Christ is Risen!

Rivercourt Methodist Church

Rivercourt News

March 2024

Minister: Rev. Singa Vunipola

Email: singa.vunipola@gmail.com

Tel: 020 8762 0646

Mob: 07808 807 457

Church Tel:

020 8741 1348

07469 597 186

Church Address:

King Street,

Hammersmith,

W6 9JT

Email:

office@rivercourt.org.uk

Website:

www.rivercourt.org.uk

Happy to Help!

If you are interested in any items mentioned in the newsletter, want a confidential word, or have views that you would like to express, please contact any of the church trustees.

The trustees in alphabetic order are:

Joan

Vanessa

Francess

James

Juliana

Monty

Steve

Kwaku

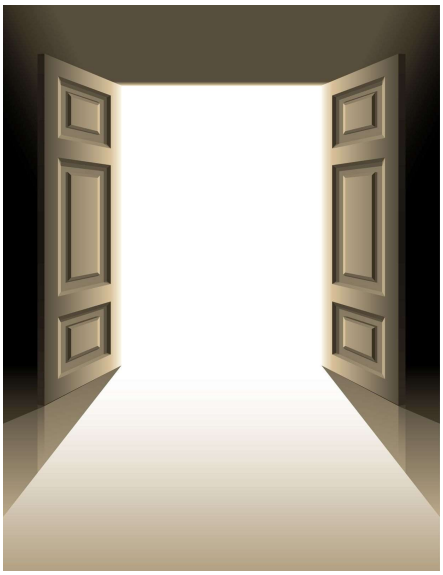
Dates For Your Diary

March 2024

Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26	27	28	29	01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Every Thur from 10.30am -2.30pm	Open Doors- (see item) Volunteers needed
Every Thur at 12.30pm	Lunchtime service followed by bring and share lunch
Sun 19th Nov – Sun 24th March.,	Rivercourt Sunday Supper Service (see item)
Sun 10th March,.	Mothering Sunday
Sun 10th March.,12.30pm	Second Sunday Bring and Share Lunch at Rivercourt
25th March – 29th March., 9.30am 9.30am – 12.00pm	Holy week. Rivercourt Open Church
Thur 28th March., 7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion & Foot Washing
Fri 29th March., 9.30am	Joint Good Friday Service at Rivercourt with Shepherds Bush Methodist
Sun 31st March., 11.00am	Easter Sunday Service – Joint Service with the Tongan Community followed by lunch

Open Doors



As part of our mission, Rivercourt is opening our doors for a safe space and fellowship.

Rivercourt will be open every Thursday from 10.30am – 2.30pm for those people who want to come inside for friendship, fellowship, hot drinks and light refreshments. Church members and visitors are welcome.

We need help to operate this. We are asking if you will commit to providing support, even if it's an hour a week. We need a minimum of 4 people throughout the day. Please think and sign up even if it's for an hour. The more you can help, the easier it will be.

You might think you can't offer anything, but the more people there are inside the church the livelier and more inviting for visitors to come inside. We need people to:

- make and serve hot drinks
- make cakes
- welcome and chat to others
- donate tea/coffee/milk/biscuits/ cake.

Please sign up to help.

LENT & EASTER SEASON

RIVERCOURT METHODIST CHURCH 2024

ASH WEDNESDAY

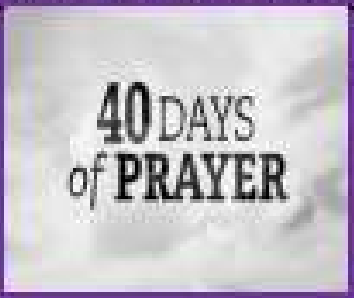
14 February 2024

LENT BEGINS

10.30am: Launching of the 40 Days Prayers: Seek God for the City
Rev. Singa Vunipola

8pm: A United Service London Tamil Christian Congregation (LTCC) & Rivercourt Methodist Church.

Rev. Jessie Armand &
Rev. Singa Vunipola



SEEK GOD FOR OUR CITY 2024

The 40 days of Lent are based on two accounts: the 40 years of wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan. JOIN us in prayers of Biblical Hope 40 Days from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday (Feb.14 – March 24) Praying for REVIVAL of GOD'S PEOPLE! A hardcopy of prayer resources (©WayMakers) available from church office!

