

Rivercourt Methodist Church



Rivercourt News

March 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 stewards.

Juliana

Francess



Dates For Your Diary

March 2018

Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	27	28	29	30	31	1

Sun 12th Nov – Glass Door Nightshelter at
Sun 08th April., Rivercourt (see item)

Wed 21st March 7:15pm Circuit Meeting
Fulham Broadway

Sat 24th March 10am-4pm Women's Conference
Real Women, Real Lives
Fulham Broadway

Thurs 29th March 6:30pm Joint Maundy Thursday
Service, Shepherd's Bush
Road

Thurs 29th March 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service,
Chelsea

Fri 30th March 10:30am Good Friday Service
Askew Road

Fri 30th March 11:00am Good Friday Service
Shepherd's Bush Road
Fulham Broadway

Dear Friends,

Easter Sunday this year falls on 1st April, April fool's day. In my more irreverent moments it conjures up a picture in my mind of Jesus appearing to his disciples shouting, "fooled you, you thought I was dead". Except, of course, this was no prank or joke; He was dead, but now he was alive and walking among them.

So how do we know that Jesus was dead? Well to begin with it was the Romans who killed him, and they knew a thing or two about death, they knew more ways to kill people than you could possibly imagine. They also knew that it was more than their lives were worth to take anyone down off the cross before they were dead, especially someone as high profile as Jesus.

They had two ways of making sure someone they had crucified was dead. The first was for those who still seemed to have some life left in them, and that was to break their legs. This would cause the body to go into shock which in their weakened state was fatal. The second was for those who they believed to be dead, and for them they stuck a spear in their side, just to be sure. This is what happened to Jesus, as we read in John 19 –

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

The observation about blood and water is important as, without going into the medical details, it was a sign of death.

So, Jesus was certainly dead, but did he rise from the dead, or was it some sort of spirit that the disciples (and others) encountered? There are two important bits of evidence for this, the first being the empty tomb itself. For Jesus to appear in Spirit form would not have required his body to disappear, as spirits were disembodied by nature. But Jesus wanted them to be clear that he had risen in bodily form, and so He countered Thomas' doubts in John 20 by inviting him to touch His wounds, something that would not have been possible with a spirit.

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thus we proclaim as a fact at Easter that Jesus is risen indeed. However, the real proof of the resurrection is not in the historical evidence, but in the way that He continues to touch our lives today so that we can sing with full hearts, I know that my redeemer lives.

Happy Easter

Paul

Church Council Meeting

Report from Church Council 11th February 2018:

Below is a snapshot – please read further details in the Minutes which are available at the rear of the church.

Some points to note:

- Work on the rose window has been completed.
- There has been a big tidy up/clear up within the church and new storage has been given to some of our users.
- New Bibles have been purchased and are in use, so that we can all refer to the Revised Standard Version.
- We are still considering what to do with regard to the flowers in the Church
- Our financial position is strong.
- We are in a position to proceed with new chairs, new lighting, new multi-purpose furniture for the Vestry/Office and additional musical instruments for use by the congregation on Sundays.
- A new PA/AV system is being researched.
- The Night shelter continues

New Matters Arising:

- Lent Course – Thursdays 22nd February – 29th March 7.30pm in the Vestry.
- We are keen to arrange social time with each other and anybody with thoughts, suggestions and ideas please see either Steve, Fiona, Joan or Monty. If you can write them on a piece of paper that would help.
- Safeguarding training will be arranged for those individuals who are required to be trained.
- The regulations regarding Data Protection are changing in May. Guidance will be provided and we will need to change the way in which we ask and record people's information.

Vacancies:

There is a vacancy for a JMA secretary – anyone interested should speak with Paul.

Next Meeting:

Sunday 29th April 2018 at 12.30. Please make a note in your diary and stay for the meeting. Your views matter! *Joan*

Invitation Committee

An Invitation Committee needs to be appointed to review the re-appointment of Revd Paul Saunders in the Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham Circuit for 5 years starting in August 2019. This will consist of the Ministerial team except Paul, the Circuit Stewards and two representatives from Rivercourt Church.

The responsibilities of the two representatives are to ask questions of the Rivercourt congregation and report back to the Invitation Committee with their findings and recommendations. Think about applying. Speak to Steve if you wish to do so.

