



Restarting your Messy Church checklist

Summer 2021

First things first

- Is the church praying for Messy Church starting?
- Would a prayer bookmark remind team members and other congregation members to pray for your Messy Church? If so, who can create and distribute it?
- Given the [research into making disciples](#) in Messy Church, is it worth setting out explicitly with the team that our long-term aim is to make disciples in our Messy Church?
- Is there anyone new on our team who might appreciate joining in a [Messy Masterclass](#) on 'Starting your Messy Church' or reading the [short book](#) to cover the basics?
- Have we checked with the most recent government/denominational guidelines (for example, [those for churches in the CofE](#))?
- How is the team feeling? Could we hold a team meeting to check how comfortable everyone is with going back and to listen to their suggestions? Or just check in with people individually?
- Do we want to give everyone new [role descriptions](#)?

When will we start?

- As schools start, so we get into the family routine straightaway?
- October, to give us and families time to settle into new term?
- Christmas, as it's always popular?
- 2022, as we need more time?
- Who will book the venue? By what date?

How will we start?

- Shall we deliberately start small to build team confidence?
- Shall we combine with another church team locally?
- If we ran a pre-lockdown Messy Church, are there any bad habits we want to lose permanently or good habits/ideas we'd like to start/try out?

Premises and equipment

- Shall we plan to be outside?
- Have the rooms been in use?
- Do we need a cleaning/checking session? (Especially loos, kitchen, state of tables and chairs, floors.)
- What's the state of the craft materials and equipment supplies?
- Is it worth having a cupboard-cleaning party?
- Do we need to ask the church for a budget for new supplies? Remember [Baker Ross Messy Church discount code BRF15](#) for the 15% discount.
- Have we got an up-to-date risk assessment? [Covid-secure risk assessment](#); [General risk assessment](#); [UK government Events and attractions risk assessment](#)

Publicity

- Are we using the [up-to-date logo](#)?
- Are our [directory](#) details up-to-date? (If you've forgotten your password to change your details, just contact BRF via the webpage.)
- Is our Facebook page or group up-to-date?
- Are the details on the church website up-to-date?
- Are there key people to inform for word-of-mouth publicity – perhaps individual families who were regular attenders before lockdown by phone or text/WhatsApp?
- Is the school aware?
- Do we need new [posters](#)?
- Do we need a new [banner](#)?
- Is it worth investing in [invitations](#), including how we intend to be Covid-safe?
- Are there any shops who would put up a poster, any local events, fun days/fayres before the end of summer or publications (parish magazines, local newspapers, local radio) we could use to publicise the date?

Thinking through the first Messy Church

Welcome

- Do we need new [registration forms](#) ready?
- Do we need team [badges/labels/T-shirts/aprons](#)?
- Do we need participant name badges/labels?

Activities

- The [Get Messy! magazine](#) has plenty of monthly ideas to get you started.
- Should we think about including outside activities to keep air circulating as doors open and close?
- How are we going to do food activities safely?

- Have we checked we're including some big, fun, adventurous activities, despite the team perhaps feeling fragile at the moment?
- Have we got a few spare team members on hand to listen/be pastoral/pray, given how fragile people are still feeling?
- How are the families feeling about Messy Church? As an activity or during the mealtime, could we provide a short questionnaire for the families to share their thoughts about future Messy Churches?

Celebration

- Do we need to remind celebration leaders to keep the celebration short and meaningful?
- Do we want to sing or not? Either is fine.
- Do we need to practise the [Lord's Prayer with actions](#) beforehand as a team?
- Do we want to acknowledge the people we've lost/who are no longer there?

Meal

- Who will check out Basic Food Hygiene advice for our area?
- Should we do party tea bags to make it easier for the kitchen team on the day? Picnic? Barbecue? Breakfast? Eating together but bring your own food works well.
- Can we ask the families for suggestions for hot meals for future months?

Farewells

- Could we have postcards or fridge magnets with the next few Messy Church dates on to give away at the door?
- Can we designate people to make sure everyone is spoken to at the door as they leave?