



Fairtrade Churches - Background

An ever-growing number of churches is making the connection between trade and poverty and committing to using Fairtrade products including tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

The Fairtrade Foundation is a development organisation committed to tackling poverty and injustice through trade, and the UK member of Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International (FLO). The Foundation works with businesses, civil society organisations and individuals to improve the position of producer organisations in the South and to help them achieve sustainable improvements for their members and their communities. Certification and product labelling (through the FAIRTRADE Mark) are the primary tools for our development goals. The backing of organisations of producers and consumers in a citizen's movement for change is fundamental and integral to our work.

The Foundation does not certify towns or other groups, only products. However, it does run campaigns with local community groups aimed at boosting awareness and understanding of trade issues, and promoting the purchase of Fairtrade products as a way that ordinary people can make a difference to the lives of producers.

These campaigns have a set of goals, and receive a certificate of congratulation from the Fairtrade Foundation when they are reached. Once a local community

declares its status as a Fairtrade Town (or university etc), they must be committed to continuing their campaigning and awareness raising. Find out more by visiting the Get Involved section of the Foundation's website: www.fairtrade.org.uk

Churches organise hundreds of events during Fairtrade Fortnight and throughout the year as well as including prayers and readings about Fairtrade in their worship. Faith groups continue to be key supporters of Fairtrade which is making a real difference to the lives of more than 7 million farmers, workers and their families in 59 developing countries.

What product categories does Fairtrade certify?

Food products: Bananas, Cocoa, Coffee, Dried Fruit, Fresh Fruit & Fresh Vegetables, Honey, Juices, Nuts/Oil Seeds/Oil, Quinoa, Rice, Spices, Sugar, Tea, Wine

Non-food products: Beauty products, Cotton, Cut Flowers, Ornamental Plants, Sports Balls

What do we need to do to get involved?

To be part of the campaign by becoming a Fairtrade Church, we need to register with the Foundation and agree to meet three goals.

The three goals

- Use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which you have responsibility
- Move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit
- Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible

The PCC will be considering this at its meeting on 13th November. Please let members know your views.