

Faith & Fair Trade: Annual Calendar of Activities



DATE	EVENT	SUGGESTED WEBSITES & ACTIVITIES
First week of February	International Development Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a film screening (www.fairtraderesource.org/learn-up/fair-trade-films/) • Host a guest speaker (www.acic-caci.org/members.html) • Host an international dinner • Learn about the Millennium Development Goals • www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/idw
February 14th	Valentine's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose Fair Trade flowers & chocolate • Learn about the situation for flower & cocoa workers in Africa and Latin America • Start a Fair Trade book club (www.fairtraderesource.org/learn-up/recommended-reading/)
March / April	Lent / Easter International Women's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a Fair Trade fashion show with Fair Trade cotton • Host a Fair Trade easter egg hunt • Celebrate Women's Day by learning about how women in other parts of the world live (www.oxfam.ca)
First 2 weeks of May	Fair Trade Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a morning Fair Trade coffee break • Celebrate Mother's Day with Fair Trade flowers • Tell your local retailer that you want more Fair Trade & organic products • Host a Fair Trade bake sale and donate the proceeds to an international development group • www.worldfairtradeday10.org/ • www.fairtraderesource.org/wftd/
October 16th	World Food Day Harvest Season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate the harvest with local, Fair Trade, and organic foods • Learn how climate change is impacting farmers around the world
October 31st	Halloween	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Reverse Trick or Treating (www.reversetrickortreat.ca) • Choose Fair Trade & organic treats for Halloween
December / January	Advent / Christmas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rethink Christmas consumption • Host a Fair Trade fair for Christmas gifts • When purchasing gifts, think about who made them and where they came from • Consider a Fair Trade calendar that supports international development

For more information on Fair Trade, being a conscious consumer, or for more resources, please feel free to contact us.

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Faith & Fair Trade: Nova Scotian Examples



What follows is background information and selected responses from an interview with Harry Cook of the French Village Anglican Parish on the South Shore of Nova Scotia.

How did your church community become interested in Fair Trade?

There are four churches in the parish, some of which were not doing well financially. After a day of visioning for the entire parish, we asked whether we wanted to be an inward- or outward-looking. Our decision was to make a contribution to the rest of society.

Fair Trade is non-demoninational, but fits into our concept. It has the benefit of bringing people within our congregations closer together, but also bringing us closer to other parts of the world.

How has the church community become involved in Fair Trade?

Every Sunday after service, we host a Fellowship Hour. We decided to sell Fair Trade & organic coffee during the fellowship in a subscription format. It was initially intended to be a fundraiser for our church, but we now donate the proceeds.

How does the subscription format work?

Each church congregation has a champion who promotes the products and compiles orders. Families order a set amount of their favourite Fair Trade products each month, including providing payment. We collect the money and the orders, creating a wholesale order. The products are delivered monthly to a central location. We deliver the products to the families, but I know of some churches where families just pick them up at the church.

Is this a lot of work?

Well, it took some time to figure out the system. I now use a spreadsheet and I can email the orders in. It was some effort to get started, but now it's just normal for us. We communicate through the regular church bulletin if there are changes or reminders and the champions do keep on top of things.

Who might benefit from this?

This would work really well for youth groups, teachers and parents. It's a great way to educate children and youth. They could fundraise for projects or activities.

We've chosen to donate our money to development activities within Fair Trade communities. That way, we get double the impact. We get the impact of buying coffee at Fair Trade prices, which includes the social premium, but our parish has also helped fund the building of a school in one Fair Trade coffee community in Mexico from the proceeds.

Our volunteer, Justine Hart, also spoke with Bill Lord of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Halifax. Bill said:

We felt the church should support Fair Trade by only serving Fair Trade coffee. The response from the Parish Council was very positive. We also want to link social justice to the church. We can do more, but Fair Trade is a good way for people - groups or individuals - to become involved and bring that involvement to their churches.

It's not too expensive to pay Fair Trade prices. When you think of how many cups you get from one bag and the difference it makes to farmers is huge.

We need to be more proactive. It's easy to buy a coffee or make a donation. I want more people in the church to become involved. My advice is to get involved!

Special thanks to Harry Cook, Bill Lord, and Justine Hart!

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