for people who don't already belong to another form of church.
- It's fun.
- It's a church for people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age – a congregation that is as valuable and worthy of investment as any other congregation.

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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.



It works!

Two major evaluations of the work of Messy Church have confirmed the impact the movement is having. While the church as a whole has seen a decline in numbers, Messy Church has enabled many congregations to reach out to families and their communities. *Playfully Serious* (February 2019) and a follow-up study *A Voyage of Discovery: Deepening discipleship in Messy Churches and beyond* (May 2021), carried out by the respected Church Army Research Unit (CARU), confirms the effectiveness of Messy Church in deepening the faith, confidence and commitment of its leaders and members. Key findings and resulting recommendations from the research are published in a downloadable PDF. Click [here](#) for full details.

Looking ahead

An exciting new season for Messy Church lies ahead as BRF continues to invest in the development and growth of the movement. A key priority will be to provide support, help and advice to Messy Church leaders and their teams who are restarting their Messy Churches after the disruption caused by the pandemic, as well as to those who are starting Messy Churches for the first time. The third Messy Church International Conference in May 2022 will bring leaders together from around the world. We continue to develop Messy Church Goes Wild, the movement within Messy Church which encourages Messy Churches to meet God outdoors, to love the natural world, to experience a sense of awe and wonder there and to be more eco-aware in all we do as gathered church, for the good of the planet. And we look forward to the appointment of Lucy's successor to lead the Messy Church movement in this new season.

About Lucy Moore

A secondary school teacher by training, Lucy Moore is the pioneer and founder of Messy Church. She has been responsible for developing the work of Messy Church nationally and internationally – writing, speaking, reflecting and developing Messy projects such as Messy Church Goes Wild. She has written many of the Messy Church books and continues to help lead Messy Church in her own church. She is part of the Leadership Community of Fresh Expressions, a member of the College of Evangelists and has represented her diocese in the House of Laity at General Synod.

As she bids BRF goodbye, Lucy comments

'It's been a tremendously exciting couple of decades, working at BRF to nurture Messy Church around the world and across denominations. Seeing God at work through local churches, helping lay as well as ordained leaders to grow teams, make disciples, work out how to be church in an imaginative way for people who wouldn't easily join in with church: it has all been such a privilege. I'm grateful for the inspired people I've worked with, for the generosity of those who have supported the ministry and to BRF for enabling the work to happen.'

Richard Fisher, BRF's CEO, comments

'Over the past twenty years, working closely with Lucy at BRF, I have seen first-hand how God has used her and all her gifts to be a great blessing to the church – locally, nationally and internationally. I thank God for the way Messy Church has flourished under her leadership to become such a key aspect of BRF's ministry. Lucy has made an immense contribution to BRF and to the wider life of the church during her time here, and we pray God's richest blessings on her as she takes up her new role with the Growing Faith Foundation.'

To find out more about Messy Church and the wide range of Messy Church resources, click [here](#).



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