



Stand Up again for Fairtrade in the Diocese of Ripon & Leeds - and elsewhere

Renew Your Fairtrade Church's Vows

A JUST1 IDEA TO UNITE DIOCESAN AND FAIRTRADE CHURCHES' CLERGY, PARISHIONERS AND COUNCILS; PUPILS, PSHE/RE TEACHERS AND PAINTPOTS IN SCHOOLS; LOCAL PAPERS AND RADIO; AND THE EYES OF THOUSANDS OF PASSERS-BY DURING FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT!



St Andup says: here's how many thousands of people might unite and stand up together for Fairtrade – as congregations celebrate their church's commitment.

Fairtrade has been a great success. Today there are over 60 Fairtrade dioceses and denominational areas. Over 7000 Fairtrade churches stand alongside over 500 Fairtrade towns and nearly 500 Fairtrade schools and universities. 4500 products carry for the Fairtrade mark, and sales approach £1 billion. It's been a very practical way for both individuals and churches to show commitment and stewardship by putting into action their faith's social teaching and values.

During Fairtrade Fortnight each year, many churches organise a big diversity of events. This year, to raise awareness and provide activities uniting parishes and their pastoral areas, you're invited to consider also a couple of very simple ecumenical actions uniting like-minded communities across the country. The aim? To refresh commitment to Fairtrade goals you signed up to - and to send out a very visible public message that churches are great Fairtrade supporters. Both are quick and easy, don't call for cash, thank and make people feel good about themselves, and get congregations patting each other on the back. And they're opportune – at a time of family financial questioning.

Suggestion 1

Inside your church, renew your Fairtrade goals during a Sunday service in February or March



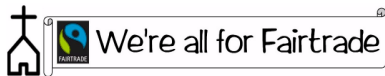
There's a simple ready-made ceremony using the Renewal of Fairtrade Vows sheet. The congregation can be invited to stand up for a rededication to the goals and obligations you originally signed up to in becoming Fairtrade Church. It could also be part of a homily. The words are not sacrosanct, and you're very welcome to embellish the little ceremony to suit your church's setting and Fairtrade record over the years.

Area Co-ordinators (eg in Deaneries and Pastoral Areas) might like to recommend this be done on an agreed Sunday from mid-February to mid-March - on which their Fairtrade parishes take part. And they might share this good news with the local papers (draft release overleaf).

Suggestion 2

Outside your church, display big home- or school-made banners - to show thousands of passers-by that churches stand up for Fairtrade

Pupils in schools could help by painting or sewing some to put on walls or railings - to flag up your values to thousands of non-churchgoers during Fairtrade Fortnight 28 February-13 March. You might also want to share the good news with your local papers and other churches.



Stand Up & Renew Your Fairtrade Vows has been created as a national contribution to Fairtrade Fortnight by Hugh Gibbons of Just1. This one-man, not-for-profit organisation provides a helping hand for social justice and against world poverty. Stand Up for Fairtrade is a companion to the annual Schools Stand Up Against Poverty – in which tens of thousands of pupils and churchgoers across the country reaffirm Promises to the Poor. Other activities for 2011 include Spring Up: Acclaim Campaigners on Romero Day 24 March; and Weigh Up Your MP.

Many thanks – and well done for standing up for Fairtrade.
For more information see www.just1.org.uk/fairtrade



FAIRTRADE CHURCHES' RENEWAL OF VOWS

Just1's short suggested ceremony to reaffirm together your commitment

for use in services during February or early March 2011 - starting with everyone seated, but standing up for the reaffirmation. It may make the core of a homily.

The words are not sacrosanct, and you're welcome to amend or embellish this ceremony to suit your setting or Fairtrade record and activities - perhaps using Fairtrade material

Here's a little quiz about Fairtrade – and the answers may surprise you.

How many Fairtrade Churches are there? Over 7000 – in over 60 Fairtrade dioceses and denominational areas. How many Fairtrade Towns and Boroughs are there? Over 500. How many Fairtrade universities and colleges? Over 100. How many schools have gone Fairtrade? Nearly 500. How many products with the Fairtrade mark can you now buy in all sorts and sizes of retail outlets - from the biggest supermarkets to small Traidcraft volunteer stalls? Over 4500. And what are the total sales worth? Nearly one billion pounds. How much have they grown in the last two years of financial constraint? Over 60%!

These numbers speak volumes – as they reflect the great and growing welcome that millions of people have given to Fairtrade and its values and massive contribution to ethical trading.

The Fairtrade Foundation was established in 1992 by Christian Aid, CAFOD, Oxfam, Traidcraft and the World Development Movement - later joined by the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Today, many other organisations big and small support its aims – not only in this country but worldwide.

Fairtrade is a movement that aims to help producers in developing countries obtain better trading conditions and promote sustainability. The movement advocates the payment of a higher price to producers as well as social and environmental standards. You'll know it, for example, from coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, , honey, cotton, wine, clothing, chocolate, flowers, gold - and bananas. So Fairtrade is making a real difference to the lives of more than 7 million farmers, workers and their families in dozens of developing countries.

Faith groups have always been key supporters. Across the country, churches and faith communities like ours organise thousands of events during Fairtrade Fortnight and throughout the year. Many include prayers and readings about Fairtrade in worship.

This year, all Fairtrade churches in the UK are being invited to join in a simple, united action - renewing and refreshing the dedication in hearts and minds.

When we originally registered as a Fairtrade Church, we signed up to three goals. So shall we do this again now – reaffirming our commitment as we stand up for Fairtrade? Yes? (Please stand).

As a Fairtrade Church, these are our goals in 2011 and beyond:

- As a parish/church, we will use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which we have responsibility
- As a parish/church, we will move forward on using other Fairtrade products
- As a parish/church, we will promote Fairtrade both during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible

Do we all agree these should continue to be our goals? Yes? (Yes!)

Finally, a present for all of you from Fairtrade and all the people it serves across the world - their heartfelt thanks. And now turn to each other, give yourselves a pat on the back, and say Well Done for standing up for Fairtrade again.

For more information see www.just1.org.uk/fairtrade



Draft press release to local newspapers and other media

Local churches to stand up and renew their Fairtrade vows

Local churches are to stand up and reaffirm their commitment to Fairtrade as part of their activities during this year's Fairtrade Fortnight 28 February-13 March

During services, congregations will be invited to stand up and renew the goals they set when they became a Fairtrade Church. These are:

- To use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which we have responsibility
- To move forward on using other Fairtrade products
- To promote Fairtrade both during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible

The churches taking part in the xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx are:

- St xxxxxxxxx
- St xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- St xxxxxxxxx
- St xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

XXX said: "The churches are also going to make and display Fairtrade banners and posters to show their commitment to passers-by on foot or in cars. Our local schools are helping to produce these as a practical part of their education in social justice."

Across the country, churches and faith communities organise thousands of individual events during Fairtrade Fortnight and through the year. This year it's hoped that they'll also join in this simple common-to-all show of solidarity for Fairtrade values.

In the UK, there are now over 7000 Fairtrade churches and faith communities, in over 60 Fairtrade dioceses and deonominational areas. Over 500 Fairtrade Towns have been joined by nearly 500 Fairtraid Schools and Universities. Retail sales are approaching £1billion, with over 4500 products now carrying the familiar Fairtrade mark.

Further information is available from: (contact details)

Full information on the Stand Up is available at the website www.just1.org.uk/fairtrade.

EDITORS NOTE The Fairtrade Foundation was established in 1992 by CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Traidcraft and the World Development Movement - later joined by the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Today, many other organisations support its aims.

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For full information see www.fairtrade.org.uk