

Guidelines for setting up an international café

Why international cafés?

The number of international students coming to the UK is on the increase. Estimates reckon that there are up to 1 million international students studying at various levels in the UK at the current time (2004), from 16 year olds coming to study English and take A Levels/other Further Education qualifications, through undergraduates taking foundation courses to get on to British degree courses, up to postgrads coming to study for a Masters degree, and for some, to stay on to do a PhD. There are significant numbers of academic visitors, who already have Masters or PhDs but come to study in a particular subject area but not for a recognised qualification. This is not forgetting the large amount of language school students who come to the UK for anywhere between a couple of weeks and a few years to study English.

Walk on any UK university campus and you are likely to see many internationals amongst those busily walking from lecture to lecture; sit in a bus travelling past the university or a language school and you are likely to hear languages other than English being spoken around you.

These international students have come here to study. They come from most of the other countries in the world. They are often the top students in their own country, and many have been through a rigorous selection process. They have been chosen to come here, and there are many others back in their home country that wanted to come but were not the best.

They have learned English and taken exams in English to show their competence in the language.

Many who come here want to improve their English whilst here, as well as undertake a course in a particular area of study, e.g. economics, law, finance, engineering. They are looking for opportunities to meet British people and to speak everyday English. Some of them also want to find out about Christianity, as they come to a 'Christian' country.

God has brought a mission field to our doorstep. This brings Christians great opportunities to provide a welcome and friendship; and to share our Christian faith.

In many parts of the country, Christians from local churches or Christian Unions, as well as organisations like Friends International are looking to make contact with these international students.

This is being done in many places through international cafés. The aim of these cafés is to provide a contact point for the international student with British people and with other internationals, to provide a welcome in a new culture, to offer friendship and give the chance to opt in to activities run by Christians. These cafés take place on a regular basis and are being run by a local church or churches, by Christian Unions, by Friends International staff or by a combination of these. Names used for such cafés are Globe Café, Global Café, Wee World Café, International Café, the Mustard Seed, The Barn, Harry's, Amigos, etc. Some of these cafés started 20 or more years ago, but the majority have started in the last ten years. Numbers attending the cafés vary greatly, from 5 up to more than 100. Typically though, the majority of cafés have between 20 and 40 coming along.

Starting a café

It may be that running a café is something you would like to consider in your area. But how do you start? What's involved? Is it the right thing for this area? Will international students come along? Where is a good place to hold it? etc. We hope that you will find these notes helpful in answering some of these questions, or at least in knowing what to do to answer them.

Let's acknowledge at the outset that running a café is hard work and time-consuming; but it's also great fun and you meet interesting people from many different countries. You and your team will gain a great deal as well as give. There are responsibilities involved, but there is also great pleasure. You will enjoy it! And it may be that in the future you will be welcomed into a home in another country because of your involvement

with a café now. You and your team may be the first Christians that these international students have knowingly met. The consequences of such a meeting may be very far-reaching for both parties.

The other point to make at the beginning is that there is no one right way of setting up and running a café. There is no single blueprint to take down off the shelf. The café that you start with your team will be different from the one in the next city. There are of course common themes and ways of doing things, but there are also a lot of variables. So be aware of that from the start of your planning, and look out for what is right for you and your situation; there will probably be a number of differences from other cafés that you will see or hear about.

One of the essential things to do is to actually visit one or more international cafés yourself to see them in action, to get some feel for the way they work and their effectiveness. Those running cafés are pleased to welcome visitors who are interested in what they do and how they run. It's best if you can get in touch with the café leaders before you go, to check when it is happening, and out of courtesy to let them know you are coming. If you don't have any idea of where there are cafés happening near you, look at Friends International's website (www.friendsinternational.org.uk) or get in touch with the Support Centre (tel 01920 460006).

First let's remind ourselves of some of the reasons why international cafés have been so effective.

Why do international students go to a café?

- Place of welcome and friendship
- Can drop in and out as they want
- A 'safe' environment – compared with much university/college-related social life which revolves around clubs, pubs, alcohol, etc
- Coffee, tea, water, squash, cakes, nibbles give a reason for coming; taps in to the universal principle of showing hospitality by providing food and drink, and some TLC (Tender Loving Care).
- Somewhere to sit in small groups
- Easy to move around; do not need to sit in same place whole time
- Open to international students to bring friends
- Can meet British people and other internationals; opportunity for English conversation
- Simple activities – table games, table tennis, table football, puzzles, etc
- Is free to come (may pay for food/drinks?)
- Opens door to other possibilities, but no compulsion: Chance to opt in to other events e.g. outings, bible study, finding out about Christianity, church, weekends away, wives groups, family events, host scheme
- Focus will give chance to find out about other cultures etc, especially British but not exclusively
- Chance to give as well as receive, for example some of the internationals appreciate the chance to run a focus/activity about their country.

