

Rivercourt Methodist Church

Rivercourt News

April 2012

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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.

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Dates For Your Diary

April 2012						
Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
26	27	28	29	30	31	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	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

Mon 2nd April –
Wed 4th April., 7pm

Telling the story from Marks
Gospel- Dramatic Reflective
Service at Fulham Broadway
Methodist

Thur 5th April., 7.00pm

Maundy Thursday- Circuit Seder
Meal at Fulham Broadway
Methodist

Fri 6th April., 10.00am

Service at Fulham Broadway
Methodist

Fri 6th April., 10.30am

Service at Shepherds Bush
Methodist

Fri 6th April., 12.00pm

Ecumenical Service at Kings
Mall

Sun 8th April., 11.00am

Easter Sunday

From our Minister

Dear friends,

This month's newsletter is published on April Fool's Day which this year coincides with Palm Sunday. There is something serendipitous, I feel, about these two days falling together.

As Jesus entered Jerusalem and died because his vision of God's life in the world and us all, he did something which was foolhardy in the eyes of the world. As the Chief Priests remind us, it would arguably be wise to quench opposition through the death of one man than to risk the wrath of the occupier.

The donkey led procession into Jerusalem might be seen as a fools' parade when you realize the parade of military might coming likely to be entering the city through other gates as Roman legionaries came to ensure a peaceful festival. As the week goes on Mark's Gospel has Jesus overturning tables and challenging the establishment in the Temple, and being drenched in perfumed oil by a lady admirer. He has supper with his friends and then walks into the hands of his enemies. Hardly the actions of a worldly wise individual – truly a holy fool!

Angela Ashwin, in her book, *Faith in the Fool*, writes "Jesus is arguably the greatest fool who ever lived. The Gospels show us a passionate and attractive

man, both joyful and shocking in his behaviour. The meals and parties he most enjoyed appear to have been in the company of those who were widely regarded as disreputable...He cared nothing for pomp and power and everything for humanity, celebration and healing. ... Although his message was full of the loving mercy of God, we humans could not handle him. He was far too subversive and uncomfortable. So we killed him."

I wonder what the church would be like if we followed Jesus' example in being the fool for God and caring for humanity, celebration and healing above power, pomp and position. Could we too be joyful and shocking in our passion for God's life? What would that look like today? How are we called to leave the worldly wise behind and be foolish in God's love?

I wish you much play, celebration and healing as we journey into the season of resurrection and paradox together.

With love and much hope and faith

Rachel

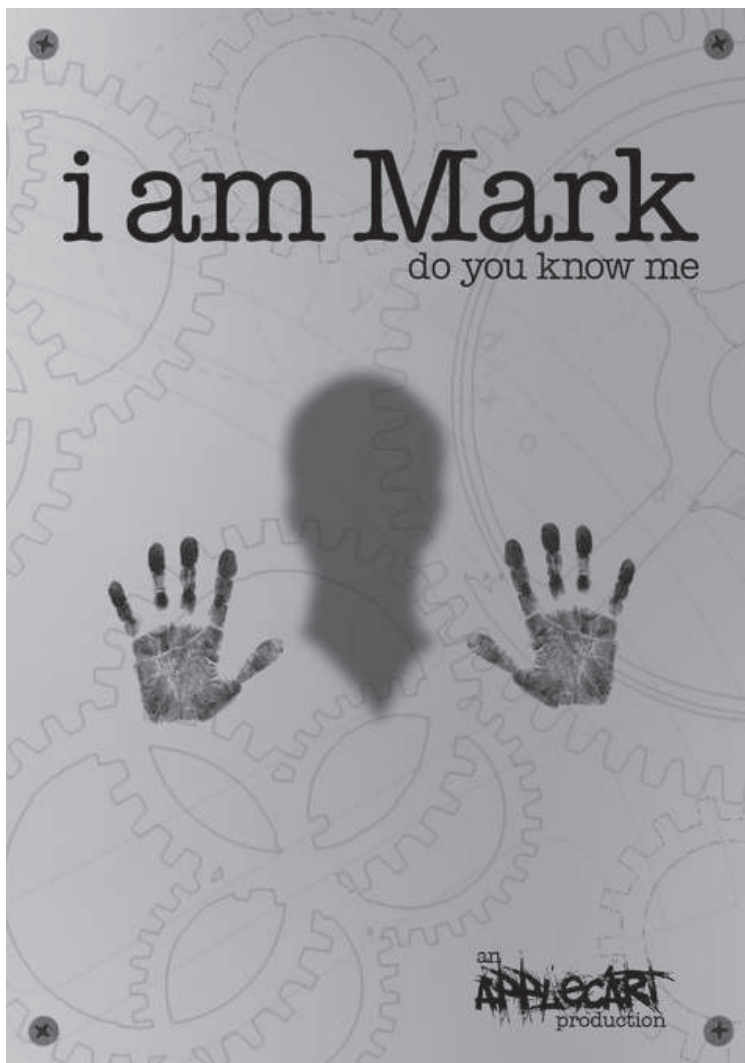
Church Council News

At the recent church council we agreed that it would be a good idea to purchase and begin to use the new Methodist hymnbook, Singing the Faith. Do let us know if you agree by the end of April when we will finalise the decision. Kwaku has a copy for inspection.

We also agreed to purchase 20 new NRSV Bibles.

