

Fairtrade Church – Make it Happen Conference

10th January 2009

Workshop for churches who are already involved in Fairtrade but have yet to get their Fairtrade certificate

Key points:

- Fairtrade is a journey for individuals and churches. We have never arrived!
- Fairtrade is not about charity but justice. It is paying a fair price for whatever goods one wants and buys. In this it is no different from any transaction
- Criteria for applying for a certificate are simple and clearly spelt out on the application form

Practical issues

- Little control over those buying catering supplies for church – might be helped by incorporating Fairtrade issues into worship, teaching and prayer and by suggesting to the purchasers that they are in a position to make a significant contribution to the church's development ie empowering rather than criticising!
- Dislike of coffee (or tea) – buy a really good Fairtrade brand and give it to the person who is unconvinced! Also blind tasting trials as a fun game.
- Lack of storage space, and too small a sales turnover to warrant becoming a Traidcraft Fairtrader – try combining orders with a neighbouring church, splitting bulk orders, or borrowing stock. This has worked well in several churches, and is useful for trying out new products.
- Pricing goods is time consuming – buy a roll of Traidcraft price labels, and maybe a pricing gun.

Raising awareness

- Regular slots in the worship, prayer and teaching of the church
- Regular Fairtrade stall in church
- Stalls at local fairs or events – try your local Borough Fairtrade contact for this
- Fairtrade Fortnight – the time when Fairtrade has the highest profile generally, so make the most of it by timing your actions to fit in

There are many good websites full of information, producer stories and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Try www.fairtrade.org.uk www.traidcraft.co.uk www.oxfam.org.uk
www.fairtrade.london.anglican.org.uk www.Bananalink.org.uk

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