Church Street Community Café

The café is held in St Mary’s Church on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month from 2pm to 4pm. We are open throughout the year including the school holidays. We typically see members of the community arrive around 2pm, some choose to stay for an hour and others stay for the full 2 hours. Just after 3.15pm we welcome the children from St Mary’s school and their carers . This changes the atmosphere and brings a big buzz to the space.

We offer a selection of homemade sweet and savoury bakes along with coffee and various speciality teas plus cordials. These are always well received and we are often complimented on the bakes.

There isn’t a cost, this is most important to us, it is a space for everyone. If people feel able we ask for voluntary cash donations or we have the donation station. We receive between £45 to £60 in donations each session.

During the first hour of the cafe it has been good to witness friendships being made over coffee. We lay out crafts and ping pong for the children who happily play with this or in the churchyard if the weather is kind whilst their carers chat. At Christmas we had a big selection of Christmas crafts and decoration kits for the church tree and Frances Rowberry played piano whilst we sang carols.

This past year we have seen the café numbers go from strength to strength. We are delighted with the number visiting us which can be upto 60. This is a great deal of work both behind the scenes and during the two hours of service. The café would not be possible without Linda Graham and Roz Burns and the amazing team members. Linda and Roz are there every session and completely brilliant.

Going forward our plan is to continue the good work, increase awareness of the café and develop the team. We would like to increase the number of bakers and we are always happy to hear from anyone willing to help at the café.

Joanne Griffin