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Latest News

Café Doris



An independently run café based in St Andrew's church Spratton, has increased footfall in the building by nearly 400% in just over a year.

A legacy enabled Café Doris to open for business in the summer 2013. Team Leader and Chief Barista, David Bennett and a group of a dozen volunteers open the facility twice a week.

"We live in a café culture" says David, "and we have to recognise that and join in." Consequently Café Doris invested £2000 in a proper espresso machine and serves freshly roasted coffee. "We try a bit harder to be the best in the area. We offer the same standard of coffee as people expect from the high street chains, but at half the price."

A new kitchen and a toilet in the church, commissioned by Bishop Donald in

February 2014, made the project possible.

There have been spin-offs from the investment. "We've worked hard to make this a community facility, to ensure that people are not inhibited by the building. It's been about getting the balance right," he says. The team have been very successful: in addition to the café, there is a monthly community lunch club, a weekly Benefice Youth Club, regular benefice 'Messy Church' events, the local Parish Council use the space for selected meetings, and one-off events such as a Local Produce Show and other special occasions are supported with modern facilities and high quality refreshments.

Though an independent charity, profits are shared with St Andrew's and any balance is re-invested.

Long term David would like to open the café every day. But for the time being he and the team are delighted that the local community are proud of the facility. And it's not just the locals. A recent Italian visitor to Café Doris commended it on the quality of its coffee. Praise indeed.

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