

'Welcome to our very first edition of Riverside News! We may not be meeting in person but we are still a community, and this is a great way we can keep in touch with news, updates and encouraging stories. Riverside News will be published every two weeks so keep your eye out for each new issue. Happy reading!'

LOVE IN ACTION

A key part of our Riverside mission is to 'connect to our world'. This is even more important in these challenging days – we want to be salt and light, bringing hope to people wherever we are. It's been great to hear some of the many ways you are doing this in your streets and communities – keep sending us your stories!

Here are some more ways we can help others:

- Leave a thank you card for your postman/refuse collector
- Phone a friend or neighbour who is alone for a chat
- Next time you shop, drop some items in the foodbank bin

We also want to continue supporting two charities close to us, Little Fishes baby bank and Newark Foodbank. Both charities provide essential support for people who can't afford to do a regular shop – even more challenging in these days.

Although we can't accept items for donation at this time, you can still donate a financial gift:

Little Fishes Call/text Carole Lambourne 07860 567999 for bank details.

Newark Foodbank: <https://newark.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>



Boredom Busters



Why not create some cards for your neighbours to share Gods love and peace at this time. We can offer our help to those in need. It gives the children a craft activity as well as encouraging them to look after their neighbours as we are called to do.

Mark 12:31 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

Gods Protection

The wings of the Lord rest on his people,
Sheltering, protecting drawing them close.
For his love embraces and strengthens,
nurture's and holds.
Your worries he knows, your tears he collects.
For great is his compassion, not one is lost.
'Why worry' he says 'When I hold you close,
Just look and see all you are to me.
Each day is anew with the richness of my love,
Surrounded with endless possibilities,
For I am the Lord your God.

By Nicole Hayward



Retirement of Mike Carby, our Finance Officer

50 years ago, I met my friend Mike Carby. I was a young teenager at the time and Mike and I played together in a rock band called, *The Reverb!* If we knew more than half a dozen chords between us, I'd be surprised. The band eventually broke up much to the anguish of our adoring fans (both of them!) and Mike and I lost touch over the years. Some 20 years or so later, to my delight, Mike's wife Debbie and their daughter Maria both joined Riverside and I started to see Mike again.

We quickly renewed our friendship and after a short time Mike gave his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ and joined the church. On that day, we became brothers in Christ, not just friends. Mike, a chartered accountant, then took on the role of Finance Officer to Riverside and became a staff member. He insisted on working for the church without salary. To begin with the role was fairly minor, but over the years it became a major one due to the increasing numbers attending our church. Mike also safely navigated us through increasing legislation and rules governing charitable bodies like ours. Mike continued to offer his time free of charge.

On Tuesday 31st March this year, Mike finally retired from his roles as Finance Officer and Trustee. I salute him for his hard work, integrity and for the many hours he has invested into the healthy oversight of our finances. He has performed his duty with skill, efficiency and a great sense of humour! The finance role will now be overseen by Ursula, our Operations Manager. Ursula will be ably assisted by Maria Thompson who will have day to day responsibility, and they will both be supervised and guided by Martin Cooper who is also a chartered accountant and one of Riverside's Trustees.

Mike, we wish you a very happy retirement. We shall miss you at our staff meetings and it will take us a while to learn to manage things as well as you did. On behalf of Riverside Church, I honour and thank you for your selfless work, your time, and your ability to make us laugh! You will still be around of course, and we look forward to cups of coffee with you in the Centre (when of course these strange times pass!)

Much love to you my friend.

Steve

PS. If anyone wanted to take a moment to thank Mike personally, his email address is mikecarby@riversidechurch.org.uk



PRAYER POINTS

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

- For peace and love in all our homes and in particular for those facing difficult situations and for those who are alone
- For a blessing over our communities and a real sense of togetherness and belonging
- For God to protect, enable and resource all who work in the NHS; may He give them the energy, wisdom and compassion in all they do
- For God to help and guide our Government and Chief Medical Officers through this time and beyond

Mental Health Tip

Minimise watching or reading news related to the pandemic, limit yourself to once or twice a day from reputable and trusted sources such as the government website, BBC or WHO guidelines to prepare you to care for yourself and your loved ones.

Get the facts not the rumours, the constant stream of reports can make anyone feel anxious. Facts can help minimise fears.

Need Help? If anyone is feeling particularly anxious and would feel the benefit of having a confidential conversation with one of our counsellors Georgina Russell, then please email her your name and telephone number georgina1russell@yahoo.co.uk

God is Still at Work! – Sharon Gabbitas

I had been feeling an increased urgency to seek prayer for healing since the Swanwick Leaders Conference last year. I had met a childhood neighbour there who I'd not seen for over 40 years. I was told that harmful words had been spoken of both me and my twin sister when we were aged 12.

On 19th January this year Stuart Bell was preaching in Riverside. I was helping out in Kids Klub but my husband Rob heard Stuart refer to negative words being spoken over families and felt they were words for me.

I spoke with Stuart and our Riverside Leaders and found myself reflecting on memories from childhood. The women in our family have had disappointments and heartache as they tried to build family, struggling with pregnancy related issues; fertility; miscarriages; infant death and gynaecological problems.

I myself had infertility problems and early in our marriage received answered prayer for healing. Miraculously we were able to conceive, and we have 3 grown up children and two grandsons!

Reflecting further on Stuart's word I felt there was more 'business' to do with God! I wanted any spiritual ties or negative words from the past to be lifted and to pray into this further. Steve, Helen and Terry stood with us on 26th January. Steve prayed that the negative inputs from all those years ago would be returned to the cross to be vanquished by God's mighty power. As we left church that morning, we knew we had simply done the right thing and left this in God's hands.

We believe something has now been lifted. Our niece (my twin sister's daughter) spoke to us this week to reveal that she is expecting a baby after trying for a family for nearly three years and seeking fertility treatment. The treatment had been halted recently due to the present Covid-19 outbreak, but they found that they were pregnant despite this.

This is good news! There is power in our prayers. In this time of gloomy national news please be encouraged that our **God is still at work!**



Check out our website and go to the Riverside Hub for news, information and videos. You can access our online services or listen to a thought for the day.

www.riversidechurch.org.uk



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