

'Getting there Together': Fairtrade Church, Fairtrade Diocese

Report from the annual conference of the London Fairtrade Diocese Campaign
Interchurch House, Saturday January 22nd 2011
Kindly facilitated by Christian Aid

Four churches of diverse size, location and churchmanship gave presentations of their 'Fair Trade journey'.

- The Revd Liz Moody, St Christopher's, Hanwell, introduced Fairtrade to her congregation when they were marking the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade, with a focus on chocolate and child labour
- Ann Pemberton, St Mary's, Stanwell, started from scratch by visiting Fairtrade producers in South Africa to find out what it was all about
- Sarah Robson, St Mary's, Stoke Newington, shared some of the highlights and challenges faced when running a Fairtrade stall and how it helped to have a few dedicated people working with you
- Nina Tweddle, St Aldhelm, Edmonton, welcomed the opportunities that Fairtrade offers the church to reach out into the community and especially to schools and youth organisations. Nina and Jennifer James-Ghoomun also presented an amusing take on Ready Steady Cook: Fairtrade versus cheap!

A lively question and answer session followed, with delegates able to ask questions and share some of the highs and lows of their own experiences, gaining help, encouragement and inspiration from each other

Delegates were asked to encourage the churches that haven't yet applied for their Fairtrade Church certificate and to help reach those that haven't responded to the campaign's communications.

Veronica Pasteur, Head of Campaigns at the Fairtrade Foundation reviewed the successes of the Fairtrade movement past year, shared news of new products (there is to be a new product launch on Valentine's Day) and inspired action for Fairtrade Fortnight to 'Show off your label' and particularly to highlight Fairtrade cotton.

Some of the peanuts and cashews for Harry's Nuts (part of the Liberation Nuts partnership) are grown in Niassa, Mozambique, one of our ALMA link dioceses. Churches were asked to support this Fairtrade partnership by buying and promoting the nuts. Margaret Rooke from Liberation presented beautiful photographs of jewellery made from nuts and dried fruit.

More information and pictures coming soon!

25 January 2011