

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Messy Church ECLAS award

### Messy Church Goes Wild: Messy Adventures phase two

BRF is delighted to announce that its Messy Church ministry has received a new funding award of £10,000 from the Scientists in Congregations programme, run by Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science (ECLAS). The award is for the second phase of an ambitious and creative project to encourage Messy Churches to get outside and engage with the natural world. BRF is one of ten recipients of this year's awards.

#### **Messy Church Goes Wild: Messy Adventures phase two**

Messy Church Goes Wild is the movement within Messy Church which encourages Messy Churches to meet God outdoors, love the natural world, experience a sense of awe and wonder there and be more eco-aware in all we do, both inside and out, as gathered and dispersed church, for the good of the planet.

In 2021 and 2022, with the support of Scientists in Congregations, twelve Messy Adventures were created: twelve units of materials to give the most unconfident Messy Church leader the tools and confidence to take their Messy Church outdoors. Messy Adventures provide hands-on activities exploring scientific discovery and appropriate biblical themes, leading to worshipful expressions of awe and wonder in the presence of Christ and transformed lifestyles.

Messy Church Goes Wild: Messy Adventures phase two will introduce the Messy Adventures, and the ideals and activities of Messy Church Goes Wild, to the wider Messy Church movement. Activities include the following:

- Four Messy Adventures Roadshows will be delivered in different locations.
- A Messy Masterclass for Messy Church leaders on the Messy Adventures will be developed and delivered.
- Downloadable resources will be created and printed.
- Sustainability and behaviour change in Messy Churches will be championed.

These activities will build national leadership in experiencing the awe and wonder of God in creation, especially among young people.

#### **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).



**Messy Church ministry lead Aike Kennett-Brown says of the award:**

‘We are delighted to receive the ECLAS award, enabling the BRF Messy Church team to train and inspire a new generation of eco-aware Messy Church leaders, confident to lead others to experience God through the wonders of the natural world.’



**Scientists in Congregations and ECLAS**

This is the fifth round of Scientists in Congregations awards. Since 2014, over 80 churches and networks have received £750,000 through the Scientists in Congregations programme (including the latest round).

Scientists in Congregations is administered by Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science (ECLAS). ECLAS is led from St John’s College, Durham University in partnership with the University of York and the Church of England. ECLAS and the Scientists in Congregations grants are funded by the Templeton Religion Trust.

Revd Prof David Wilkinson, ECLAS project codirector, said: ‘We are thrilled to support church leaders to explore how science can enrich and expand our view of faith. These Scientists in Congregations projects imaginatively demonstrate how science is at the heart of Christian faith, recognising it as a gift from God and recognising the vocation of scientists.’

For more information, see [eclasproject.org/congregations](http://eclasproject.org/congregations).



**For more information, please contact:**

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