Thank you:

Juliana for producing the newsletter, preparing the sanctuary before the service, reading the announcements and greetings, either doing the Bible readings or finding someone to do them, looking after the children too young to sit through the service, handing out the elements for communion, fixing the coffee following the service, cleaning up afterwards and testing the fire alarm every week. Is that everything? Probably not!

Please pray

for:

The family of: Stephen & Editha, Seth Odoi, Mick Gowland, Connie Appiah-Nuamah, Doreen Brackett, Joseph Kodwo Essuon Azariah, Jerry Pascall, Eileen Pascall, Rosaline Fearn, Doris Begent, Ronald Smith, Margaret Smith, Jean McCollum and Rebecca Rodney.



**Our prayers are with you
all**

Can you help the Glass Doors Nightshelter Project?

We will be hosting the Glass Door Nightshelter Project.
There are many ways of helping. So please get involved.

Setting up

Could you
Arrive at 7pm
Lay tables or cut up bread?

Serving

Could you
Serve food, chat to guests or 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
or a steward.**

Poets Corner

Nightfall

The church bells make their tumbling song,
And swiftly now the shadows grow
 The quiet fields:

Five little poplars in a row
Strip with long shadows half the weald,
 The elm-tree shadows flow,

Like streams till all the vale is filled ----
Talk of the rocks is not well done
 And there the first bat wheeled:

Behind the beechwood the red sun
Burns on the ground, a woodman's fire,
 And suddenly is gone:

Yet touched with gold are roof and spire,
And the young corn is lucent still,
 And higher, ever higher

The small clouds hold the light, until
Dusk draws its azure through the air –
 The long shape of the hill

Against the west is sleeping there:
This is earth's calm and gentle hour,--
 With darkening fields men share

Peace, like the closing of a flower.

Author: Sylvia Lynd (1888-1952)

Cook's Corner

Sichuan-style Pork & Peanut Noodles

Serves: 4

Preparation time: 5 minutes

Cooking time: 20 minutes

Ingredients

1 tsp Bart Sichuan Pepper	1 tsp chilli oil (such as chiu chow chilli oil)
1 tbsp vegetable oil	2 tbsp soy sauce
500g minced pork	2 tsp sesame oil
1 tbsp shooxing rice wine	250g pock dried fine egg noodles
200ml fresh chicken stock	250g pack Tenderstem broccoli cut into 3cm pieces
2 Bart Star Anise	Handful of roasted peanuts, roughly chopped
3 tbsp tahini	
2 tbsp rice vinegar	
1 tsp honey	

Method

Heat a large frying pan over a medium heat and toast the Sichuan peppercorns for 2-3 minutes until fragrant; tip out and crush in a pestle and mortar. Heat the vegetable oil in the pan over a high heat, tip in the pork, crushed pepper, a pinch of salt and the rice wine and fry, stirring, until golden and crisp – about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small pan, heat the stock and star anise, simmering until reduced by half. Then whisk in the tahini, vinegar, honey, chilli oil, soy sauce and 1 tsp sesame oil.

Simmer the noodles and broccoli in boiling water for 3 minutes, then toss with the remaining 1 tsp sesame oil. Divide the warm sauce between 4 bowls, pile in the noodles and broccoli, then top with the crispy pork and a sprinkling of peanuts.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

We know that Matt, Community Sales Manager from Traidcraft PLC means business when it comes to Big Brew. He says, "Big Brew gives us a moment where Traidcraft PLC, the company, and Traidcraft Exchange, the charity can work together to bring about significant change. This year we could effectively double the amount of people being offered assistance, so it is important we make the most of the wonderful opportunity."

"Your event does not have to be a massive occasion. It could simply be an invite to your neighbours to come for tea and a chat. People long for community. If you are part of an organization that has its own premises, what better way to show you care than opening your doors and sharing the gift of hospitality. Tips are "Be open, Be relevant, Be real. Be there.""

Look out for special offers, deals and tips for your Big Brew from Traidcraft PLC on the shop website – www.traidcraftshop.org.uk.

Services in the coming period

Sunday 4th March, 11.00am Holy Communion, Preacher:
Revd Paul Saunders

Sunday 11th March, 11.00am Family Service, Mothering
Sunday, Preacher: Revd Paul
Saunders

Sunday 18th March, 11.00am Preacher: Mr. Monty Grigg

Sunday 25th March, 11.00am Palm Sunday, Preacher:
Revd Paul Saunders

Sunday 1st April, 11.00am Easter Sunday, Holy
Communion, Family Service
Preacher: Revd Paul Saunders