

## Open for business

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I was invited on Monday to the blessing and opening of Farhad & Irene Nikayin's new business project, "Oriental Delights" at *The Chicory Café*. Situated on Meridian Place, a 2-minute walk from South Quay DLR station, it's situated in the heart of the docklands. Just behind the café is a beautiful garden next to the water and, since the location is removed from the the main road, it's a peaceful place to relax.

Rev David Hanna, the local pastor, was asked to offer a prayer to bless the venture and he used holy salt to purify the premises. Irene then invited everyone to enjoy a meal. Normally the all-you-can-eat buffet would cost £4.99, but she encouraged us to offer just a donation of gratitude on this occasion. The cuisine was a marriage of mainly typical Chinese restaurant food and Filipino food. I sampled everything available – to assess the standard, of course! – and enjoyed a very filling and tasty meal.



This launch event presented an opportunity to meet some new people who had been invited by Farhad & Irene. I spent most of my time there sitting under a parasol on the patio just outside the café. With the sunny, warm weather, the environment was perfect for casual conversation.

The Nikayins, as well as developing their business, would like to offer their café for the use of public events, so please get in touch with them if you'd like to host a meeting or an event there. Also contact them if you'd like to make a small income from distributing promotional literature for them. Let me know if you need their contact details!

I certainly plan to eat there again. I hope you can enjoy their services soon as well!



Meridian Place - tucked away in the Docklands



Oriental delights!



Peaceful surroundings