Yes, you think. That sounds great. Let's have a go.

Before you start looking at the practical issues of place, time, team etc., take some time to sort out principles:

1. Principles

First steps in starting a café

- Pray; get God's perspective on it
- Do some homework; what is already happening for international students in the area; where do international students live in the area; where do most international students study (departments); which international students do you already have links with; which other Christian groups (CU, churches) already have links with international students

- Network; find those who have a similar vision to you, both Brits and international students; share your thoughts/ideas with your church, CU, Christian friends, contacts
- Let your church/CU know what is being planned so that you have their backing
- Invite those who've expressed interest to a get-together to talk, pray and plan

Your aim should be to answer the following questions:

Who is the café intended for?

Only for international students? What about refugees and asylum seekers? What about internationals working locally? Where are the international students studying locally? (language school, college, university etc) How many are there? What else is currently provided for them? Will the café respond to their perceived need?

What are the aims of the café?

In terms of the international students and the level of Christian input you're hoping to achieve, how will the café meet these aims? Is a café the right venture to meet these aims, or is there a better alternative? What is God's agenda for you at this moment? Is setting up a café your idea or His idea? How much Christian input do you want from the front at every café session?

Who can be part of the team?

What Christian commitment are you expecting from team members? How often do you expect them to come? What about Christian internationals? Other 'qualifications' e.g. church membership, recommended by minister/leader, suitability for this work?

Consultation?

How many international students have you talked to about your ideas, especially Christian international students? What about consultation with potential team members? Are you giving an opportunity for these folk to have an input from the beginning, so that they too own the vision for the café?

Don't rush this stage. Thinking and praying through the principles is vital. They will affect all the steps that follow.

2. Setting up and resourcing a café

You then move on to the practical questions, such as when, where, who will come and who will staff it.

When should the café happen?

- Regularly. Ideally each week.
- Term time or throughout the year? If the students are mainly postgrads, vacations are often the loneliest times, so you might like to ensure you include a vacation-time programme.
- Day and time of meeting; talk to internationals to get their suggestions, especially those you hope will come to the café Their input is essential. They are the 'customers'; we must listen to them.

Where should the café happen?

- Preferably in an attractive welcoming safe area
- A venue easily accessible to international students
- On campus can be good, though can also have problems

- Place with facilities to provide hot drinks, to wash up, etc; also with a supply of cups, glasses, plates, cutlery, etc.
- Somewhere not too big, and not too small
- Off-campus may be easier to arrange but is it accessible to international students?
- Does the venue look welcoming from the outside?

Who will come?

- Christian internationals who have been involved in planning the café, and who are personally invited to come
- Internationals linked with the CU or local churches who know about it and are personally invited to come
- International friends of team members who are personally invited along
- Internationals who are encouraged to go along by university staff
- Internationals who hear about the café through the publicity
- Team members

Who should staff the café?

- Christians
- Brits & internationals
- From CU or churches or both
- A team committed to the aims and praying for it
- Needs a leader or leaders
- The team and its commitment are likely to be one of the limiting factors on the café

Name

Make this a feature of the first meeting of the café? Give both team and those international students attending a chance to make suggestions. Again enable those coming to have some ownership of the café. Some suggestions are listed earlier.

What resources are needed?

Venue

See 'Where should the café happen?' (above)

Check cost, availability of tables and chairs, crockery and cutlery, possibility of cooking (cafés often have more than just tea and coffee, especially for national focuses e.g. Chinese food as part of focus on Chinese New Year), setting up (when can you get in to the premises?), clearing up afterwards (what's expected?), who holds the keys, security. Storage (what can you leave there?), availability of other activities at the venue (e.g. table tennis, table football, sports hall, etc)

Finance

Work out how much it will cost to run the café; encourage churches/CUs/individuals to contribute; do you charge for food/drinks? Expenses for those doing the focus/activity?

Food

Some people may be prepared to provide cakes etc on a regular basis; decide what is to be provided (nibbles on tables? cakes? fruit?) Drinks (tea, coffee, squash, milk/sugar). Someone could take responsibility for getting the food and drinks. Find out if the venue requires someone on the team to hold a Basic Hygiene Certificate.

