



News from the Riverbank

ISSUE TWO 2016

Welcome to our second Newsletter! Although we're preparing for Christmas, we wanted to share some memories from Summer with our precious families, as well as how you can support us this season. Of course in amongst the joy and fun there are always difficult issues to walk through alongside the families we support but we are so fortunate to always be able to turn to our Heavenly Father, and know the power of his grace and love in dark and painful times. We are so thankful for your prayers and support as we continue along this journey.

**Ellie Hughes, Director
Riverbank Trust**

Read Ellie's latest Blog & more about our work at www.riverbanktrust.org

Summer Memories



Over the Summer, the Riverbank Family came together and made special memories. Some children saw tropical fish for the first

time in the Aquarium at Kew Gardens, we watched the otters being fed at Wetlands & we enjoyed a movie together at Holy Trinity Richmond (HTR).

On one particularly hot, sunny day, 66 adults and children - including our volunteer & staff team - spent a wonderful day at London Zoo. **One mum said, "This was a great way to spend time with the Riverbank team and for us and our children to enjoy each other."**

The Living Room – a space for new encounters

This Autumn saw Riverbank creating a new space to develop and deepen the relationships we have with Mums and to continue to minister God's love and peace to them. Many of the Mums who have been attending our Mother and Baby Groups for the past few years - *Little Splashes* and *Little Droplets* – now have older children.

The doors were locked but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. He said, "Peace be with you."

John 20: v26

From September 2016, we opened *The Living Room*, offering support to a growing number of these Mums. On a Thursday afternoon, in partnership with the Vineyard

Community Centre, Riverbank has the sole use of a room at Dickson House, near Richmond Hill. This is a community space owned by Richmond Parish Lands Charity (RPLC).

The Living Room is a safe place where we are coming together to worship, build community and bring hope and compassion to our wonderful mums.

Prayer Points

Please pray that *The Living Room* will be a place where our Mums will come, see & experience the healing, transformative love of Jesus.

Please pray for our new Administrator, Reni, who has recently joined our team & for new volunteer Helpers & Befrienders to join the team.

Please pray for guidance & fruitfulness for both new & established relationships with the mums we come into contact with.

At A Glance...Xmas 2016

Would you consider sponsoring a **Family Bag** this Xmas? A £15 donation would enable us to bless our families in this way – please speak to one of the team if you're interested.

More news and ways you can get involved & support us overleaf.

Reflections from the Riverbank

My View: James Lowther, Trustee (Treasurer)

“ I am married to Naomi with four children and five grandchildren. I trained as a Chartered Accountant, though I think I am a words person at heart.

I specialised in charity accounting and do unpaid work for several local Christian charitable enterprises in addition to my self-employed accounting practice.

I like to walk in local parks, especially Kew Gardens, where I am to be seen about three times a week.

Helping Naomi to care for her mum, Shirley, has become a major feature of my life since her remarkable survival of a massive stroke four and a half years ago. This experience has convinced me that to be able to laugh is more important than being able to speak. Some memorable life-moments include delivering my daughter in a car and 13 trips to Nepal – one of the busiest leprosy hospitals in the world.

I was inspired to become a Trustee after seeing the passion for getting alongside young Mums that both my daughter & the rest of the team share. It is so rewarding to see the Life of God in Riverbank Trust & working with a great team of people, all younger than me, I think!

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A Heavenly Choir: From Little Rock To Richmond

A hot summer's evening in August saw Second Presbyterian Church Choir, from Little Rock, Arkansas, visit Richmond to perform a fundraising concert for Riverbank.



A wonderful evening saw the 40 strong choir sing a range of music – from choral works and traditional American sacred music to Scottish folk song. Organised by Elizabeth Assmann, a member of Holy Trinity Richmond (HTR) and Tour Manager at acfea, the Church Choir took time out of a busy tour of the UK and Ireland to perform for free at HTR.

The evening was open to Riverbank friends, family and supporters as well as the wider community and we are thankful to our sponsors, Trinity Wealth Management, acfea - for their donation and covering the cost of organ tuning - and all who donated on the evening. We raised over £1,500.

Last word from Choir member, Clementine Whitman: *"Everyone was so touched by the Riverbank charity, as well as the kindness of your congregation...I hope we have a chance to visit again in the future."*

We would love to welcome the Choir back next year – watch this space!

Ways to Support Riverbank

There are lots of ways you can support us:

- **Pray** – we would love you to join us in prayer. Just ask!
- **Regular Giving** – a regular, monthly gift of any amount enables us to plan more effectively.
- **One off Donations** – any donation, large or small, makes a real difference.
- **Volunteer** – maybe you have a spare few hours a week or could offer occasional help at *Little Splashes* (Mondays) helping to wash up or bake a cake for *The Living Room* (Thursdays). Maybe you feel called to be a Befriender?
- **Business Sponsorship** – would your employer consider donating goods, sponsoring us or match-funding?
- **Fundraise!** If you ever wanted a good reason to try a new challenge, please consider Riverbank as your chosen charity – please speak to us about how we can help you.

Contact Karen at Riverbank about fundraising and supporting us on Email: karen@riverbanktrust.org or Tel: 07956 619 225