

FAIR TRADE UPDATE

The mission of the Fairtrade Foundation is “to connect disadvantaged producers and consumers, promote fairer trading conditions and empower producers to combat poverty, strengthen their position and take more control over their lives”.

This year Cumbernauld Old Parish Church celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight, which took place in February, by offering fairly-traded goods at two Fairtrade stalls, one in the Village and the other at Balloch. This successful venture was made possible through establishing a link with Gavin’s Mill Fairtrade shop and café in Milngavie. Over three Sundays we raised £215.88 to support producers of a range of goods which have been fairly-traded.

To sustain this initiative, we have created a ‘Fairtrade’ group of volunteers who will take forward our aim to apply for recognition as a Fairtrade Church. There are three criteria which we need to satisfy to become a Fairtrade Place of Worship:

1. Use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and for all meetings for which we have responsibility.
2. Move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as sugar, biscuits and fruit).
3. Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.

We have decided to call our Fairtrade initiative “Faith in Action” and hope you will support us by visiting our forthcoming Fairtrade stalls which we hope to run on the last Sunday of each month. We have supplied each worship centre with Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar to be used at all Church-related events and meetings. We are already planning future events to showcase Fairtrade products and promote the ethos of the Fairtrade Foundation.

We are looking for volunteers to join our group and share their ideas. By promoting Fairtrade we can, as a congregation, demonstrate Faith in Action and improve the lives of disadvantaged people who work in conditions that are unfair and unrewarding. If you believe in the work of the Fairtrade Foundation, please join our group to help to make a difference. Simply pass your name to Caroline Edwardson, Sandra Graham, Anne Morrison or Ivar Struthers.