HOLY THURSDAY

28th March 2024

7.30pm
Celebrate the Last Supper with the disciples and Passover.
Revd. Singa Vunipola

PALM SUNDAY

24th March 2024

Commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem.
11am Revd Deji Okegbile

GOOD FRIDAY

29th March 2024

We remember the Passion and Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.

10am – Revd Singa Vunipola
12noon – Revd Jessie Armand (3 hrs)

EASTER SUNDAY

31st March 2024

HE IS RISEN!

Alleluia! The principal feast of the ecclesiastical year. Jesus has risen!

11am: Revd. Singa Vunipola
United Service with the England/Tongan Fellowship Group followed by a shared Lunch!

SUNDAY SUPPER

PEOPLE FEEDING PEOPLE

The Sunday Suppers project started on 19 November and is expected to run for 19 weeks, to Palm Sunday, 24 March.

On 19 November we served 17 guests; on 26 November we served food for 25 guests, including a woman who came to collect food for her three young children.

We continue to publicise this initiative through the Upper Room, the Barons Court Project and St Cuthberts. On 30 November Steve and I attended Hammersmith and Fulham's cost of living conference, where we distributed a number of flyers, including to several councillors.

Running costs are anticipated to be in the region of £150 a week, depending on how much food we can obtain free of charge from City Harvest every Saturday.

£150 a week for 19 weeks totals £2,850. In addition, we would like to raise enough money to give the guests Greggs vouchers at Christmas and Easter and buy toiletries, etc, for them.

We set an initial budget of £5,000,. Having now raised £5,378, with a further £300 due in shortly from St Peter's, we have raised this target to £7,500.

Vicky

John Bridges
1942 - 2023

John Bridges was a much loved member of the Rivercourt family who despite only attending the Church for approximately 18 months, quickly became a well valued member.

Having attended John's memorial service on 16th February, along with a host of Rivercourt members, it was clear to see how loved John was by his friends and family. It was also lovely to learn how pivotal John was in campaigning for the local council to clear up St Paul's Garden. So much so a bench with a plaque was erected in his name (see above image).

John's daughter writes an obit in City AM. The link to this is https://www.cityam.com/a-real-market-character-john-bridges-1942-2023/

John started work in the City of London in 1959, becoming a talented stockbroker and making partner by the age of 28.

But he saw a career set-back when his firm, Tustain L'Estrange, was one of a number that went bankrupt during an oil price crisis in 1974.

As his wife had been one of the first cohort of women to pass the Stock Exchange exams not long previously, he was quoted in the press at the time that: "I can't deal but my wife can!", as the first member of the London Stock Exchange apparently to find himself in that position.

He subsequently moved into the world of smaller company corporate finance, where he was hugely active throughout the 1990s and 2000s, becoming widely known as a real market character. He raised money and floated all manner of smaller companies on the junior AIM and OFEX markets, never happier than when off to pitch for new business, or to put an investment opportunity to someone in his unrivalled contact book, while tipping off journalists on broadsheet and tabloid newspapers about his latest flotation along the way.

At the age of 80, he embarked on a new phase of his career, hosting a number of podcasts for the popular Guild Financial's "Masters of Finance" series.

He was still working when he passed away in December, having seen his career span eight decades, with the building he began working in in 1959 flattened and re-built three times.

Monty Grigg's tribute below says beautifully how much John Bridges impacted Rivercourt in the short time he spent with us.

I first met John when the Rivercourt Methodist Church community organized a barbecue on the street outside our church on King Street, Hammersmith, to celebrate the Queens Jubilee in the summer of 2022. Luckily, it was a bright, sunny day and the BBQ

was a great success with many friends and strangers taking time to enjoy the food and drink (non-alcoholic) on offer, sitting and joining us in chat and fellowship. I was sitting, enjoying a burger, when I glanced up and became aware of someone looking quite intently at our church through the open doors and at the information on our noticeboards. I invited him to join us and he sat with me and we began to chat about the kind of inconsequential things and news of the day which strangers tend to do on first meeting.

