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Pop-up café draws the crowds to St Martin's

A NEW CAFÉ in the courtyard at St Martin-in-the-Fields has been opened, designed by Platform 5 Architects. Church leaders at St Martin's wanted a welcoming facility for local workers, residents and tourists, that would also generate additional income to support the work of the church and the long-term preservation of its listed buildings.

The Café in the Courtyard, located in the corner opposite St Martin's East Window, is a small and self-contained temporary structure with a simple design. The contemporary materials are a visual contrast to the historic surroundings and provide a focus for the site.

Since the opening in June this year, it has welcomed almost 9,000 visitors and is expected to serve up to 15,000 people by the end of the season.

Peter Allen, Partner at Platform 5 Architects, said: "We are delighted at the success of The Café in the Courtyard. As we had hoped, it is a stylish little building that has brought a fresh identity and new activity to an otherwise underused pocket of London, and valuable additional income to St Martin-in-the-Fields. We believe our response offers solutions for similar organisations



and sites."

Allyson Hargreaves, Business Operations Director at St Martin-in-the-Fields Ltd, said: "After several years in the planning we are

delighted to see the launch of the Café in the Courtyard. Our customers love it – and we are pleased to see some of them returning several times during the week."