Good news...Good news...Good news...Good news...

I wrote last month about the campaign for a minimum price for a unit of alcohol. Many of you will have seen on the news that this is being agreed by Parliament.



i am Mark

**Part One 22nd May
& Part Two 23rd May**

***Tickets for each
performance £14 or
buy for both shows
for £20***

Applecourt's innovative style of storytelling combines drama, music, film and comedy to drag traditional

stories kicking and screaming to a modern audience.

Commanding demons and controlling storms, a lone man walks out of the desert and, gathering a nation around him, he walks towards certain death in an occupied land.

Ridding the tale of two thousand years of religious baggage, Applecourt tells the epic story of Mark's Gospel over two nights.

Attracting capacity audiences at festivals, universities and conferences around the country Applecourt's unique brand of storytelling and drama is challenging, disarming, often funny and invariably deeply moving.

Audience Comments: "What I had not expected was that I

would still be thinking about what I had heard a day, a week, then a month later!” “Inventive, entertaining and challenging... I found it utterly compelling.” “Brilliant – Seeing is believing. ” “Applecourt has got integrity. It cuts through the crap... I loved it. “Applecourt are, in essence, tellers of 'the Story'. I know I'm not alone in the deep appreciation I have for the way they tell it!” Parents should be aware that Applecourt performances may include strong language.



**You are
invited to
dinner**



Circuit Maundy Thursday Passover Seder Meal

Fulham Broadway Methodist Church

7pm

Thursday 5th April 2012

**We will share a full meal
so please don't eat before you
arrive!**



Birthday Calendar

I can't believe the same thing has happened again this year. No one in the congregation has admitted to celebrating their birthday in April. I don't believe it!!! If you have not provided me with your name and birthday please do so. Simply put a note in the newsletter folder, which can be found in the lounge area.

Happy Birthday to all those who celebrate their birthday in April. We wish you all everything you wish for yourselves and much more. May the Lord continue to bless you and His love shine down upon you.



Thank yous:

All those Rivercourt and non Rivercourt Church members who have and continue to volunteer for the Nightshelter. Without you all the Nightshelter would not be such a success.

Juliana Goode

Margaret Ford for all she does with the Traidcraft stall and her monthly contributions to the newsletter. You're a star.

Juliana Goode

Please pray

for:

Margaret Arnold,
Rosaline Fearn,
Rebecca Rodney, Doris Begent, Jean McCollum, Mrs Katurah Thomas, Kester Fraser, Kwaku Tieku and his partner Donna, Rachel Bending and Stephen Tharpes Wife and their family.

Family and friends of Doreen Brackett who passed away 1 year ago.

The family and friends of all those Church members that have passed away in the past few years Seth Odoi, Mick Gowland, Comfort Appiah-Nuamah and Jerry Pascal. We continue to think of you in our prayers

**Our prayers are with you
all**



Poets Corner

The Donkey

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born;

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools? For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

Written by G K Chesterton

Submitted by Margaret Ford



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Producers Earn Prestige Awards

CRAFT AID which packs some of Traidcraft's sugar and tailors some of the clothing range, have been named the best company in the small enterprise category in the Mauritian Government Business Excellence Awards.

GONE RURAL in Swaziland has collected the Africa growth institute award for best company in the trade sector, one of the highest honours available to small businesses in Africa.

Mifruta in Chile, created in 2008 with Traidcraft's support, received an award from the Euro Chile Enterprise Foundation for the way it has contributed to the relationship between Chile and Europe.

And in neighbouring **PERU**, **ALLPA** one of Traidcraft's oldest craft suppliers has crowned its 25th anniversary celebrations with the **Export Excellence Award** from the **Peruvian Exporters Association**.

I am sure you will join me in sending them our warmest congratulations. What makes it more pleasing is that in accepting the awards they have paid tribute to the role Traidcraft has played in their development

Margaret Ford

A message from the editor

Thank you to all those who contribute to the items contained in the newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you wish to contribute to the newsletter please let me know via any of the below mediums:

- via email to **squigsxx@msn.com** - include the word *newsletter* in the subject.
- written items can be placed in the Newsletter Wallet which is available in the Church Lounge.
- by speaking directly to me following a Sunday service

The deadline for the May edition is Sunday 29th May.

Kindest regards

Juliana Goode

Services in the coming period

Sunday 1st April., 11.00am Palm Sunday, Preacher: Revd Michael Sawyer

Stewards: Vestry Pat

Chapel: Vicky

Door: Vicky

Sunday 8th April., 11.00am Easter Sunday, Preacher: Revd Rachel Bending

Stewards: Vestry: Eddie

Chapel: Vicky

Door: Vicky

Sunday 15th April., 11.00am Preacher: Mrs Margaret Sawyer

Stewards: Vestry Juliana

Chapel: Vicky

Door: Vicky

Sun 22nd April., 11.00am Preacher: Fetuga-Joensuu

Stewards: Vestry: Philip

Chapel: Vicky

Door: Vicky

Sunday 29th April., 11.00am Preacher: Revd Rachel Bending

Stewards: Vestry Pat

Chapel: Vicky

Door: Vicky

Sunday 6th May., 11.00am Holy Communion: Preacher: Revd Rachel Bending

Stewards: Vestry Eddie

Chapel: Vicky

Door: Vicky