After a while John asked me about my involvement and role in Rivercourt and the wider life of the Methodist Church. He asked me to explain how the local and area structure of the Methodist Church worked, which I thought was both interesting, but also unusual, for someone who, I thought, had just casually wandered by. John then went on to tell me about his church life and in particular, how he was currently experiencing a degree of unhappiness in the direction his church was moving and the way in which decisions were being made and implemented. Over the course of 2 hours or so we explored our different experiences of the ways in which Christians work together and sadly, how they sometimes failed to work together in harmony. John then asked if he might join us one Sunday for worship and, naturally, I said he would be most welcome and I invited him to join us the following Sunday when, if my memory serves me right, I happened to be the preacher.

I didn't really expect him to appear, but a few minutes before 11.00am he walked in and joined us. Then he came the next week and the week after that. I was going to say that over the following weeks we "adopted" him as a member of our church family, but the truth is that he "adopted" us! John became a regular member of our Thursday gatherings when we open the church to anyone who wishes to visit and spend time with us and would engage enthusiastically in conversation with them, offering welcome and hospitality. Among his many gifts was the ability to make anyone he chatted to feel that they had a special relationship with him.

It was a wonderful experience for all of us at Rivercourt when, after having been with us for a few weeks, he declared that he "felt that Rivercourt was now his spiritual home". John was always extremely attentive to all aspects of our Sunday worship and when I was preaching I knew that I had to be on the top of my game because John would discuss the sermon with me in detail. But far from being any kind of criticism, even when querying something I might have said, his contributions were invariably uplifting and most encouraging to all the preachers who served at Rivercourt.

John threw himself fully into our church life at Rivercourt, including church meetings, at which he gave thoughtful and valuable advice and ideas to help us work through issues and arrive at positive decisions to move our church and community forward. It was a very sad day when he left us and he is already deeply missed, and although he was only with us for a short time, he was greatly loved. I know that I speak for everyone at Rivercourt Church when I say that it was our privilege to have known him and to have shared a part of our Christian journey with him. Our sadness is made easier to carry knowing that John is in God's care and has gone to that new life that Jesus Christ has promised to all who follow him.

Monty

ASKEW ROAD CHURCH
Methodist / United Reformed

Askew Road Church celebrates International Women's Day
Join our Fundraising Quiz (Theme: Women)
Saturday 9 March 2024, 1pm - 3pm
Askew Road Church Coffee Bar
at the Bassein Park Road entrance, London W12 9RN
Quiz Host/Event Organiser: Seye Aina
This event is to raise funds for essential church repairs.
Men, Women, Young People, Everyone is welcome.
Entry is free and there will be light refreshments and snacks.
To attend register with the Host or use the link
https://buytickets.at/paceworking/1155503
Donations by bank transfer are welcome:
Askew Road United Church, Acct: 46032398 S/C 60-01-02
Payment Reference: IWD and your name

www.askewroadchurch.org.uk
Charity No 1140056

Sunday Collection and Gift Aid

Gift Aid
Can you join the Gift Aid scheme at Rivercourt? The scheme allows the church to claim an extra 25% on all the money you give (i.e. for every £1 you give, the church will receive £1.25). If you pay tax, you are likely to be able to join the scheme. Please speak with Fiona Bignold for more information. She will be able to provide you with a Gift Aid form.
If you are not a tax payer then Rivercourt can still collect Gift Aid on the money you give. These need to be single donations of up to £30.00 and be in the form of cash or a card payment.

Envelopes
Some church members like to use envelopes for their weekly collection. This helps them keep a track of their weekly giving. If you would like a set of envelopes to use for weekly collections then please ask Fiona Bignold to prepare a set for you.

Taking up the collection
You may notice that some church members never seem to give any money when the weekly collection is taken up. Donations to the church are completely down to each individual. A number of church members give their donations by bank standing order, which they find suits them best.

Card Payments
Rivercourt is planning to set up a card payment system which will enable people to give money in another way. Look out for this in the future – it may make giving to the church easier for you as we become less and less likely to carry cash about.

More information….
If you want to know more about giving to Rivercourt, making your donations go further, the Gift Aid scheme, collection envelopes, then please speak with Fiona Bignold, the Gift Aid secretary.

giftaid it

Make your giving even more of a gift

What's going on at Rivercourt?

