



News from the Riverbank

ISSUE FIVE 2018

Welcome to our latest Newsletter!

As many of you may now have heard, this will be my last message in our newsletter as Director of Riverbank. At the end of October I will be leaving the Trust to work for Youth for Christ as a Local Ministries Development Manager. I am absolutely delighted that Michelle Rutter, part of our current Riverbank team, will be taking over leadership of the Trust as CEO. Michelle is full of passion and love for Riverbank and I do hope that you will support, pray and encourage her as she takes on this new role.

My decision to move on is not one I have taken lightly and as I reflect on the last 8 years of ministry with this wonderful charity, which I had the joy of founding alongside a dedicated and incredible group of trustees, it is consistently to the goodness of God and the amazing story He is writing through this community that my attention is drawn.

Our Vision

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

Beginning Riverbank was a new chapter for me in my life, in the life of Holy Trinity Richmond and in our wider community. I believe it has been part of a new chapter in the lives of some of our families – one that is bringing life, colour and is writing a new story for them. **Continued over.../**

Collaborations – Our Partners Make a Difference

2018 sees us continuing to work towards our 2020 Vision, in collaboration with other organisations, to bring hope and joy to our families.

You can read more overleaf about our partnership with *Kids Matter*, which enables us to meet with our families and together share the challenges of parenting young children.

This summer, 23 families, including 31 children, joined us for a Riverbank Summer Fete which included craft, games and children and adult tombolas. We are delighted that our families gave voluntary donations of over £50 to Karis Kids (providing families for orphans in Uganda) and Shooting Star Chase (children's hospice in Hampton). Our thanks to the great team of volunteers who helped us on the day!

Riverbank families also joined us on picnics in the area and trips to Kew Gardens this summer – Kew offer a number of tickets to Riverbank annually which give free entry to our families.

Our thanks, also, to **Kick London Multi Sports** and **Richmond Knights Basketball** who both partnered with us to offer places for some of our families to enjoy their summer camps for local school aged children. Further activities run by **Kick London** and **Orleans House Gallery** are planned in the year ahead.

Spotlight on Fundraising

Many wonderful women donated clothes and accessories and supported our first *Frock Swap*.

On a balmy summer's evening, we enjoyed cocktails and good company, picking up pre-loved clothing to raise funds for Riverbank.

Our special thanks to Fiona Wade (pictured below) who is donating 50% of sales from her beautiful handmade jewellery. Fiona has raised an incredible £1,000 for us so far this year!



Fiona's next sale: Bring & Buy Sale on **Thursday, 22 November 10am – 1pm** at the **Avenue Club, St Luke's Kew**.

Reflections from the Riverbank

My View: Sheena Marx, Riverbank Pastoral Co-ordinator

“ My work days in the main are Tuesdays and Thursdays. My day could begin with the supervision of one of our amazing Riverbank workers or a meeting with other staff members to see how they are doing.

Supervision involves catching up on the work with the children and families. Boundaries of course are so important and making sure these are in place has earned me the nickname, 'The Boundary Police'! Other days, a Riverbank Mum could arrive totally out of the blue and all plans to catch up on admin and report writing bite the dust. The kettle goes on and then I simply sit with them and listen and point them in the direction of support.

One of our Mums said, 'You help hold it all steady for me'. That's not a bad picture of my work on the Riverbank!

Praying features too. Our God does so much in the background, He really does do what we cannot do and go where we cannot go. The Godly love shown to our families, whose world is often chaotic, is vital as they simply do not encounter this kind of love.

I see my work as providing a framework for enabling others to be the best they can be. Imagine spending your day loving, encouraging, blessing and praying with all those you meet on the Riverbank! ”



Riverbank partners with Christian charity, *Kids Matter*, to run parenting programmes. We share their vision to equip the church and Christian activities which empower parents and carers facing significant adversity to develop confidence and parenting skills within their community and to enable their children to flourish and sustain well-functioning family life.

“ *It was the only one [parenting group] where you can actually have a voice...I don't feel like I'm alone* ”

Parents and guardians attend *Kids Matter* with a creche – supported by some faithful volunteers – and at a local primary school where we have been providing outreach for several years.

We aim to take a non-judgemental approach which we find enables honest, open conversations and a willingness to explore and tackle difficult aspects of parenting together. As one mum explained, *"It was the only one [parenting course] where you can actually have a voice...I don't feel like I'm alone"*.

We love seeing parents grow in confidence and find their voice through the *Kids Matter* course.

Read more about *Kids Matter* at <http://kidsmatter.org.uk/>

(Continued from over) For our team of staff and volunteers, it has been a new chapter of discovery as to how God can use them. It has been a chapter that has seen the compassion of the local church stretched and challenged and she has not been found wanting.

The greatest adventure stories are so rarely about the destination, but about the relationship and the love that blooms and blossoms on the way.



I believe that there is much, much more for the ministry of Riverbank and I pray in faith it will go from strength to strength, giving hope and offering grace to those often found on the margins of our community. It is with much love and many tears that I hand over this wonderful ministry of Jesus, and that I still say – *Not to us, O Lord, Not to us, but to your name give glory.*

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

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

Our latest Prayer Requests

www.riverbanktrust.org/prayer-requests/

Contact Karen at Riverbank about ways of supporting our work. Email:

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