



Rivercourt Methodist Church

Rivercourt News

December/January 2023/2024

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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

Frances

James

Juliana

Monty

Steve

Kwaku





Dates For Your Diary

December 2023

Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27	28	29	30	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

January 2024

Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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	01	02	03	04

1st Oct – 31 Dec

Revd Singa Vunipola will
be away for Sabbatical

Sun 19th Nov – Sun 24th March.,

Rivercourt Sunday Supper
Service (see item)

Thur 30th Nov – Thur 21st Dec.,
12.30pm-1.00pm

Advent Bible Course
(see item)

Sat 9th Dec., 10.30am

Decorating the church for
Christmas

Sun 10th Dec., 12.30pm

Second Sunday Bring and
Share Lunch at Rivercourt

Sun 17th Dec., 11.00am

Rivercourt Carol Service

Thur 21st Dec., 10.45am

Film and Faith discussion
at Rivercourt

Sun 24th Dec., 11.00pm

Midnight Mass Service at
Rivercourt

Mon 25th Dec., 10.30am

Christmas Day Service at
Rivercourt



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.



Advent Bible Course

**Out
of the
Ordinary**

**Scratch beneath the
surface this Christmas**

Thursdays at 12.30pm - Rivercourt
30th November - Monty Grigg
7th December - Rev Marilyn Neufville
14th December - Monty Grigg
21st December - Rev Faith Nyota

The **Methodist** Church

methodist.org.uk/OutOfTheOrdinary

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The Advent Course - The campaign for 2023 is *Out of the Ordinary*. Share how the wonder of God's love is revealed in the ordinary...

- a seemingly ordinary birth becomes God's out of the ordinary world-saving event through Jesus.
- every day, ordinary acts of kindness can breakthrough to the extraordinary.

The website for the Methodist Church www.methodistchurch.org has lots of resources for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, where individuals can watch our Christmas film, and sign up for daily Advent reflections. At Rivercourt we will be following the Advent Course on Thursdays from 12.30pm – 1.00pm in place of the usual lunch time service. (I think Monty's -or me -sent you the programme?)

Advent Calendar – In response to the lack of Christian references for Advent Calendars, the Church of England have produced their own. Designed to help children and families get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We have bought a limited number and if anyone would like to buy one they are £4.50 each. See Joan



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



Film and Faith – December

The last film of 2023 we shall be discussing is "***Food for Ravens***".

The film is a drama on the life of Aneurin Bevan, founder of the National Health Service. The play focuses on Bevan's final days, showing him musing on his life and career from his sickbed in Buckinghamshire.

Please note there will be no showing of the film this month so you will need to view it at home, for free, on BBC iPlayer.

This is a TV movie which would probably receive a rating of 15.

Remember you need to watch the film before you come to the discussion.



Each discussion you are invited to make a *voluntary* donation (we suggest £2) to help with costs and raise money for charity. This year we have been supporting **Doorstep Library**, a charity that brings the joy of reading and stories to children in Hammersmith and Fulham.

We shall meet to discuss "*Food for Ravens*" at Rivercourt on Thursday 21st December 2023, 10.45 - 12.15.

Do come and join us. Everyone is welcome.



Rivercourt News

John Bridges



Our valued Church member, John, sadly passed away peacefully on 02 December 2023. John joined Rivercourt in June 2021 and has made an invaluable contribution to the congregation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with John's family and friends.

Retiring Collection

The Retiring Collection for September 2022 – August 2023 was £289.00 and this has been divided equally between the 3 Charities supported by the Methodist Church – Christian Aid, All We Can and NCH Action For Children.

Part-Time Administrator

We've offered the position to someone and are hopeful she will start with us early in 2024.

Sunday 26th November 2023

On Sunday 26th November 2023 we had a Conversational Worship service. Monty Grigg led the service and John Bridges was the 'Master of Ceremonies' who asked the guest, Vicky Lawrence, the questions.