GDPR – Data Protection

The Methodist Church require Churches to audit the membership and review the contact details kept on file on an annual basis. Forms will be distributed during March and April asking you if the details held by the Church are still correct and if you want the church to keep in contact with you and if so, how.

Everyone will be asked whether they wish their name and or photograph to appear in the newsletter and any social media site. Individuals can choose not to give permission for this.

The Rivercourt WhatsApp group will be transferred to the mobile phone number given above. Individuals will be asked if they wish to be included in this group. No-one will be automatically transferred. The purpose of the WhatsApp Group is to communicate information about the church in a speedy way. Rivercourt is required to manage the information communicated and provide guidelines for the effective use of the group. The WhatsApp group is not intended to replace individual social conversations or to communicate personal views.

Pam
Welcome Pam!

Pam has joined Rivercourt as a part-time administrator - worship, congregation and community support. Pam will work Thursday and Friday mornings.

Lynda continues to work on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Whilst both Lynda and Pam will work together to support the church , Lynda will focus upon lettings, finance and property.
Rivercourt now has a mobile phone- please put number in- and Pam will be developing the on line and social media profile of the church.
New emails will be used and these will be notified in due course.

We look forward to Pam getting to know the church and congregation better.

Come in and meet Pam and get to know her on a Thursday..

New Computer System with new email addresses. & mobile phone.

Sundays – Rivercourt is operating a Sunday Supper Service for people in need. The service operates from 6.30pm – 9.00 pm. The numbers of guests increase steadily each week. On Sunday 28th January 47 people were served. If you would like to volunteer speak to Steve. This service is funded solely by Rivercourt and St. Peter's -all donations are greatly appreciated. Donate either via Rivercourt or online at www.givey.com/sundaysuppers

Easter Sunday 31st March – Joint service; Rivercourt & the Tongan Community. Followed by Lunch.

Lunchtime Service every Thursday from 12.30pm – 1.00pm

Thursdays – Rivercourt open from 10.30 am to 2.30pm to offer hospitality and a quiet, safe space for the community. Bring & Share Lunch at 1.00pm. Please come along to support.

Prayer Activity - individuals wanting prayer time with Rev Singa should contact her directly and arrangements would be made that were mutually convenient. It was also agreed that the Pastoral Secretary would be informed or individuals could contact her for more information

Different styles of worship please make any suggestions about forms of worship that you would like at Rivercourt to Rev Singa.

Rivercourt Music Festival, Church Council agreed a music festival to raise funds for the Sunday Supper Service was a good idea. It was to arrange a concert of 90 – 120 minutes, well publicised in advance, Entertainers to be invited to perform on a voluntary basis (their contribution to support Sunday Supper Service), Concert would be free and donations

requested. The Aims of the festival are to: Raise funds for Sunday Supper Service, promote Rivercourt in the Community as per the consultation findings and promote 'Cultural Exchange'. Refreshments, such as tea/coffee and cake would be served. Sunday 14th July was agreed as the date. Kwaku is arranging the concert and any volunteers and suggestions should be made to him.

150th anniversary. 2025. Christine is co-ordinating the Anniversary celebrations and activities. Christine would like help and anyone interested in helping should let Rev Singa and/or a steward know. The Anniversary will on Church Council agenda in order to keep people updated on plans and activities.

Lent & Easter Activities – Prayers of Biblical Hope calling us to seek God for our City. Prayer is the key to revival. We are urged us to ask ourselves, this one question: **WHAT CAN I DO TO SEE THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD GROWS?** Speak to Juliana if you want the literature.

Membership of Rivercourt Methodist Church

Every year, the Church is required to audit and update the membership and records.

In the next month or so, you will be asked to confirm your membership of Rivercourt Methodist Church. If, for whatever reason, you do not wish to remain a member or consider yourself not to be a member, the

Church needs to know if you still wish the Church to keep in contact with you and if so, what information you want the Church to hold about you and how you wish to be contacted.

If you are unable to attend Church physically, the Church leadership would like to know if you are interested in attending services and events on line via zoom.

You will receive a form shortly asking these questions for you to complete and return to the church.

