

# PRESS RELEASE

from BRF



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## BRF announces new lead for Messy Church

BRF is delighted to announce that the new ministry lead for Messy Church is Aike Kennett-Brown. Aike will take up her new role in January 2022 at the beginning of BRF's centenary year.

### Aike Kennett-Brown

Aike has been involved with Messy Church since 2010, pioneering a volunteer-led Messy Church in south-east London. After completing her children and family ministry training at Cliff College in 2013, she moved to a paid Messy Church pioneer role and became south-east London Messy Church regional coordinator. Over a seven-year period the Messy Church grew a team of Messy Young leaders, held four weekend Messy Camps, took Messy Church to the local Parksfest and hosted Messy Munch, an intergenerational small group initiative. Aike wrote a paper about this discipleship experiment as part of her MA studies and presented her findings at the first International Messy Church Conference in May 2016.

Aike joined the diocese of Southwark in 2017 as mission support officer, championing, equipping and encouraging parishes in their ministry with children, young people and families. This included hosting Messy Celebrations at Southwark Cathedral, exploring Messy Communion and Baptism, and partnering with London Diocese to host Messy Prayer activities in Trafalgar Square for Thy Kingdom Come 2019. During 2020 and 2021 she enjoyed a part-time secondment with the national Church of England Growing Faith team.

She has also been part of BRF's Messy Church national support teams and is look forward to starting a Messy Church Goes Wild project in her local community.

### Aike writes

'I am delighted to be joining the BRF team as Messy Church ministry lead. I look forward to meeting new and familiar faces, particularly at the third International Messy Church Conference in May 2022. I hope our gathering will provide encouragement for the wider Messy Church movement as we wade through this season of pandemic. God gave me three words for Messy Church as I fasted and prayed ahead of my interview: sustainable, intergenerational and discipleship. I look forward to exploring these areas together during this next season.'

### For more information, please contact:

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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](http://brf.org.uk).

BRF, 15 The Chambers, Vineyard, Abingdon OX14 3FE

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### **BRF CEO Richard Fisher**

‘We are absolutely thrilled that Aike is joining BRF to lead Messy Church in this new season. We have known her for many years through her own involvement with Messy Church and she has a deep passion for this ministry. She brings a wide range of gifts and experience to her new role and I can think of no one better suited to take on the leadership of BRF’s Messy Church ministry for such a time as this.’

### **Messy Church founder Lucy Moore**

‘I’m delighted that Aike will be leading Messy Church into its next season. She brings to the role years of involvement in Messy Church, both locally and on the national support teams. She also brings skills from other life experiences that will bless the Messy Church network and team and take the movement forward with great wisdom and energy – as well as huge amounts of fun.’

### **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.

As well as Aike’s appointment further changes within the Messy Church team are designed to strengthen the ministry for the exciting opportunities ahead.

### **Jane Butler**

Jane Butler joined BRF in January 2021 as Messy Church coordinator and is now the Messy Church training and development lead. As such, she is responsible for the growing task of providing quality training and connection for the Messy Church network. She will be working closely with Aike to plan for the future and will share responsibility for the many new developments within Messy Church. Jane’s new role includes researching new training needs as circumstances change, as well as refreshing the content of existing training materials. Jane will continue to oversee the volunteer support teams.

Sally O’Hare is joining BRF early in the new year as coordinator for the Messy Church network.

### **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.



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

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