



News from the Riverbank

ISSUE FOUR 2018

Welcome to our latest Newsletter

Seven and half years ago, I sat in the downstairs of a café a stone's throw from where I now write these words. I sat with my Vicar, Trevor and his wife, Kate and I somewhat shyly shared this funny little God dream about a ministry to reach broken and vulnerable women parenting alone. Before lunch was out, Trevor suggested that we apply for a small pot of funding from Southwark Diocese... and see what happens.



Trevor Patterson: Friend, Pastor & Trustee, at Riverbank's Summer Fundraising Concert

What happened was Riverbank, although obviously that is the short version of the story. On October 10th our Riverbank story was irrevocably changed as our dear friend, Pastor and trustee, Trevor, went home to be with our glorious Saviour. There are so many chapters ahead of us that I so dearly had hoped Trevor would have been part of, or would have seen unfold, but I am so thankful for his obedient and faith-filled heart that saw this storybook opened in the first place.

And so I am reminded, that that is all we can ever do: we open the book, offer up the pages in faith to our King who always, always writes his love and mercy and compassion across the pages.

So, as we end 2017 and look to another year, we lift our eyes and our hands in ever thankful praise: for all that's been, all that He's doing and all that is to come and cry, *Not to us Lord, Not to us, but to your name give glory.*

Ellie Hughes, Director. Read Ellie's latest Blog at

<http://riverbanktrust.org/category/blog/>

Making Our Vision a Reality

Each year, we reach more families than the year before. In 2017, we established new partnerships and embarked on new ventures. 2018 sees us continuing to work towards our 2020 Vision.

We know that everything we do is only possible because of the love, prayers and

financial support of those who share our vision of *Hope in Community* – and the faithfulness of our Saviour.

In 2017:

We worked with over 60 families, receiving referrals from schools, voluntary and statutory agencies, including organisations supporting refugee families.

We ran *Kids Matter*, a new parenting course, building confidence and equipping mums.

We established *Connect*, a monthly support group for parents of children with additional or special needs.

We ran our first Summer Holiday Club & ended the year with our Christmas Party, attended by 76 children and their parents.

Two new Volunteer Befrienders met one to one with mums and their children.

We supported mums with care packages to help them in their new homes or with their babies.

We gave practical help to families in their homes: decorating, assembling furniture and helping them apply for grants or source practical equipment for their homes.

- *Thank You*

More news and ways you can support us overleaf.

Our 2020 Vision

TO SEE VULNERABLE FAMILIES TRANSFORMED BY THE LOVE OF JESUS, EQUIPPED THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SHARING COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS.

Reflections from the Riverbank

My View: Michelle Rutter, Riverbank Community Outreach Worker

“ This is my fourth year of working for Riverbank and during that time I have heard stories of pain, joy, hurt, frustration, jubilation, separation and excitement, to name but a few emotions from both the children and families that I work with. I have journeyed with many mums (and some dads) and shared in a great deal of coffee drinking and cake eating! It is a daily privilege to share in these life stories and many a tear has been shed amongst words of encouragement.

My usual working week consist of two days in Holy Trinity School working 1:1 with children and then time during the week working in the community as an 'Outreach Worker.' Recent projects have included running a parenting course, *Kids Matter*, and working alongside parents of children with additional or special needs through our monthly *Connect* group.

Being a parent is hard. Honesty with each other and finding support when we need it is something that I wish for all parents.

I don't believe we do all this in our strength, however, as I know that we have a Father in Heaven who loves us dearly. Regardless of where we are on our journey, we don't do it alone. He never leaves us and when we feel weak, He remains strong. ”

Our Supporters Make a Difference

In 2017, we welcomed the Boy and Girl Choristers of Washington National Cathedral Choir to Holy Trinity Richmond as they performed a fundraising concert for us and guests gave generous donations.

Sponsored Dog Walk



In the autumn, supporters joined in or gave financial gifts for the first Riverbank Sponsored Dog Walk! The wonderful Steph Massing organised what we hope is the first of many sponsored events.

Our Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Riverbank is committed to supporting a Syrian family as part of the Home Office Community Sponsorship Scheme. Ways you can help us.

- Accommodation - with costs supplemented by the Local Housing Allowance;
- ESOL training;
- Interpretation services;
- Social & Emotional support.

Find out more:

<http://riverbanktrust.org/our-response-to-the-refugee-crisis-in-syria/>

You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head...your hand will guide me and your strength will support me.

(Psalm 139:5,10)

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:** www.riverbanktrust.org/prayer-requests/
- **Regular Giving** – a regular, monthly or annual 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 to help at a holiday event or could offer occasional help at *Little Splashes* (Mondays) helping with cooking, washing up or baking a cake for *The Hub* (Thursdays). 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.

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