Hold your own Brew and Bake coffee morning

This autumn, we want to reach out to our neighbours near and far, and show them that in times of crisis, love never fails.

When crisis arrived on our doorsteps this year, neighbourly love helped us through. Staying behind closed doors has opened us up to what we can achieve together. This autumn, through your Brew and Bake coffee morning, you can harness the power of neighbourly love and make a life-changing difference to vulnerable communities around the world.

In Nicaragua, climate change threatens Angela’s livelihood. Because of the climate crisis, her coffee beans don’t ripen properly and she’s losing a lot of her crop. But, with support from Christian Aid’s partner, Soppexcca, Angela and her community are shifting from production of coffee to climate-resistant cocoa. At a time of crisis, her community are supporting each other, coming together as a cooperative to share knowledge and protect their livelihoods.

Let’s keep the spirit of togetherness going. Love knows no distance, so pop the kettle on and brew up for poverty now!
Our coffee morning is designed to be flexible. You can run it virtually or in person, or even a hybrid of the two. We recommend you use our Brew and Bake quiz as the focal point of your meeting to test your knowledge of coffee and chocolate while you enjoy your brew and cake. You can find our quiz at caid.org.uk/brewandbake

Choose your venue
This could be your home or somewhere bigger, such as your workplace. Many churches or community spaces have low-cost rooms or may be willing to donate their venue for your fundraiser.

Pick a date
Make sure the date works for you and doesn’t clash with any local events or pre-planned activities.

Set up a fundraising page and a target
We recommend you set up a JustGiving page at justgiving.com/campaign/autumn2020 to collect donations for your coffee and quiz morning. JustGiving is simple to use and allows you to share a link to your fundraising page with others. You can even request a QR code and easily track how much you have raised.

Invite your friends
Setting up a Facebook event is an easy way to invite your friends and contacts. They can also share it with their own networks, widening your reach. Email or call any friends and family who are not online or who might respond better to a more private request. You could also put a notice in your church communications sharing your JustGiving link or asking for help with any baking or serving drinks.

Use our quiz
Test your general knowledge and keep people entertained. After you have had a chat, our quiz should provide a nice focus for your coffee morning.

Keep up the momentum
Use your Facebook fundraiser or JustGiving page to update your supporters regularly. You can also use your posts to share details of your event, such as time or place, what will be available or how to join a virtual event.

Ask people to donate
Encourage people to donate what they would spend on a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. You could gather donations for entering the quiz from groups, households or each participant. The choice is yours!
If you’re meeting in person

- Ensure that you are following the latest government guidelines and take extra care with health and safety and food hygiene. If you feel unwell, do not go ahead.
- Why don’t you see if a few friends can bake a cake to share?
- Nominate a friend to run the quiz if you need some support.
- Have a prize for the quiz winner.
- Have some additional activities available to boost giving. For example, you could hold a raffle, or sell crafts, plants, books or preserves. You could also sell cakes for people to take home.
- People may wish to give by cash or cheque, so make somewhere available to collect donations.

If you’re meeting virtually

- There are lots of platforms available for you to host your coffee morning over video, including Skype, Zoom WhatsApp, Facebook Live and many others. Pick the one that works best for you. People can speak to one another and interact on all these platforms.
- Encourage your participants to get themselves settled with a hot drink and cake ahead of time so they feel part of your event. You may even be able to organise cake delivery to virtual participants!
- Online meetings work best with some structure, so we suggest using the quiz as the focus of the event to get people talking. If you have people joining online as well as in person, we recommend joining together for the quiz first, followed by informal chatting separately.
- Use Twitter and Instagram to get the word out.

Keeping safe at your event

It is very unlikely that you can catch coronavirus from food, but you should be aware of how to mitigate risk by maintaining good hygiene practice in food preparation and handling areas.

- When preparing, serving or handling food, it is especially important to maintain hand hygiene by washing hands for at least 20 seconds to reduce the risk of illness.
- Make sure hand sanitiser is available in multiple locations, with signs on safe hygiene and markers to maintain social distancing in areas where queues may form. An example can be found here.
- Ensure that you maintain social distance in the serving, collecting or delivering of food.
• Think about ways you could mitigate risk. For example, pre-wrap food, slice cakes in advance or portion food. Make sure cutlery and plates are only touched by the individuals eating with them.

• You can find helpful information about coronavirus and food here and general information on food hygiene here.

**Paying in**

All gifts given through JustGiving come directly to us, so you don’t need to do anything. If you are a church or Christian Aid group, include your OR reference or group name on your page.

You can send a cheque to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL.

Don’t forget to collect Gift Aid using our donation form, which can be found at caid.org.uk/sponsor

Give via our website caid.org.uk/payin or call 020 7523 2269 to donate by phone.