



the
DOVE
café

Launch Wrap Up

14 May 2022

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Introduction

On Saturday 14 May we held a launch event to bring together our church members, donors, suppliers and the community to celebrate what we have achieved together.

More than two years ago, we embarked on an ambitious project to open our Church building up to the community 7 days a week - to offer a warm welcome, good food, great coffee and access to activities and social connections. Our aim back then and today, remains clear - to reach out to and love our community, tackle loneliness and isolation and build a real sense of community in this town.

For the last couple of months we have been open and busy, welcoming everyone into our café and putting the finishing touches to our staff training and processes. It's been such a joy to see people enjoying themselves and to understand more about what's needed and how we can do things better. Tanya, our super café manager, bakes all the cakes and cookies on the premises and all our food is freshly prepared from scratch. Apart from Tanya, our café is run entirely by volunteers whose dedication and willingness to give their time has enabled our café to thrive. Of course, there is always more to do and we are eager to hear what people think.

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Recap on who we are

OUR MISSION

We are a vibrant cafe and community space serving Beaconsfield.

We exist to deliver the St Thomas Church vision for the next five years and beyond:

1. Enable the people of the church to serve the people of our community practically, by offering hospitality and a range of services and activities which meet their needs
2. Make the church more relevant in our community - playing a more significant role in people's lives by building relationships that really matter
3. Make our church building more open and accessible 7 days a week - creating curiosity and growing engagement in the Christian faith by using our space in new ways at the heart of the community
4. Introduce people to the Christian faith - creating interventions and opportunities beyond Sunday activities
5. Creating a place and activities to connect and engage, where people can meet each other and meet people who can help them meet their needs
6. Play a greater more impactful role in our local community - helping to tackle isolation and loneliness and create a sense of community belonging.

OUR PURPOSE

Connecting our community to God and each other - through good food, great coffee and amazing activities.

ABOUT US

1. We are a place for all, at the heart of the community
2. We seek to provide yummy food made on site using local and ethically sourced products where possible
3. Any money we make goes back into funding activities and services for the community, which is part of the vision of St Thomas' Church
4. We are interested in supporting our community, this starts with getting to know others and spreading kindness
5. Our aim is to reduce loneliness and isolation and create a sense of belonging to our community in Holtspur
6. We want to connect people in our community - to each other, to good food, to activities, to access support, to fellowship at St Thomas' Church and ultimately to deeper relationship with God.

Our launch event goals

1

Create an event to attract the local community, creating a sense of community belonging.

3

Gain wider positive PR for the café to raise awareness and generate further footfall.

2

Celebrate what we have achieved to date with the local community, VIPs and donors.

4

Attract more volunteers to come on board.

Launch day components

- 1 Random acts of kindness** - baked and delivered over 1,000 dove biscuits that we hand delivered with an invitation to local residents.
- 2 Community Stars Awards** - created 3 new community awards to celebrate and champion brilliant local residents (Best Neighbour, Community Star, Young Community Star).
- 3 Loyalty card** - introduced a new loyalty card scheme to encourage repeat custom, these were promoted on the day and delivered to the local community in advance.
- 4 Dove tasting menu** - various canapes reflecting our menu were served along with a complimentary BBQ.
- 5 Garden games** - face painting, hook a duck, giant connect 4, coconut shy and more was on offer for all the family.

Cutting the ribbon



A day for the community



Community Stars Awards



200+

attendees on the day

25

Community Stars
Award nominations

£253

donations received
for St Thomas' Church

310

Burgers and sausages
cooked on the BBQ

x2

pieces of press
coverage in
The Bucks Free Press

What we achieved

The event was a huge success with over 200 local residents, church members, donors and suppliers attending to celebrate together.

Town Crier Dick Smith, MP Joy Morrissey and deputy Mayor Jackson Ng, helped long-standing church members Michael and Margaret Grace officially cut the opening ribbon.

Joy Morrissey, local MP attended our launch and had this to say; 'I was delighted to attend the grand opening of The Dove Café this weekend. This fantastic initiative will bring local people together and I have no doubt become a popular spot in Holtspur and Beaconsfield. It was particularly humbling to be asked to help present some of the first Beaconsfield Community Stars Awards, recognising some truly remarkable local residents who have really made a difference in the last year.'

Our launch event also saw the winners crowned for The Dove Cafe's Community Stars Awards. Tony Griffiths picked up the Good Neighbour Award for his fantastic and continued efforts supporting people in his neighbourhood and running activities for the elderly. Jayne Cloudsdale, a local brownie leader won Best Community Star for her tireless efforts supporting activities for young people. The Young Community Star Award was shared by Ben Edwards and Sienna Taylor - the judges felt both had made a huge positive impact. They each took home a hamper of goodies and flowers donated by local Beaconsfield businesses.

Anita Cranmer, Chair of Better Connected Beaconsfield and Judge of the awards had this to say about our awards; 'It was an absolute privilege to judge these inaugural awards - all entries were fantastic and heart-warming to read, these individuals have each made a huge positive impact connecting our town'.

