

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our basis of faith is the fundamental truths of Christianity, as revealed in Holy Scripture, including:

- a) the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead;
- b) the sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement;
- c) the divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct;
- d) the universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering all subject to God's wrath and condemnation;
- e) the full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God; His virgin birth and His real and sinless humanity; His death on the cross, His bodily resurrection and His present reign in heaven and earth;
- f) redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of our representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and people;
- g) justification as God's act of undeserved mercy, in which sinners are pardoned all their sins, and accepted as righteous in God's sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, this justification being received by faith alone;
- h) the need for the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting them repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ
- i) the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all those thus regenerated, producing in them an increasing likeness to Christ in character and behaviour, and empowering them for their witness in the world;
- j) the one holy universal Church, which is the Body of Christ, and to which all true believers belong;
- k) the future personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge all people, executing God's just condemnation on the impenitent and receiving the redeemed to eternal glory.

Attendance and responsibilities

- Please try to **make attendance a priority** and tell the team leaders if you are unable to come. You can say on the enclosed form if you want to volunteer less frequently.
- Work as **part of a team**. Be alert to practical needs, e.g. helping with tidy up if you are not in conversation with a student.
- Where possible, please arrive in time to **help set up and pray** before guests arrive. We are totally dependent on God to work in the students' lives.
- Do all you can to see the **health and safety guidelines** given to guests and team are followed.
- **Keep informed** by reading team communications, responding where needed.
- **Attend team meetings** wherever possible, and **other prayer and training events**
- **Pray regularly** for the students and the Globe Café. Specific prayer needs which are shared should be treated as **confidential**.
- Please ask a team leader in advance if you wish to **bring a visitor**. Local Christians are welcome to visit up to two times but will not wear a team badge. If they want to keep coming, they will need to apply to become team members.

For more information and support

Please don't hesitate to talk with John and Jane Smith or Al Jones, Friends International Birmingham info@isbham.org
T: 07891234567 (John) 07812345678 (Jane)
07123456789 (Al) <https://isbham.org>

Or contact:

Friends International (Charity Reg.d No. 1094095), Easneye, Ware, SG12 8LX.
info@friendsinternational.uk 01920 460006
<https://friendsinternational.uk/resources>



Globe Café Guide for Team Members

"In his name the nations will put their hope."

Matthew 12:21

friends
INTERNATIONAL

Globe Café is a ministry for international students and academics run by Christians from various churches in Birmingham. It is a place to make friends, practise English and learn about British culture. We also offer occasional outings and other activities to our guests.

Globe Café is sponsored by Friends International. FI is a charity which has served international students for over 30 years and now works in around 40 UK university towns and cities.

Aims

- to provide a **friendly welcome** to all international students and academics and to create an environment where **genuine, lasting relationships and mutual respect across cultures** may develop
- to provide a **varied cultural and social program** for our international guests
- to provide a **bridge to friendships outside of café times**, where appropriate and welcomed by our guests.
- to give our guests **the opportunity to meet Christians** and to find out more about the Good News of Jesus Christ
- to be a **springboard to Bible discussion** and similar activities (in their own language if possible)
- to help those who show genuine interest to put **personal trust in Jesus Christ**
- to **partner in ministry with Christian international students**
- to provide **training in, and experience of, cross-cultural ministry** to team members

Team Members...

- are aged at least **18 years**.
- are attending a local church (we will ask a leader for an informal reference).
- agree with our **Statement of Faith** (see overleaf) and are not overly dogmatic about secondary matters.
- are willing to **serve within an inter-denominational team**.

Team Guidance

We aim for excellence in our attitudes, behaviour and speech. Here are some ways in which we can show this:

- Be **on the lookout for newcomers** and make them welcome.
- Wear a **team badge** to ensure team members are easily identified.
- Where possible, spend your time **talking to international student guests** rather than to other team members.
- **Listen** during presentations and **take part** in activities.
- If you **prepare food/drink**, please follow strictest standards of hygiene and give any appropriate dietary warnings.
- **Be aware that some students are in a vulnerable position**, experiencing loneliness and culture shock, so behave with utmost integrity and care.
- We welcome guests without any expectation of spiritual openness (though this can develop with time and prayer). For this reason, **we do not pressurise guests to talk about the Gospel, pray with us, come to a Bible study, attend church or pray a prayer of commitment**. When inviting an international student to any event please consider if it is suitable, be clear what it involves and give a genuine choice (remembering that many cultures may not like to say an open 'no').
- Please ask team leaders before sharing **outside publicity or literature** at the Café.

- The café is intended for adult students but occasionally **our guests bring their children** and we seek to make them welcome. Please be aware of FI's Child Protection Policy (see separate document). Do not take children to a location away from their parent/guardian.
- **Show utmost respect for other cultures**. Be sensitive to cultural differences e.g. in humour; dietary needs; attitudes to alcohol; dress codes; respect for family and political authority; and study/time commitments. Welcome all nationalities indiscriminately.
- **Avoid close or exclusive relationships with the opposite sex**, including travelling home together alone or having one-to-one meetings outside the cafés, even for prayer or Bible study. Many guests come from cultures which place more restrictions on male/female relationships, so we cannot expect them to interpret our words (e.g. frequent, warm social media contact) or actions (e.g. hugging) as we do. Team members should not date international guests. For team members who experience same sex attraction, please follow similar principles.
- If you are finding it difficult to keep to any of the above policies, please do **discuss the matter with a team leader** so that we can resolve the situation well. You can also **discuss any issues** raised by guests.
- In any team there is the risk of strains in relationship. We will **seek to resolve these in a godly, gracious manner**, sometimes with guidance from FI leaders/pastors.

We have built relationships of trust with university staff and others, so we ask members to **respect these policies in and outside FI events** and not intentionally to act as a conduit to groups which may follow other approaches.

Members are **responsible to the team leaders and FI staff** in all matters affecting Globe Café. After appropriate discussion, they may be asked to leave the team if there is any serious or persistent breach of these policies.

GLOBE CAFÉ TEAM MEMBERSHIP

I would like to apply to join the
Globe Café team.

Name.....

Details of my availability (e.g. I aim to help
weekly)

Address

.....

Tel no

Email.....

PTO

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Charity Registered No: 1094095



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Church

Name of church leader/referee* **(state role)*

.....

Referee's contact details

.....

.....

I have read and agree with this guide, the Statement of Faith and the Child Protection Policy.

Signed.....

Date.....

Please return to:

John or Jane Smith / Al Jones

.....

Thank you for signing up to support Friends International Birmingham's work among international students and academics. We will take care when handling the information you have given us (your 'personal data'). We will store and use it to keep you informed of, and involved in, our services to international students, volunteers and supporters; when planning, advertising and operating training events; when informing you of FI matters for prayer, including reporting to you on our charitable activities and finances locally and nationally; and (for some) when facilitating your involvement in local oversight ('branch') meetings. You have the right to request that we remove your personal data and cease contact at any time, or that we cease any category of communication. You can read more about this in our Privacy Policy (<https://friendsinternational.uk/privacy>).

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