Prayer

When do the team pray together? At start of café/ at other times? Encourage prayer support from other Christians; keeping them informed.

Games

Table games provide a good activity for those who like something to do; Jenga, Scrabble, Dominoes, Connect 4, Mastermind, Uno, etc. These can often be picked up cheaply at charity shops or in £1 shops.

Crockery & cutlery

Check what is available at the venue.

Publicity

Need to have something to give those interested – see chapter 6 on making contact with international students for guidelines on what to include in publicity.

Transport

How to get food/games/team there

Music

CD player with suitable CDs to provide background music, especially as people arrive?

3. Finding and building a team to run the café**Why a team?**

There needs to be a team to run the café, a group of people committed to the regular opening of the café, ready to undertake the tasks that are involved. Typically these tasks include setting up, providing drinks, welcoming, running the focus/activity, washing up, and manning the door as well as talking to internationals. Team members need to share the vision for the café. They need to understand and agree with the aims and objectives that have been set for the café. The earlier in the process of setting up the café they are involved the better, so that they have a sense of ownership of what the café is seeking to achieve. For those joining an established team, the aims of the café need to be made clear to them so that they understand the reason the café's existence. Hence a printed statement is often helpful. This is often included in notes for the team, which not only gives the aims of the café but also spells out the expectations of team members, the privileges and responsibilities of team membership.

Where to look for potential team members

When looking for team members, look out for people who have themselves spent time living overseas/have cross-cultural experience. They will most easily be able to put themselves in the position of international students here, and see the positive attractions of the welcome and friendship given by an international café for international students.

Christian internationals are key people for the team. This may include current students, but also those now working here permanently, but who have themselves been through the trauma of arriving in a new country and culture.

Some will not feel able to commit themselves to team membership, but will want to contribute in some way or other. They may offer to provide cakes occasionally; they may only feel able to come to the café occasionally; they may be willing to pray; they may be willing to provide finance. Try to make these people feel part of the team as well.

Visit the café

Encourage potential team members to come along to the café, to get an idea for what it is like, what happens, etc. They can then make their decision about joining the café on a more informed basis. Make

clear to potential team members the basis of team membership, what are they committing themselves to, and what is expected of them.

Team members you want, and those you don't want

It is also worth making clear that team membership is by invitation; it is not automatic; it is not by just turning up. There will be some people who want to come who will not be appropriate. There needs to be a vetting procedure, and a clear understanding of the ground rules of membership.

What size of team?

That depends on the number of international students coming to your café. Remember that for many international students, one of the attractions of coming to the café is that they will have the chance to practise their spoken English. But as indicated above, there is a range of jobs that need doing as well as talking to international students.

Team meetings

The team needs to meet on occasions other than the café night. Maybe they could meet for a meal in someone's home once every six weeks, to reflect, to plan, to pray and to share together. This is also an occasion when some training can be done. The cohesion of the team reflects on the running of the café.

Praying together

It is essential that the team prays together. We believe this is God's work and we need to acknowledge that individually but also together. Can you pray together before the café starts? And also at the team meeting (see above)?

Team training

Some training can be done at team meetings. It is also good to encourage the team to attend suitable Friends International or UCCF training events. Meeting people involved in similar work in other towns and cities can be very refreshing.

4. What happens at the café

Walk into the café using the eyes of a newcomer

We are often 'blind' when we come into a place we are familiar with. Our mind blanks out the tatty carpet, or the old notices, or the slightly strange smell. It's important to make our cafés as welcoming as possible. So we need to try to experience it, as others would see it walking in for the first time. So take down the out-of-date notice and replace it with an attractive picture. Can we get rid of the tatty piece of carpet? Is it possible to do something about the strange smell? How about some table cloths on the café tables? And how about outside? Is the venue clearly signposted? Is it well lit? Let's do all we can to make arriving at the café a good and positive experience!

The importance of first impressions

We all know the experience of walking into an unknown place for the first time. We're unsure of what to expect. We hope that we won't be embarrassed because of our clothes or by having to stand on our own. So we need to help our international students contacts to feel welcomed and at ease as soon as they come in to the café. Team members need to be alert to new arrivals, to move to greet them and to introduce them to others.

Café layout

The café needs to be laid out to make it easy to move around, to give easy access to the tables and chairs to make it possible for small groups to sit together. So small tables (seating 4 or 5) are preferable to large ones (8 –10). And chairs need to be easily moved from one table to another to allow for friends arriving etc. Food and drink need to be served safely to individuals, so the location of the coffee/tea point needs to be

thought about. Do you expect international students to come to a coffee/tea point, or are team members going to take drinks to them?

