

'One of the best feelings'

BY DAN PALMER

A RESTAURANT which specialises in traditional Ethiopian cuisine has been nominated for a *Pride of Reading Award*.

Tutu Melaku has been running Tutu's Ethiopian Table at the Global Café, on London Street, for nearly three years.

Tutu's has been nominated as Restaurant of the Year by regular customers Margaret and Alan Tower, and their children Anna, 17, Helen, 14, Phillip, nine, and Robert, seven.

The food is all prepared in the authentic Ethiopian style as well as being healthy, organic and fairtrade.

Mrs Melaku said: "It is fantastic to be nominated, and even if I don't win I will still feel like a winner.

"It is great to introduce Ethiopian food to people of other cultures, and everybody seems to love it.

"This is one of the best feelings of my life and I am very excited about the awards."

Mrs Melaku came to the UK from Ethiopia in 1992 and previously worked as a childminder.

She has two children, Bethlehem, 11, and Biruk, eight, and says that her lentil dishes are the most popular.

Other items on the menu include the Ethiopian staple Injera, a sour-dough bread made from the grain Teff, and Ater Wot, a dish made from curried split peas.

The restaurant hosts a buffet night on Thursdays and also provides a catering service for weddings and functions.

Mrs Tower said: "Tutu's place is ideal for a Reading restaurant.

Global Cafe up for top restaurant



'SPECIAL'
- Tutu Melaku, left, has been nominated by Margaret Tower and her children Robert, Anna and Phillip. Tutu's son Biruk is in the middle

"The food is outstanding, full of fantastic and exotic tastes as well as being healthy and affordable.

"Tutu lights up the place with her personal charm, making each customer feel special.

"Her food really appeals to a wide mix of people and she is a fantastic

demonstration of all that we love about multicultural Reading. The lentil dishes are definitely our favourite."

The winner of Restaurant of the Year will be decided by celebrity chefs Antony Worrall Thompson and Daniel Galmiche, who will judge each nominee on food and service.