

# OUR MESSY CHURCH SURVEY

This survey was designed by Church Army's Research Unit as part of the Deepening Discipleship project 2019-2021.

The aim of the survey is to record what your Messy Church is like before you start engaging with one of the six discipleship approaches outlined in the findings report *A Voyage of Discovery: Deepening Discipleship in Messy Church and Beyond*.

After an appropriate length of time, the survey can be completed again. This will allow you to reflect on your observations and any differences you observe between the two surveys.

It is a free template offered to anyone who would like to quantitatively measure discipleship developments in a Messy Church. Feel free to customise the content to suit your context.

Remember to include contact details of the person who is coordinating/collecting the survey/s.

Instructions to local leaders:

It is to be completed with a group of leaders from your Messy Church.

There are notes boxes throughout the survey for you to record any observations - these may act as useful reminders when you revisit the survey.

[www.churcharmy.org](http://www.churcharmy.org)

## OUR MESSY CHURCH

Name of Messy Church:	Diocese: (please circle)
Postcode of current venue of main Messy Church gathering:	Denomination(s):
Name of parish/es connected to your Messy Church (if different from name of Messy Church):	When did your Messy Church start meeting: (mm.yyyy)
How often does your main Messy Church gathering take place? (please circle)	
4-6 times a year    Monthly (or nearly monthly)    Fortnightly    Weekly	

## ABOUT US

Who is involved in completing this survey? (list your first names)

We are: (please circle one)
Members of the core leadership team    Members of the wider leadership team
Members of the core and wider leadership teams

**Core leaders:** Those who take responsibility for long-term planning and make overall decisions to help their Messy Church develop

**Wider leaders:** Volunteers who help on the day – running a craft table, helping in the kitchen, set-up and clear away

Please provide contact details for one leader completing this survey	
Email:	Telephone:

## OUR MESSY CHURCH TEAM

Thinking back over the last year of your Messy Church:

How many of your core leadership team are:	
Adults (aged 16+):	12-15-year-olds:
How many of your wider leadership team are:	
Adults (aged 16+):	12-15-year-olds:

## OUR MESSY CHURCH: WHO'S THERE?

Thinking about your main Messy Church gathering over the last year:

What was the current average attendance (including your team) of:		
Adults (aged 16+):	12-15-year-olds:	0-11-year-olds:

Please estimate the church backgrounds of those attending as percentages of your overall attendance (see below for definitions). The three figures should add up to 100.		
Existing Christians %:	De-churched %:	Non-churched %:

- Existing Christians:** Those who already attend church or did so until very recently
- De-churched:** Those who have experienced established/traditional forms of Church in the past (e.g. as a child) but haven't for at least two years
- Non-churched:** Those who have never experienced established/traditional forms of Church, except perhaps for occasional offices (e.g. baptisms, weddings, funerals)

### OUR NOTES

This is a space to record any comments you have about your answers to this section e.g. observations related to your context or where those completing this survey were unsure or disagreed in their answers. These notes may form useful reminders when you revisit these surveys at the end of the project.

## DEEPENING DISCIPLESHIP AT OUR MESSY CHURCH

One way to describe discipleship is a 'journey of following Jesus throughout your whole life'. Messy Churches are growing disciples and helping thousands of people to follow Jesus.

Can you share with us any recent encouragements or stories about discipleship in your Messy Church over the last year?

Which discipleship approach is your Messy Church going to try this year to see if it has an impact on discipleship within your Messy Church? (please circle)

International faith conversations	Young leader development	Social action
Maturing Messy Church teams	Peer mentoring	Messy Extras

What extra actions/activities are you planning as you try out this discipleship approach this year? (e.g. organising a fundraiser for a homeless shelter, planning a team away day, running a Messy Book Club, doing a food bank collection each month). These ideas may change as the year goes on.

What impact do you hope this will have on your Messy Church?

There is a lot to learn and explore on this journey – we want to support Messy Churches as they deepen people’s experiences.

The table on the following page asks you about different aspects of discipleship in your Messy Church. Thinking about your main Messy Church gathering over the last year, please tick the point on the journey that best fits where your Messy Church is at for each aspect of discipleship.

It may be:

Not part of our journey yet: This is an aspect of discipleship your Messy Church has not explored in the last year

Starting out: This is an aspect of discipleship which is new to your Messy Church, you are beginning to explore it and may like to explore it more

Exploring this path: This is an aspect of discipleship your Messy Church is exploring, but you’d like to explore it further

A familiar path: This is an aspect of discipleship that is well established at your Messy Church

When a statement mentions 'attendees', please think especially about attendees who are nearer the beginning of this journey of following Jesus.

	Not part of our journey yet	Starting out	Exploring this path	A familiar path	Our notes (a space to record any comments about your answers)
Bible stories: Helping attendees become confident in their knowledge of the Bible and of the basics of the Christian faith					
Knowing God: Helping attendees to grow in their understanding and relationship with God					
Journeying through life: Equipping attendees for life's major challenges (e.g. parenting, relationships, sickness, death)					
Doubts and questions: Creating opportunities for attendees to ask tricky questions about faith during a session					
Serving God: Helping attendees identify their strengths and abilities for serving God					
Care for the earth: Encouraging attendees to care for the earth					
Generosity: Encouraging attendees to be generous with their money, time or skills					
Serving others: Encouraging attendees to serve others e.g. through volunteering					
Prayer: Teaching and encouraging attendees in prayer					
Togetherness: Creating opportunities to hear each other's stories of how God is at work in our daily lives (e.g. at school, work, home or leisure time)					
Togetherness: Encouraging attendees to be in contact with each other outside of the main gatherings					
Sharing our faith: Equipping attendees to share their faith with people who are not Christians					

In the last year, do you think your Messy Church has enabled some attendees to *start* a journey of following Jesus? (please circle one)

Yes

No

Not sure

Please give any details:

Taking part in the sacraments may be one sign that someone is moving on in their journey.

Thinking about your Messy Church over the last year, have you offered any of these sacraments? (please tick all that apply)

Communion within the main Messy Church gathering

Agape (a form of worship centred around a communal meal, also known as a love feast)

Baptism within the main Messy Church gathering

Baptism for Messy Church attendees within a Sunday congregation

Baptism for Messy Church attendees at another time but organised by our Messy Church

Adult confirmations

Child confirmations

If yes, approximately how many times have they happened in the last year?

Communion within the main Messy Church gathering:

Agape:

Baptism within the main Messy Church gathering:

Baptism for Messy Church attendees within a Sunday congregation:

Baptism for Messy Church attendees at another time but organised by our Messy Church:

Adult confirmations:

Child confirmations:

Are there other signs that would help you know that someone in your Messy Church is moving on in their Christian journey?

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Messy Church leaders are both on this journey themselves and play a role in supporting others on their journeys. Thinking about those who have *led* your Messy Church over the last year, has your Messy Church: (please tick where relevant)

	Yes	Yes, but this is an area we want to develop further	Not this year	Our notes (a space to record any comments about your answers)
Equipped us, as leaders, to share our faith with people who are not Christians				
Intentionally discussed discipleship during planning meetings				
Encouraged us to be in contact with attendees outside of the main gatherings				
Been a safe place for leaders to have questions and doubts				
Been a space where leaders grow in their faith				

## OUR NOTES

This is a space to record any final comments you have about your Messy Church over the last year. These notes may form useful reminders when you revisit these surveys at the end of the project.

Thank you for completing this survey.