Availability of table games

Many cafés have table games available for use. They may be already on the table, and the team member can use them as a way of involving newcomers. Conversation can continue. Games like Jenga (which can involve any number and do not have complicated rules) are good icebreakers (see under resources: section 2 for other games suggestions).

Food and drink

Putting small quantities of nibbles (crisps, small biscuits, nuts) in a bowl on each table is another way of expressing a welcome. Homemade cakes can be very popular, if you have someone who is able to provide them. There may be people who would see this as their contribution to the café. There may also be those who feel that their input to the café is to make the drinks and wash up. That's great as they release others to chat with international students. Some international cafés also provide a cooked meal every week for students – hard work for the team members, but it provides a good time for conversations over a meal (and helps team members if they're dashing to the café from work).

Making it easy for people to come and go

We need to make it easy for people to come and go, in the same way as any other café. We want to avoid people feeling trapped to stay the whole time the café is open. We hope they will stay for as long as possible, but we are delighted if they only come for an hour. So the layout is a factor, as well as our attitude.

Focus/activity time

Some cafés have a theme or focus that runs for the whole of the evening. Others will have a focus for only part of the time the café is open. Topics can be to do with British culture (e.g. Bonfire Night, Pancakes), special events (e.g. Census Day, Commonwealth Games), a particular country (e.g. Kenya, Indonesia), seasonal events (e.g. Midsummer's Day, Christmas, Easter) or of general interest (e.g. idioms, proverbs, local places to visit). People of local or national interest can be invited (e.g. local Mayor or Member of Parliament). Where the focus is for part of the time, it is usually an all-together time – i.e. other activities (table tennis, table football, table games) stop whilst the focus is on.

Other possibilities

There may be other activities that are available at your venue which take place in a separate area (e.g. table tennis, table football, sports hall for basketball or football). These can be attractions for some of the international students, and you need to decide the basis on which these facilities are made available. Also be aware of any legal requirements (e.g. first-aider needed if sports hall is in use.)

5. Using the café as a base for other activities

Giving international students the chance to opt in

One of the aims of many cafés is to serve as an initial contact point between local Christians and international students. If so, some thought should be given to what might follow from this initial contact. Some of the possibilities are listed below. Thought should also be given as to how the international students expresses their interest i.e. can you provide a sheet which outlines some of the possibilities? Some cafés have a form that the international student fills in on their first visit, which provides both their contact details for future mailings etc, and also enables them to express an interest in other listed possibilities.

Attending church

Many international students may want to take the opportunity whilst here to visit a Christian church. It is also another way for them to meet more British people and to practise their English. Other international students may prefer to go to a church service in their own language. Be prepared to give information about churches other than just your own. The student will probably appreciate your offering to meet up with them to go to church together, to make it less of a daunting experience. However be careful of putting pressure (albeit unintentional) on a student to go to church, particularly when you first meet them.

Outings

Many international students work very hard and leave little time for enjoying the local area. But they are often very pleased to go on outings to local places of interest or natural beauty when taken by local people. And going in a group makes it more enjoyable. Again seek to provide something that isn't already being provided by another organisation, or by the university itself. If your contacts include numbers of postgraduates, remember that they are still around during vacations, and often have nothing to do on Bank Holidays. How about a New Year's Day outing? Or Easter Monday? Or one of the May Bank Holidays? And if you go by public transport, the international students will know how to go there again on their own in the future.

Weekends away

Weekends away enable you to travel further away from your home base. They are also a great chance to get to know each other better. Make use of Christian centres, or contacts in attractive places. How about joining in with another international students café to increase the numbers coming? For more information about weekends away/houseparties, see the relevant document in the 'Making Friends' section on this CD-Rom.

Hospitality

Many international students would like the chance to visit a British family in their home. This may be something that someone in your church could organise. Are there churches close to you who don't have students living near them but would like to give them hospitality? Otherwise link them up to national scheme like the HOST scheme (see www.hostuk.org). For more information about hospitality, see the relevant document in the 'Making Friends' section on this CD-Rom.

Vacation programmes

For some international students, the vacation times are the ones when they have the most time free, and the usual programmes are not running. Might you and your team be able to provide some special events and outings during the vacation? Are there other events happening locally that the international students would enjoy going to if they knew about them? Might you be able to include the details in a vacation programme?

