



Godsend App D. Community

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As you might expect, as hospitality is one of the five values of Messy Church, you can find a rich seam of thought about what it looks like in a Messy Church setting, particularly in [Messy Hospitality](#) and [Messy Discipleship](#).

Think more creatively than limiting hospitality to the welcome and the mealtime of a Messy Church session. Instead, consider it as a thread running through every moment and every manifestation of this church: the publicity, the team planning, the activity table, the celebration. You can find an excellent set of hospitality-related questions in the [Discipleship Self-Review Toolkit](#), developed by Bristol Diocese for Messy Churches.

A ministry with families may not lend itself as easily as peer friendship ministries to opening up your actual home, as there are very real concerns around safeguarding to consider. But there is still plenty to do to make the place you meet, inside or out, a place of welcome where everyone has a chance to move from being a guest to being a host and where all the real authority of a host lies not with any human leader but with God.

The lasting impact of a Messy Church will be in the friendships made, rather than the professionalism of the actual gathering. It's worth remembering, when the scissors are lost forever, Mabel's forgotten to bring the vital hot glue gun and the lasagne burns to a crisp during an over-long celebration... it always comes down to love.