Thank you's:

Steve & Vicky for leading and coordinating the Sunday Supper service. Your commitment and dedication to this cause inspiration.

Juliana

Steve for being committed to ensuring the Church finances are well managed and liaising with Church users and solicitors on difficult items.

Juliana

The safeguarding officer, James, for all he does to make the Church a safe place to worship.

Please pray for:

All those Church members who are unable to come to Church.

The family and friends of all our church members who have passed away.

The family and friends of John Bridges as they continue to mourn his sudden passing.

Our prayers are with you all

A Poem For Easter

He carried the cross to Calvary,
Carried its burden for you and me,
There on the cross he was crucified
And, because he suffered and bled and died,
We know that whatever “our cross” may be,
It leads to God and Eternity…
For who can hope for a “crown of stars”
Unless it is earned with suffering and scars,
For how could we face the living Lord
And rightfully claim His promised reward
If we have not carried our cross of care
And tasted the cup of bitter despair…
Let those who yearn for the pleasures of life,
And long to escape all sufferings and strife,
Rush recklessly onto an “empty goal”
With never a thought of the spirit and soul…
But if you are searching to find the way
To life everlasting and eternal day-
With Faith your heart take the path He trod,
For the way of the cross is the way to God.

Submitted by Margaret
Author: Helen Steiner Rice

A message from the editor

Happy New Month Rivercourt family!

Happy Easter to you all. There are lots of things being done at Rivercourt and throughout the circuit for Easter, please try to take part where you can. If you want more details about any of the events please speak to me, a trustee or Revd Singa.

If you want to contribute to the newsletter please contact me via phone or email. Details below:

Email- office@rivercourt.org.uk (Put the word 'Newsletter' in the subject line)

Stay safe, stay well, stay connected!

Kindest regards

Juliana

Services in the coming period

Sunday 03rd March
Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Mrs Esther Fatogun

Team on Duty: Steve's Team

Thursday 07th March
Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, Revd Singa Vunipola

Sunday 10th March- Holy Communion
Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Revd Singa Vunipola

Team on Duty: Juliana's Team

Thursday 14th March
Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, Revd Singa Vunipola

Sunday 17th March
Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Revd Faith Noyota

Team on Duty: Betty's Team

Thursday 21st March
Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, Revd Singa Vunipola

Sunday 24th March – Palm Sunday
Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Revd Deji Okegbile

Team on Duty: Steve's Team

Thursday 28th March- Maundy Thursday
Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, TBC

Thursday 28th March- Maundy Thursday
Rivercourt Church worship at 7.30pm
Preacher, Revd Singa Vunipola

Friday 29th March – Easter Sunday
Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Revd Singa Vunipola

Sunday 31st March – Easter Sunday
Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Revd Singa Vunipola

Team on Duty: Juliana's Team

Thursday 04th April-

Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, TBC

Sunday 7th April

Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, TBC

Team on Duty: Betty's Team

Don’t Forget!

- **Open Doors - Every Thursday from 10.30am – 2.30pm,** Rivercourt will be open for those people who want to come inside for warmth, friendship , fellowship, hot drinks and light refreshments. Church members and visitors are welcome.

- Every Thursday afternoon from 12.30pm we have a lunchtime service led by different ministers and lay preachers. The service lasts for about 45 minutes and is followed by a bring and share lunch.

- If you are a Rivercourt member and you have difficulty getting to/from a Church activity you can book a taxi and claim the expenses. Please obtain a receipt.

- If you want Rivercourt to keep in touch with you, please complete the Keeping in Contact form at the back of the Church and hand it in to one of us.

- If you want Rivercourt’s contact details, there are cards at the back of the Church with all of Rivercourt’s details on – please take one for your reference.

- Would you like the flower display dedicated to you for a birthday celebration, wedding anniversary etc.? If so, you can make a donation to cover the cost of the display on your special Sunday. There is a flower rota, calendar on the notice board in the lounge area. Please fill in your name along the date you want to donate and give your donation to Betty.

- Envelopes in the lounge - If you wish to make a donation for a specific cause, please put in an envelope – marked with who you wish to donate to and put in the collection- i.e. Ukraine appeal, Rivercourt sinking fund etc.