



Messy Church Conference

2022



Church, but not as you know it!

SOUTH AFRICA COUNTRY REPORT

Impact of COVID on the Church in Southern Africa

- Pentecostal churches drawing large numbers and producing slick online offerings
- Broader societal questioning the relevance of God





ANGLICAN EXPERIENCE

- Slow return to services, especially children and youth – habits?
- New normal within churches gradually becoming more conservatively relaxed



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Impact of COVID on Messy Church

- Closures of Messy Church
- Messy Church at Home and Messy Church in a Bag, but face-to-face interaction is really what people are looking for
- In-person: outdoors, family groups, feels safe





Messy Church and Sunday Church

“Messy Church provides an opportunity to freshen the liturgy and create space for intergenerational worship”

- Resonates with traditionalists because it offers deep encounter
- Weave resources into liturgy for feast days and festivals



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Opportunity for replication but some challenge with resources and openness to implement





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Faith journeys through Messy Church

- Engages in conversation and deepens relationships
- Theology of the table enables encounter
- Creates capacity within families to nurture discipleship
- Embrace and use local talents
- Celebrate seasons/feasts
- Willingness to contribute reflects ownership





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Denominational outreach

- Limited. Churches battling.
- Some interest from Methodist Church

Supporting local Messy Churches

- Provide resources (material and consultation)



Wisdom of experience

- Germination takes time - volunteers
- Empowering and mentoring the team
- Importance of face-to-face interaction





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Questions

- How to get interdenominational partners?





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Prayer requests

- KwaZulu-Natal flooding
- Developing intergenerational worship inspired by Messy Church
- Open doors to spread the Messy Church blessing





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Woza moya

