

Rivercourt Methodist Church

Rivercourt News

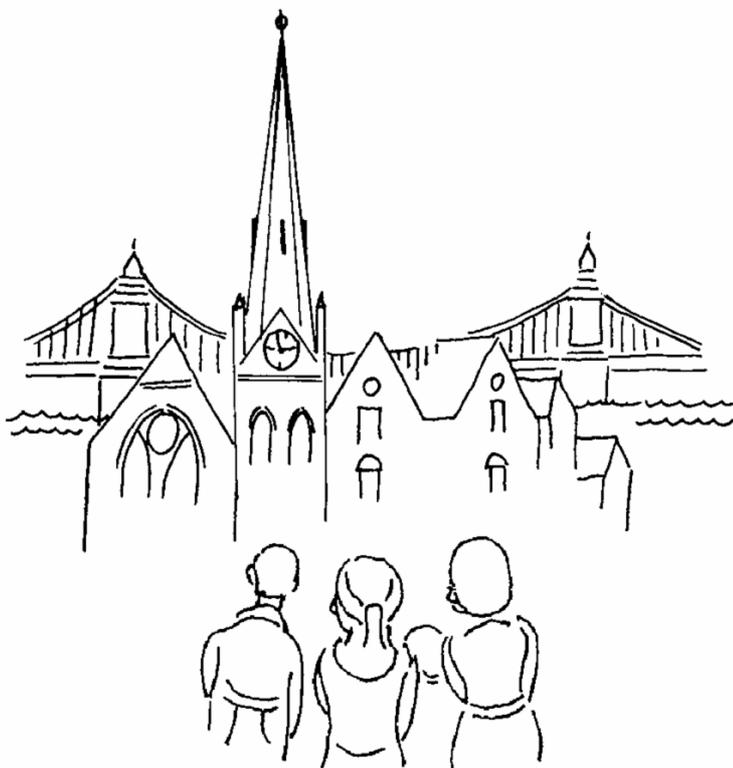
October 2018

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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 head of the trustees is Rev. Paul Saunders

The trustees are:

Joan

Fiona

Vanessa

Juliana

Monty

Steve

Philip

Sigourney

Kwaku

Dates For Your Diary

October 2018

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

13th Oct.,

User Group Open Day

5th Nov.,

Working Party to tidy up the Church

11th Nov.,

Glass door Nightshelter starts (see item)

8th Dec.,

Circuit Christmas Concert (details to follow in next months newsletter)

New Ways of Stewardship at Rivercourt

We have been having discussions over the past few months about the dwindling number of stewards. A solution is in place which involves four teams taking it in turn to undertake all the tasks which need to be completed on a Sunday morning. The teams consist of 3-4 team members and a team leader. The team leaders are:

- Fiona
- Juliana
- Betty
- Steve

Below is the list of tasks which the team undertake:

nb. The team on duty should be in the church by 10.30am.

Team Leader

Prior to Sunday

- Check the order of service for special requirements, hymn numbers, readings.
- Find readers and issue readings.
- Buy milk.

On Sunday

- Bring milk
- Open the building
- Prepare and read the notices during the service

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- Greet and prepare the preacher before the service; assist with radio mic., check they have everything they require, lead a prayer before the service
 - Count the collection (with a witness, e.g. team member 1), record, lock in safe.
 - Lock up building, leave by Rivercourt Road door.

Team Members

Set up church for service

- Switch on the lights
- Set up the microphones and sound system; switch on, check mics, deliver radio mic. to vestry
- Put the falls out
- Put up the hymn numbers
- Prepare the hymn books, orders of service, service books as appropriate.
- Put out the candles and matches
- Find people to take collection and hand out bags
- Prepare water for the preacher
- Check church steps, clear any rubbish

Before service

- Set up for refreshments; cups and saucers etc. (tea, coffee, biscuits in cupboard at rear of church), milk from Team Leader.
- Welcome congregation to the service and distribute books/sheets as appropriate.

