



# News from the Riverbank

## ISSUE THREE 2017

### Welcome to our latest Newsletter!

We are so thankful for the Riverbank community that God is building day by day and we feel increasingly called to extend the table, to constantly make room for and welcome the lonely and the isolated families in our community. This year, we have begun to look even further afield - considering the humanitarian refugee crisis across our world - and we are starting to make plans to embark on community sponsorship: a project that will enable us to welcome a Syrian family from a refugee camp and support them as they start a new life here in our community. We are so excited for all that God has in store for us through this and other developing projects and as ever we are so thankful for your continued support and prayers.

**Ellie Hughes, Director.** Read Ellie's latest Blog on World Refugee Day at <http://riverbanktrust.org/category/blog/>

### Celebrating Volunteers

As National Volunteer Week falls in June, we wanted to dedicate this



issue to all the wonderful people who freely give their time, share their expertise and offer friendship to our families. Our Trustees, Befrienders and Helpers are an important and precious

part of the Riverbank Family. Whether helping in the kitchen during an outreach activity or at an event, spending time with young children in creche or simply spending time with one of our wonderful mums, everyone that offers their time shares our compassion for our ministry and we are thankful for them.

### Getting Involved

If you feel you could join our team – for a couple of hours a month in the office, at a school holiday activity, a fundraising event or a more regular commitment, we would love to hear from you.

**Some Ways To Get Involved:**

- **Mind young children at Parent Groups (weekdays).**
- **Help at our Summer Holiday Club (17-18 August).**
- **Do a Fun Run, Sponsored Car Wash or Cake Sale to fundraise for us this summer.**
- **Make or bake something for our Autumn Craft Fair (Sat, 7 Oct).**
- **Social Media whizz-kids to help us on Facebook & Twitter.**

We're always interested in areas we haven't thought of that would be of real value to us. Please speak to someone at Riverbank – contact details below and on our website.

### Prayer Points

*Please pray* for Vivi, who will be joining our staff team later this summer as an Outreach Worker & for new volunteer Helpers & Befrienders who have completed or are starting training over the coming months.

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

**You can see our quarterly Prayer Requests & subscribe online at [www.riverbanktrust.org/prayer-requests/](http://www.riverbanktrust.org/prayer-requests/)**

### STOP PRESS!

**The Boy & Girl Choristers of Washington National Cathedral Choir, USA,** are performing a free concert on **Saturday 24 June** at Holy Trinity Church, Richmond, 7.30pm. All welcome.

There will be a collection in aid of Riverbank Trust – please come and support us & enjoy an evening of music.

**More news and ways you can support us overleaf.**

## Reflections from the Riverbank



### My View: Helen Sadler, Volunteer Helper

“ I have lived in Richmond for many years and joined the team at Riverbank four years ago. I volunteer regularly at *Little Splashes*, the Drop-In Group held on Monday lunchtimes during term time. I also sometimes join families during holiday outings or mind the young children during groups for parents.

It's very enjoyable sharing the company of children, especially when they are having fun playing! Lunch is prepared and served by the volunteers and is by us altogether. It is an opportunity for all of us to come together and get to know one another a little better and create a feeling of family.

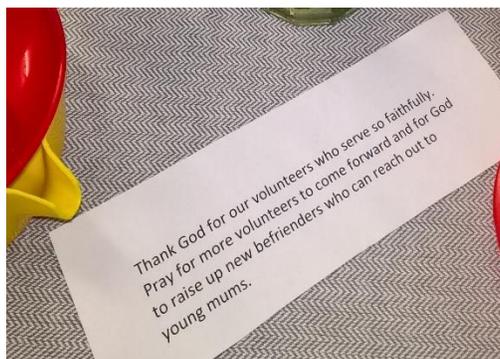
I feel privileged and happy to be able to help in this small way. It's really not demanding and is a very positive way of showing God's love for everyone who comes – team included! ”

### Making A Difference

Riverbank is now working with over 70 families living in Richmond. Over Easter, members of Holy Trinity Richmond came together to pray for all aspects of the local community, including Riverbank. A small faithful group prayed through the

night, ending in a sunrise Prayer Walk up to Richmond Hill.

As a team of staff, trustees and volunteers, we know that we make a real difference to the lives of the families we have the privilege of knowing. We work in the faith and knowledge that God goes before us and guides us through the joys and challenges of our work.



In recent months, our journey along the Riverbank has included supporting homeless families secure and move into new homes, finding practical solutions to furniture removal, volunteers offering practical DIY help; supporting parents with their children's exams and transition to secondary school; sharing with mums their excitement as they embark on new areas of study or employment.

**Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.**  
1 Peter 4:10

As ever, we make a lasting commitment to come alongside those in need for as long as the need exists.

### Ways to Support Riverbank

There are lots of ways you can support us:

- **Pray** – we would love you to join us in prayer. See our latest Prayer Requests on our website or just ask!
- **Regular Giving** – a regular, monthly gift of any amount enables us to plan more effectively.
- **One off Donations** – financial donations, large or small, make a real difference.
- **Volunteer** – maybe you have a spare couple of hours a week or could offer occasional help at *Little Splashes* (Mondays) helping to wash up or bake a cake. Maybe you feel called to be a Befriender?
- **Business Sponsorship** – would your employer consider donating goods, sponsoring us or match-funding?
- **Scouts, Guides, Schools** – could you raise funds for us through your school, scouts or other group?
- **Fundraise Challenge!** 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.

Email: [karen@riverbanktrust.org](mailto:karen@riverbanktrust.org)

Tel: 07956 619 225