Overall, the launch event provided a brilliant opportunity for the Beaconsfield community to meet, connect with, and support each other.

Press coverage

Beaconsfield Community Stars Awards nominations close soon

10th May



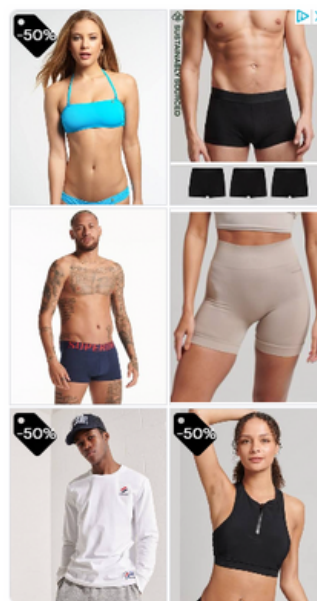
The Dove Cafe is run by volunteers (Image: Katie Buchanan).



By Noora Mykkanen
Community Reporter

[NooraMykkanen](#)

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<https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/20126769.beaconsfield-community-stars-awards-nominations-close-soon/>

Beaconsfield welcomes its new community café



AROUND 200 Beaconsfield residents gathered to the launch of the new community café in Holtspur.

The Dove Café at St Thomas' Church, Mayflower Way, opened its doors in mid-February, but the official launch was celebrated on Saturday (May 14).

Everyone from the community was invited to try the Dove tasting menu and complimentary BBQ followed by games in the church's garden.

Town Crier Dick Smith, Beaconsfield MP Joy Morrissey and deputy mayor Jackson Ng helped the long-standing church members Michael and Margaret Grace officially cut the opening ribbon.

Joy Morrissey said: "I was delighted to attend the grand opening of The Dove Cafe this weekend.

"This fantastic initiative will

bring local people together and I have no doubt become a popular spot in Holtspur and Beaconsfield.

"It was particularly humbling to be asked to help present some of the first Beaconsfield Community Stars Awards, recognising some truly remarkable local residents who have really made a difference in the last year."

The Dove Cafe manager Tanya bakes all her cakes and cookies on site, and all food is freshly prepared from scratch.

Apart from Tanya, the café, which is open seven days a week, is run entirely by a team of dedicated volunteers.

The winners of the first Beaconsfield Community Stars Awards were also crowned for their efforts in helping others and making a positive impact.

Anyone wanting to volunteer can contact meet@thedove.cafe

<https://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/20145683.beaconsfield-dove-cafe-opens-officially/>

Our impact to date

It's early days for us, but in his opening address at the launch, Rev Michael Johnson shared some examples of how the vision of connecting with and loving the local community is already being seen.

- An elderly widow who has recently moved to Holtspur to be near her daughter and is struggling to find new friends. She comes into the café several times a week just to chat and enjoy being in company. She has already made friends.
- A young mum whose family lives a long way away. She feels lonely and isolated at home with her young baby but she has now joined a baby class run in the church hall and comes over to the café with her new friends where they can all relax and get to know each other while their babies happily sit in their high-chairs or play safely on the floor.
- A man recovering from a severe illness who comes every week knowing he can always find good coffee and fabulous cakes and can stay as long as he likes.
- A man living on his own who talks about the friendly atmosphere he finds in the cafe where he is always made to feel welcome.
- A young teacher with children at a school nearby who can bring her laptop into the cafe and catch up on lesson preparation while she waits to pick up the youngest one, knowing she will not be asked to move on and will find just the right sense of space and calm to get on with her work without having to drive home and back again.



Our future focus

In addition to maintaining momentum and evolving our processes, we have three key focus areas:

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Evolving our menu	Responding to feedback and learnings to update and evolve our menu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refreshed menu, attracting new and repeat customers
Creating new propositions	Exploring ways to target new audiences, such as lower income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building inclusivity in the community• Attracting new customers• Tackling loneliness
Creating activities for the community	Putting on and hosting new events for key audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space is used more regularly• New connections are made

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank everyone who has played a part in building our community café.

In particular, we are so thankful for all the individuals donations both large and small from our church family and the local community; for the people who searched their cupboards and dug out their bone china teacups and saucers; for the men and women who have fixed things, mended things and run about getting things done; and for our wonderful team of volunteers.

A huge thank you must also go to the local businesses which have helped us build and equip our café - such as JW Contracts (our builder), Silva Furniture Limited (windows), Floors of Distinction (flooring), Audiotek (AV) and KBS Holtspur (kitchen) to name a few.



The Dove Café has been made possible because of the generous support of our donors

Veolia Environmental Trust
The Clare Foundation
Mike Clare's Founders Fund
Diocesan Development Fund
St Michaels and all Angels
(Beaconsfield) Charitable Trust
St Mary's DCC
Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Community Board
Beaconsfield Old Church School Charity
Heart of Bucks
Beaconsfield Church Educational Trust
St Michael's DCC
Mobbs Memorial Fund
The Shanly Foundation
Laing Family Trusts
The Roland Callingham Foundation
Kitchen and Bedroom Studio
And many individual donations



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