Bible study groups

It's a great joy to be able to introduce international students to Jesus Christ. Give the international students the chance to opt into a study course. Some will need a very basic level, knowing virtually nothing. Others may have some knowledge, but want to go further. Others may be Christians and will be delighted to meet Christians here. Might you or your team be able to put on a basic course lasting say six weeks, one evening a week? Could you get students with some knowledge of the Bible and reasonable English involved in an Alpha or Christianity Explored course being run by the local church or CU? Invitations via an email list enable individuals to respond in private. See the 'Sharing Christ' section of this CD-Rom for ideas and Bible study resources.

Using Christian or church contacts

There is often good will and interest towards international students amongst Christians and churches who are not in the student areas. Can you tap into this for outings or for hospitality? Taking international students to meet such people exposes them to more Christians. Those living near places that you might visit for an outing may be prepared to provide afternoon tea for you and your international students. The

international students will love visiting someone's house, and inevitably in the course of conversation, they will learn that the common link is our Christian faith.

6. Making contact with international students

The essential link

One of the major keys to a successful café is having good links with international students. Nothing replaces the personal invitation to come along to the café. Publicity is important, but will never replace the personal contact. However good your printed publicity and however many copies you hand out and however many café notices you put up on notice boards, the most effective way to get people along to the café is by personal invitation. Hence one of the advantages of having Christian international students on the team is their links with other international students, and the potential 'audience' that this represents for the café. Do a survey at any café that you go to, and you will find most people are there because someone asked them to come along. A few will have come through seeing the printed publicity only, but word-of-mouth is by far the greatest reason for international students coming.

Initial links when the café is starting up will be through the team; thereafter both team links and the spreading of the news about the café by satisfied international students will be the key means of growth.

It takes time for the message about the café to get round the international student community. And the student world has a quick turnover. Many of those coming to the café will only be here for one year; some for three years; and the very few will be here for longer than that. It may also be that the café serves as a point of friendship for international students in their early days in your city, but they will then move on to other groups, having used the café as a stepping-stone or starting point for friendship. So there will be a considerable turnover at the café, and making new contacts will be a continuing feature of the café.

Making the first contact with international students

Making initial contact with international students can happen in a number of ways. But there will need to be plans in place for this to happen. It will not happen automatically.

At start of academic year

Usually there is a big influx of new university students in September at the start of the academic year. Is there an organised Welcome Scheme? If so, can someone from the café be part of it? If not, can people from the café with the permission of the university do something to meet/help new arrivals? Is there an Orientation Course? Is it possible to get a slot on it to tell the new international students about the café?

Visiting halls

Is it possible to visit the halls where new international students are living to meet them and let them know about the café?

Language schools

A language school might let you go into their premises to give leaflets to their students during break times.

Welcome party

Can you put on a welcome party and invite new international students along, as a sampler for what the café is like?

At start of second semester

A much smaller group of new students arrives at the start of the second semester (usually end Jan/early Feb). This often includes European students on schemes such as Erasmus. Are there ways you can let them know of the café? They are often particularly keen to find ways of making contacts because they are only here for six months, and everyone else is well-linked by this time.

Fishing

Are there places where international students often go for lunch? How about team members going there for lunch and chatting to those they sit with, and then inviting them along to the café?

Sympathetic university staff

Are there staff members who will help spread details of the café? Especially those who have contact with numbers of international students? Be sensitive to their position but such people are often willing to let their contacts know about the café, to invite them along and to come along themselves.

Warning

Be aware that some university authorities have reservations about cafés, seeing those running them as part of a sect and being unhappy about the Christian aspects of the café. Be as open as possible about what happens at the café. Make clear it is run by Christians, so that there is no hint of deception. Make clear it is open to international students of any faith or none (not just for Christians or those interested in the Christian faith). Work at links with the Chaplaincy if at all possible, which is seen as mainstream. University authorities are wary of sects... so we must be careful not to appear to be one!

Café publicity – paper programme

Whilst face-to-face contact is the most effective way to get international students along, a printed programme is needed as a reminder to international students of what is happening, when, where and how they get there. For most cafés, the printed programme covers a term. So if you want to let international students know what is happening throughout the term, you need to have the details i.e. the dates, arranged before the beginning of the term. So special guests and special events need to be fixed if you want to publicise them in the term programme, as do outings or weekends away. Not all the arrangements need to have been sorted, but the date needs to be set.

What should be on the programme?

