

7 August 2022

BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA



Fairtrade Fortnight...

As a congregation we are a Fairtrade Faith Community and through the work of people in our congregation, Bangalow itself is recognised as a Fairtrade Town. Fairtrade Fortnight is organised each year to encourage us to continue the work of purchasing Fairtrade and reminding others in our communities of the importance of Fairtrade. This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs from the 3rd-16th August. Of course, as a faith community this is a great opportunity for us to continue exploring what Fairtrade means for us and to recognise that engaging with Fairtrade is not just a social issue or a consumer choice issue...it is a faith and justice issue that springs from our desire to follow the way of Jesus. Engaging in justice issues like Fairtrade are important and core parts of our faith, as we seek to express our faith in a lived and practical way. If you have been part of our congregation for some time, it may seem like you have heard all this before and are familiar with Fairtrade. So, maybe this Fairtrade Fortnight is an opportunity to reconsider your purchasing from an ethical perspective and if you are already on the path with this, then maybe it is time to talk about Fairtrade with your family, friends and community connections, so that they can become more aware.



Our stores and shops are often filled with products such as tea, coffee, chocolate, or clothing that have a range of price points and sources of origin. Often we reach for the item we have always bought, the most convenient or the cheapest option, not pausing to reflect on what this choice might mean for others near or far. In this Fairtrade Fortnight we are being invited to consider ethical purchasing. To pause and consider the impact of our choices on others. We have an opportunity to allow our inner and outer faith to become more and more aligned.

We may be aware of the importance of Fairtrade and how it helps people receive a decent wage and working conditions, become free of slavery and how it ensures equality and sustainability for the environment. But sometimes it might be too hard. We might even have to hunt on the supermarket shelves or even go to another store for the Fairtrade basics: tea, coffee and chocolate. We might even need to search through various ethical shopping or fashion guides to find the clothes produced according to the 10 Principles of Fair Trade. Although this might be time consuming and difficult, may we see the value in persisting in this and even in asking stores to source a Fairtrade option.

In recent times we have been able to share the importance of Fairtrade in our local schools. At Bangalow PS we have been able to speak at their school assemblies, write an article for the newsletter, run Mother's and Father's Day stalls and engage the P&C and staff too. The response has been positive and has also enabled us to grow in our connections with one of our neighbours. Let's actively become part of making this world a fairer and just place, especially for those in countries who are disadvantaged and who have experienced the COVID pandemic in a much greater way than here in Australia. This is one of the ways we can share in the ministry of bringing God's love and justice to this world and in loving our global neighbours. Let's seek to truly make this a Fairtrade Fortnight!

Grace & peace, Rev Phil

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Open Church: Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Byron Bay UCA

Cuppa & Conversation: Wednesday 10:00am-11.30am @ Bangalow UCA (On a pause until September)

Talking About Salt: Wednesdays, 10am @ Bangalow UCA

Scripture: Thursday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay PS during the School Term (Rev Phil)

Byron Bay Free Feed (YWAM): Wednesday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay UCA

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

Uniting Sewing and Social Group @ Byron: 9am-3pm and 6-9pm, Mondays

Growing Young Group: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

Fairtrade Fortnight: 3rd-16th August

Family Gathering: "Fairtrade": Sunday 14th August, 5.00pm @ Bangalow UCA

Talking about Salt: Wednesday 10th August 10am @ Bangalow UCA

Growing Young: Monday 15th August, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

Church Council Meeting: Tuesday 30th August, 11am @ Byron Bay UCA

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:

BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6601 2010

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692
email: allthenashes@gmail.com





FAIRTRADE

Family Gathering & Meal: "Fairtrade" - Sunday 14th August, 5pm @ Bangalow

Our next Family Gathering is being held on Sunday 14th August at 5pm at Bangalow UCA. The theme for this gathering is "Fairtrade" and this coincides with Fairtrade Fortnight. During the gathering we will explore how Fairtrade intersects with our faith. Following the gathering there will be a Fairtrade Stall and we will be sharing in a meal together. We encourage you to invite any families and young people you have connections with to join us, so that we can enjoy this gathering together.

Catherine Hamlin Fistula Soup Lunch

It was lovely to gather for our Annual Soup Lunch and fundraiser for the life-changing work of the Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation. This is one way that we seek to make a difference in this world through financially supporting this work that enables women to re-engage in life following complications experienced in childbirth. Thank you to all those who made soup and desserts, those who made handiworks that could be sold to raise funds and those who helped set up and pack up. It was also great to see friends and family joining us including those from the Brunswick Valley congregation. It is pleasing to announce that we raised \$2654.

The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival

In recent weeks we have begun planning a new event called

The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival. Approved by the

Church Council, this event will run in an exhibition style in the Bangalow Church from 18th-23rd December. We have

invited a range of community groups in the Bangalow

community to participate by designing and creating a Christmas Tree that reflects their group. These trees will be displayed in the Bangalow Church for this period and the church will be open each evening for people to come and enjoy. We also aim to have musical groups and choirs singing and playing Christmas Carols to add to the festivities. Our own Christmas tree is already being designed and planned and we will give more information about this shortly. At this stage we have received a fantastic response from a range of groups who have accepted the invitation, including the CWA, Police Station, Bangalow Public School, Bangalow Koalas, Bangalow Anglican and Mirabelle Preschool, with hopefully more to join us. We see this as a great opportunity to serve our neighbours, through providing an opportunity to join together as community and celebrate at Christmas time.



Lectionary Readings

7 August	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23	Hebrew 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
14 August	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 80:1-2,8-19	Hebrew 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
21 August	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	Hebrew 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
28 August	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Psalm 81:1	Hebrew 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14

Gathered Worship

Sunday 7th August	9.30am Byron Bay - Communion & Morning Tea 5pm Bangalow - Communion	- Rev Phil
Sunday 14th August	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering: "Fairtrade"	- Rev Phil
Sunday 21st August	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Rev Phil
Sunday 28th August	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- George Graham



ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 7 August: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea

Week of 14 August: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

Prayer Points:

- Courage, creativity and faithfulness to be innovative in the ways we serve and proclaim the hope and love of Christ.
- Fairtrade Fortnight and the opportunity for people to become aware of ethical purchasing that brings God's justice and love to people around the world.
- Our environment. We give thanks for the wonderful gift of God's creation, we lament the destruction and devastation we have caused, and we pray for actions and plans that aim to restore and repair the damage done.
- The *Talking About Salt* conversations and that they may encourage us to reflect on our ministry as individuals and as a congregation.

Newsletter Items: If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.