At start of service

- Light the candles, say opening prayer and introduce minister.

During service

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- Operate microphones

After service tidying up

- Collect and pack up radio mic., switch off sound system
- Put the falls away
- Put the hymn books etc. away
- Put the candles away
- Put the preacher's water away
- Switch off the lights
- Serve refreshments, then clear away.
- Shut front doors
- Security check round building - all lights extinguished, nobody inside, all internal doors shut, report to Team Leader.
- Leave by Rivercourt Road door.

We are still looking for team members so, if you feel like you could do any of the above, please speak to one of the team leaders.

Thank you:

Everyone for embracing the new ways of stewarding. The sharing of the Sunday duties is brilliant and allowing us all to be more involved with the Church.

Juliana

Please pray

for:

Those Church members who are unable to make it to Church.

Please pray for those who mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Our Circuit as we review how we will organise ourselves without an appointment of a new minister after Paul leaves us in August 2019.



**Our prayers are with you
all**

GLASS DOOR

Homeless support in West London churches

The 2018 Glass Door Night Shelter season commences at Rivercourt on Sunday 11th November. Thank you for all your harvest donations. These will be given to the Night Shelter guests over the coming weeks.

The two members of St Peters Church who slept out on Friday 5th October raised a fantastic £3,000. Well done to them!

I urge you all to contribute towards helping this worthy charity with the invaluable work they do. See below the various ways you can help:

Cooking Could you come in at 6pm and cook for our guests using a recipe that will be provided?	Setting up Could you arrive at 7pm Set up table and chairs and chat to our guests?
Serving Could you arrive between 6.30pm & 7pm. Heat up the food, serve and wash up?	Praying Could you undertake to pray for our guests and the work of the nightshelter at least once a week?
Giving Could you give money, toiletries, clothes, and food for the work of the nightshelter?	If you could do any of these things please see Steve

Users of the Rivercourt Building

At our meeting in January this year with Paul Saunders and Mark Davenport, we thought about and discussed ways of growing our Church Community. These discussions continued and developed throughout the spring. One suggestion was to interact more with the users of the building. There were examples of other churches who had done this successfully. Some of us who have been worshipping at Rivercourt for a long time, were reminded of one of the major reasons for the redevelopment. Not only did we have to do something with a large Victorian, cold, inflexible building in need of major repairs; we wanted to make a flexible, inviting space that could be shared with the local community.

Today we are fortunate in having so many lettings. To a large extent we have achieved our mission. The building generates income and provides space for the community.

Most of our lettings are to groups and charities that operate on a not-for profit basis. We have some commercial lettings for which we charge a higher letting fee.

We had our first User Group meeting in April 2018 which gave us good information about the building. The Users that attended were very appreciative of being invited to a meeting and requested further meetings.

We organised another meeting for September, which unfortunately we had to cancel due to lack of response and then last minute cancellations which was very disappointing.

Based upon the lack of response we sent out a questionnaire asking our Users:

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- If meetings were useful?
 - If yes, what would be convenient days/times?
 - If meetings were not useful/awkward to attend, how did they wish to interact with the Church?

We received 8 replies.

Of those 8 replies,

- 4 organisations wanted meetings, 1 did not and 3 didn't answer.
- 5 organisations wanted to participate in an Open Day and 1 did not. 2 didn't answer.

There were 3 additional comments, 1 requesting (in an ideal world) air conditioning/better ventilation, 1 asking for promotion/advertising of any Open Day event planned and lastly, 1 expressing satisfaction with the building.

A question for us as the congregation of Rivercourt to consider is 'What sort of relationship with our Users do we want?'

There are 3 main types:

- * An informal, individual relationship, where individuals attend/interact/participate with one or more of our User organisations.
- * A more formal, organisational contractual relationship in between Rivercourt Church and the Users of the building.
- * As above, a more formal, organisational contractual relationship in between Rivercourt Church led by the Church Administrator and the Minister (rather than members of the Church) with the Users of the building.