The service was very much enjoyed by most. With many wanting the conversation to go on for longer. Vicky shared details about her past and the reasons why she picked the hymns she did. We look forward to the next conversational service.

Have you noticed?

During November, you may have noticed some changes in the Church, the original hand dryers in the toilets have been replaced with new high-powered dryers.

With donations from the late Muriel Hocking, Margaret Ford & the Bag Beetle Bag event, we have created a Childrens Corner for young children to use while the service is taking place. This will enable the children's parents/carers to enjoy the service while the children play.

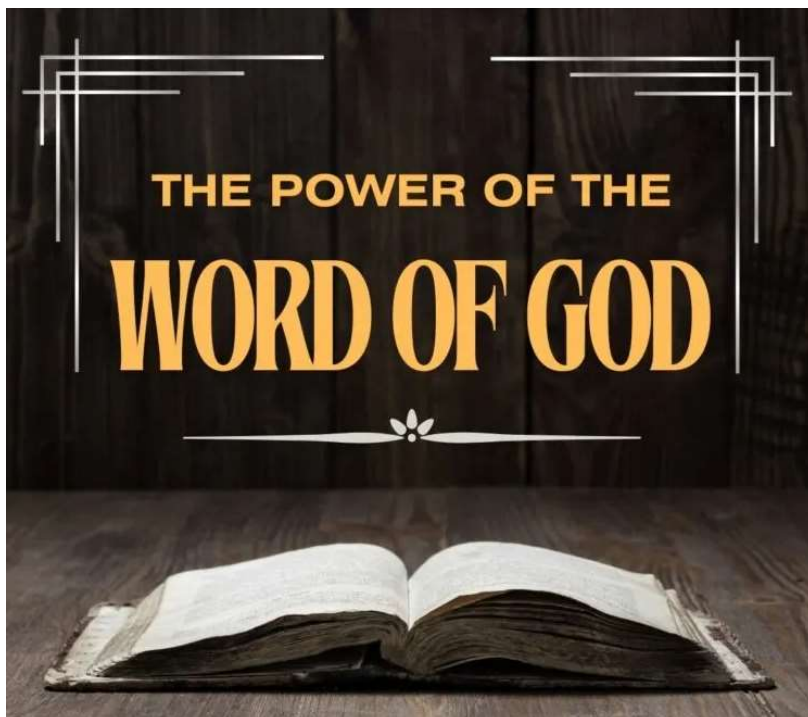




Morning Prayers

Would you like to be part of a morning prayer group? The aim will be for the group to prayer together over the phone for 15-30 minutes, once a week, led by Reverend Singa.

If this is something you would be interested in, please speak to Juliana.



Read the Bible in 12 Months

A Beginner's Bible Reading Plan

- *Survey the Bible in one year, reading only 15 verses a day!*

This Bible Reading Plan has been chosen as an introduction to reading the Word of God. It is well-suited to All Ages Readers, especially mindful of those who are new to the Bible, slower readers, or anyone who wants to



survey highlights of the Bible at a pace that gives plenty of time for meditation. **This plan does not take the place of plans that cover the whole Bible.**

What part of the Bible will I read? Readings are included from every book of the Bible. This Plan includes about 4472 key verses out of 31,103 verses of the whole Bible - 14% or 1/7 of the Bible). Passages are arranged mostly in chronological order, with 8 months of Old Testament readings and 4 months of the New Testament.

The suggested reading Schedule: There are 25 readings each month, averaging less than 15 verses a day. Each monthly handout can be completed by following one of these suggested schedules:

1. Read 6 days a week until finished.
2. Read 5 days a week plus do one 5-reading day each month. Since you use a new handout each month, you will be alerted at the end of each month if you are falling behind. should you fall behind, readings are short enough that you can easily read two in one day until you catch up.

When can I begin:

There are 12 reading guides - one for each month. Months are unnamed on the handouts, so you can begin any time of the year. Why not start today?

