

CAFÉ TIME!

I wonder how often you spend Sunday evening in front of the television with that sinking feeling as you realise the weekend is almost over and Monday morning is just around the corner? Well I have a solution to that, and it's called **Agape Café!**

Agape Café is a volunteer-run acoustic café. If you have never heard of one of these, let me enlighten you! An acoustic café is one where live music is played and where the musicians are singer songwriters who generally play acoustic guitars. This live music really adds to the atmosphere and makes the evening 'buzz'! The café provides a relaxed and informal environment while being run in an organized way - we open at 7.30pm for coffee and cake, our musician starts playing at 8 p.m. for about an hour, and the evening finishes at 9.30pm. Everyone and anyone is welcome, regardless of age – it's great to find that adults both young and old are joining us!

The Agape Café is open on the second Sunday evening of every month at Wells Hall Old School in Great Cornard. On Sunday 11th August, Agape Café celebrated its first birthday with a community barbecue. It was a great success, with over sixty people in attendance - and the weather was set fine and sunny too, which helped make it all even more special. This event was a joint venture supported by some of the local churches: New Life Church, Cornard Christian Fellowship and St Andrews Church, all of whom have a desire to reach out into the community around them and to make a difference in the lives of that community.

Some people wonder why we are called 'Agape Café'. Actually, the word 'Agape' is a Greek word meaning '*selfless love*', and the Café was first started to provide a space in Great Cornard for people to meet, build relationships and deepen friendships. Over the past year, several incredibly talented local Christian artists have provided a mellow background in which to relax and enjoy quality Fairtrade tea, coffee and home made cakes. These artists include The Roadrunners, Emigré, Sarah Hunt and Steve Beedle. Last month John Finlinson from Finny Music entertained us with heartfelt self-penned songs, together with an incredible story of prison sentences, prison ministry and how God has transformed his life.

On **Sunday 8th September**, recently signed artist Steven Barker will be playing an acoustic set with Daisy Stewart Darling, so why not come along and join us? You would be really welcome. Please don't let that sinking feeling bite - come and relax instead with tea, coffee, home made cakes and handmade music. Doors open at 7.30pm, and we really look forward to seeing you then! There's no charge, although we do ask that a donation is made for whatever is consumed - the good thing is that this money goes back into the running costs of the café!

Linda Mackie

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