Joan

Poets Corner

Quiet Work

One lesson, Nature, let me learn of thee,
One lesson which in every wind is blown,
One lesson of two duties kept at one
Though the loud world proclaim their enmity--

Of toil unsever'd from tranquility!
Of labor, that in lasting fruit outgrows
Far noisier schemes, accomplish'd in repose,
Too great for haste, too high for rivalry.

Yes, while on earth a thousand discords ring,
Man's fitful uproar mingling with his toil,
Still do thy sleepless ministers move on,

Their glorious tasks in silence perfecting;
Still working, blaming still our vain turmoil,
Laborers that shall not fail, when man is gone.

Written by: Matthew Arnold

Submitted by Margaret



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Who picked my tea?

Traidcraft Exchange's new campaign is focusing on the tea workers in Assam in northern India and calling on the 'Big 6' UK brands to tell us: who picked my tea?

Say the word 'Assam' and most of us will think of a nice freshly-brewed cup of tea. Assam was the first place in the world where tea was mass produced for the British market, and tea from there has been shipped to the UK for over a hundred years.

Today many breakfast blends include tea from Assam and tea companies proudly show pictures of smiling tea pickers on their websites.

But Assam hides a dirty secret. Despite producing some of the most highly priced teas in India, the workers are some of the worst paid, earning far less than the tea pickers in the south Indian states of Kerala and Karnataka. Other services which the estate owner should provide are poor quality or just not provided at all, and workers report a culture of surveillance and control on the estates.

We asked an independent journalist and their team to visit Assam and talk to some of the workers on estates that we believed supply the UK. These women told us about how they struggle to make ends meet on their daily wage. Their

houses are in a state of disrepair, and health clinics often have no staff and few medicines.

“I pluck leaves. I start work at 8am, we work for 8 hours. For 8 hours of work, the wage we get is too little, for difficult work.”

Assam has the worst maternal mortality rates in India, and the rates in the tea estate areas are even higher than the rest of the state.

Tea estate wages in Assam are agreed on a state-wide basis by the estate owners. But we think there’s something the British brands who buy from Assam could do which could make a real difference.

Six UK brands together make up around two-thirds of UK retail sales of tea. They are: Tetley, Twinings, PG Tips, Typhoo, Yorkshire and Clipper. These brands have all been buying from Assam for many years, and they are well aware of the problems but are not doing enough to challenge it.

We think it’s high time these brands stepped up on behalf of the workers.

Visit the below web page to add your voice by asking the big brands: “Who picked my tea?”

<https://action.traidcraft.org.uk/who-picked-my-tea-freedom>

Submitted by Margaret

A message from the editor

What an amazing article from Traidcraft. Thanks for submitting this Margaret.

I urge you all to visit the website and let your voice be heard. Traidcraft are trying to get 10,000 voices and at the time of writing this article they had reached 9,823. Your voice could make all the difference. Please visit

<https://action.traidcraft.org.uk/who-picked-my-tea-freedom>

If you wish to contribute to the November newsletter please let me know via any of the below mediums:

- 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 November edition is Sunday 28th October.

Ideas and Suggestions

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the Church and /or our time together please either speak to Rev. Paul Saunders, a Trustee , email office@rivercourt.org.uk or write the idea on a piece of paper and put it into the box at the rear of the Church.

Kindest regards

Juliana

Services in the coming period

Sunday 7th Oct., 11.00am Holy Communion; Preacher:
Revd Paul Saunders

Team on duty: Fiona's team

Sunday 14th Oct, 11.00am Preacher: Revd Paul Saunders

Team on duty: Juliana's team

Sunday 21st Oct., 11.00am Preacher: Mr Monty Grigg

Team on duty: Betty's team

Sunday 28th Oct., 11.00am Preacher: Revd Deji Okegbile

Team on duty: Steve's team

Sunday 4th Nov., 11.00am Holy Communion; Preacher:
Revd Paul Saunders

Team on duty: Juliana's team