The reading plan is included as an insert in the newsletter.

Revd Singa Vunipola



Thank you's:

All who contribute to the newsletter. Your input is invaluable.

Juliana

Betty for arranging the church flowers each Sunday.

Juliana

Please pray for:

Christine and Uncle Thomas as they both continue to recover from illness.

All those mourning the loss of loved ones.

Reverend Singa as she takes her 3 months sabbatical.

The family and friends of John who has suddenly passed away.



**Our prayers are
with you all**



Poets Corner

Still, Still, Still

Still, still, still,
Let all the earth be still,
For Mary in her arms enfolding
Hope of all the world is holding.

Sing, sing, sing,
Sweet angel voices sing,
While Jesus lies in manger dreaming,
Seraph choirs from Heaven are streaming.

Light, light, light,
The sky is filled with light,
The holy star its news a-blazing,
Sign of hope for nations raising.

Submitted by: Margaret
Written by: Aled Jones



A message from the editor

Hello Rivercourt Family!

I hope you enjoy reading this bumper double edition, which takes us into 2024. Thank you to all those who have contributed over the course of the year.

This Christmas please continue to pray for all those not able to celebrate Christmas with their loved ones.

As this is our double Christmas edition newsletter, covering Christmas and the New Year, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a happy new year. Tell me all about your festive fun when we return in February. If you have any news or events you want to be published in the February edition please see below for all the methods available for you to get that information to me.

- via email to office@rivercourt.org.uk include the word *newsletter* in the subject.
- by speaking directly to me following a Sunday service

The deadline for the February edition is Sunday 28th January.

Have a very happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year

Stay safe, stay well, stay connected!

Kindest regards

Juliana



Services in the coming period

Sunday 3rd December

Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Revd Marilyn Neufville

Team on Duty: Steve's Team

Thursday 7th December

Rivercourt Church Advent Bible Course at 12.30pm
Preacher, Revd Marilyn Neufville

Sunday 10th December- Holy Communion

Rivercourt Church worship at 11.00am
Preacher, Revd Deji Okegbile

Team on Duty: Betty's Team

Thursday 14th December

Rivercourt Church Advent Bible Course at 12.30pm
Preacher, Revd Marilyn Neufville

Sunday 17th December- Carol Service

Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Mr Monty Griggs

Team on Duty: Juliana's Team

Thursday 21st December

Rivercourt Church Advent Bible Course at 12.30pm
Preacher, Revd Marilyn Neufville



Sunday 24th December

Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Mr. Fe'ao Vunipola

Team on Duty: Steve's Team

Sunday 24th December- Midnight Mass Service

Rivercourt Church worship at 11pm
Preacher, Revd Faith Nyota

Monday 25th December- Christmas Day

Rivercourt Church worship at 10.30am
Preacher, Mr Monty Grigg

Team on Duty: Betty's Team

Thursday 28th December

Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, TBC

Sunday 31st December

Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Akinyele

Team on Duty: Juliana's Team

Thursday 4th January

Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, TBC



Sunday 7th January

Rivercourt Church worship at 10.55am
Preacher, Bullen

Team on Duty: Steve's Team

Thursday 11th January

Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, TBC

Sunday 14th January- Holy Communion/Covenant Service

Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Revd Singa Vunipola

Team on Duty: Betty's Team

Thursday 18th January

Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, TBC

Sunday 21st January

Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Mr. Fe'ao Vunipola

Team on Duty: Juliana's Team

Thursday 25th January

Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, TBC



Sunday 28th January

Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Revd Singa Vunipola

Team on Duty: Steve's Team

Thursday 1st February

Rivercourt Church worship at 12.30pm
Preacher, TBC

Sunday 4th February

Rivercourt Church worship at 11am
Preacher, Finucane

Team on Duty: Betty's Team



Don't Forget!

- **Rivercourt is open on Thursdays 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.