



Diocesan Training

BRF Ministries' Messy Church have been granted funding by the Church of England's People and Partnerships Board, to help deliver the Church of England's vision to double the number of children and young people in churches and to establish 10,000 new worshipping communities by 2030.

Over 2026-2027, our team are focussing on:

- a) enabling and supporting Messy Churches across the country to grow their engagement with young people, through piloting innovative new approaches both within existing Messy Churches and through new worshipping communities.
- b) supporting and mentoring 300 new Church of England Messy Churches, including those in recognised areas of need.

How we can help you

Messy Church has a 22-year history of reaching new people of all ages, but especially families who would not normally go to church. Based on our values of being Christ-centred, for all ages, creativity, hospitality and celebration, our 2024 survey shows that Messy Church can successfully adapt to a variety of geographical and socio-economic settings. With appropriate training and ongoing support, many Messy Churches are lay-led and work alongside clergy, providing new worshipping communities for children, young people and new Christians to grow in faith and develop their leadership skills.

We are here to equip and encourage the local church to start a Messy Church, enabling them to bring God's love to the local community through engagement with children, young people and their households. We are looking to work alongside Diocesan teams to organise, promote and host Messy Church training in your area.

During 2026-2027 we can offer training packages **free of charge**, to help your Diocese start new worshipping communities – new Messy Churches. If your diocese would benefit from the training, we would ask your diocesan team to commit to inviting a minimum of five churches to the training, with an expectation that they might start a Messy Churches within a year. We would support you and the new Messy Churches with a learning community and a Messy Church Regional Team (currently under development).

Thanks to generous funding from the Church of England, we can offer a support package to CofE Churches in areas of need (churches in the 25% most deprived parishes in the country) wanting to start a new Messy Church. We can offer microgrants of £250 to purchase resources for your new

Messy Church, a bundle of Messy Church books worth over £50, training and ongoing support in the form of an online learning community of Messy Church leaders ministering in areas of need.

Whilst our target to start 300 new Messy Churches relates to the Church of England, Messy Church is ecumenical and there are many examples of successful local Messy Churches which are partnerships between different denominations in the same area. We would like to advertise any training on the Messy Church website so that it might be accessed by other denominations in the area.

Why offer Messy Church training?

Messy Church training is a great investment in ministry by a diocese, district, region or local church network.

Training from the BRF Ministries' Messy Church team can:

- help you find out what Messy Church is... and isn't!
- understand the Messy Church values
- make your Messy Church a disciple making community from the very beginning
- remind the team what Messy Church is and renew their vision
- refresh a team that has been running for some time
- inspire confidence and enthusiasm
- allay fears and misconceptions
- help a Messy Church reach its fullest potential
- make teams aware of the range of resources, most recent projects and developments
- connect teams to the local and wider Messy Church network

All our training is delivered by a member of the BRF Ministries' Messy Church team or one of our experienced recognised practitioners.

What we offer

BRF Ministries' Messy Church team is available to lead a variety of training sessions on Messy Church,

- What is Messy Church?
- Starting your Messy Church
- Discipleship in Messy Church
- Messy Church Goes Wild
- Messy Church in schools
- Intergenerational best practice
- Bespoke (would incur an additional cost to cover preparation time required)

Example outline,

- 10.00 - 12.00 pm Workshop 1
- 12.00 - 1.00 pm Lunch (provided or bring your own) and informal chat
- 1.00 - 3.00 pm Workshop 2

Costs

Due to funding from the Church of England, during 2026-2027, we can offer our time free of charge. We ask that our travel costs (45p per mile if travelling by car) and any overnight accommodation (if required) to be covered and a suitable venue provided.

For further details or to make a booking enquiry, please contact Messy Church Training & Development Lead, **Jane Butler** at jane.butler@brf.org.uk