Name of café	Name of café; logo; address of café
Dates of café opening	Include the day of the week (e.g. Monday), as well as the date (29 March); include programme of what is happening on each occasion; frequency of opening (weekly, every two weeks, monthly)
Times of opening	When is the café open
Who is welcome to come	intended for international students/students learning English
Who is running it	CU/ church/Friends International/ etc.; run by local Christians
Contact details	Name, phone number and email address of someone who can be contacted to find out more
Christian input	If there is to be a talk during the café, it is best to mention this on publicity to ensure students aren't unpleasantly surprised, for example 'The café is run by Christians. During the evening, there will be a short talk about what Christians believe.'
Where is it	Map; transport details; nearby landmarks
Other info	Outings planned; website (if relevant)

Production of programme

- Have something small to give to students. It might be possible – with permission – to place larger programmes on notice boards on campus/halls/language schools.
- Is it possible to produce the programme in colour and/or on coloured paper?
- Professionally printed: Is the ideal but can be expensive and need to know numbers required.
- Produce on inkjet printer/photocopier: Easy to produce and make extra copies, but can be expensive on ink.

Email list

Students are very much into communication by email. Most students have access to email, and it is a good way to circulate a reminder about the café and when it is happening, especially when the café happens less frequently than once a week. It is possible to have an email group and send a reminder out about the café a few days before its next opening. There are issues of data protection that need to be covered if you are maintaining a database of email addresses, but most students are very happy to give their address with suitable assurances about the list not being passed on to others. Other café-related activities can also be publicised through an email list (e.g. weekends away, bible study groups, outings, etc). The email group should preferably be entered in the Blind copy part of the email address. This means that all the addresses are not then displayed when the message is opened by a recipient. An alternative way to keep the students' email addresses is to set up a Yahoo Group (see <http://groups.yahoo.com>).

Website

If you have someone with the expertise, it is good to have a website for the café. International students then have somewhere they can look at to check out what it is all about, what the aims are, who runs it, etc. They may want to reassure themselves about the sort of organisation/people that run this café. Remember that websites do need keeping up-to-date. It is not a good sign to go to a website and find the information displayed is well out of date.

7. Keeping contact with international students

Encouraging team members to make contact outside the café

The team members are the 'face' of the café. They are the people who will make the links with the international students. Encourage them to form friendships with 2 or 3 international students and see them outside café times, for meals, social activities, sport, fun, etc. Friendship is more than meeting only at the café.

Maintaining contact when they leave – to go home

Most international students will move on from your city to return to their home country. Is it possible to maintain a link with them? Again e-mail is a vital tool to keep in touch. Letters are also possible though less instant. Are there ways in which you/ your team can help them when they return home? Would they like details of any Christian contacts/churches near their home? You or your church may be able to help provide these. Otherwise contact with Friends International may help; or an organisation like IFES. Might it be possible for you to go and visit them? They would count it a great pleasure to be able to provide some hospitality for you, in return for all that they have received. From the New Testament, it is clear that Paul spent time, energy and money visiting those who had heard the Christian message during his missionary journeys. For more information about preparing students to return home, see the 'Returning home' section of this CD-Rom.

Maintaining contact when they leave – to go to another university

Some of the international students may move on to other universities in this country or elsewhere in the world to pursue further study. Many would value being put in touch with Christians in their new place of study, especially if they have enjoyed attending the café. Again Friends International may be able to help with contact details of individuals or a café in their new city. Such contacts will hopefully help them settle more quickly into their new area. Always ask individual international students for their permission before passing on their details (email address, phone no.) to others.

8. Conclusion

I hope that this article will have helped you in your thinking about starting an international café, and will have provided you with a better understanding of what is involved. It will probably have resulted in more questions than answers, but hopefully will have suggested ways in which many of those questions can be answered.

You need to pray, talk, plan, network to make the next steps forward. It may be that in a few years' time there will be individuals going back to their home country as Christians because of what God is encouraging you to do here. We may not be able to speak Mandarin or Indonesian, but we can influence people speaking those languages by simply showing them a welcome and friendship during their time studying here.

Recent quotes from international students who have returned home

"Thank you for your Globe Café that let me know Jesus and so many friends. I'll miss the life in Manchester. Keep in touch in future."

"Thank you very much for your kind help in the past year, by which I lived in Manchester more happily and fruitfully."

"I miss the Globe Café very much. It is a great thing to do to give international students the opportunities to meet more people. I hope the team is still running well."

"I'd like to keep in contact with you and hopefully to know more about the stories in Globe Café and in your family. I don't want to be isolated from you."

"Very pleased to know you. Thank you very much for your help and the very special gift. I will miss you and the pleasant time at Globe Café and at church."