

FAIRTRADE REPORT to

Vale of Aylesbury Circuit meeting on 15 March 2016

Fair trade- making a difference

What's been happening?

- Fairtrade fortnight ended on 13th March.
- Fairtrade was a focus for the weekly 'Good News' prayers.
- The Circuit continues to promote itself as a Fairtrade Circuit.
- A Fairtrade section has been included on the Circuit website.
- Catalogues continue to be distributed to churches (serviceable from Chinnor)
- Churches holding circuit services facilitate a Fairtrade stall when requested.
- Some churches and individuals take up the offer to display and order Fairtrade goods through the Circuit Rep.
- Fairtrade stalls have been provided at village events, schools around Chinnor
- Fairtrade supplies have been provided to other churches and denominations.
- Some £860 was given to Christian Aid as a result of our Fairtrade sales in 2015.
- Farming in the UK is seen as a profession with a high risk of suicide.
- Fairtrade continues to make a difference to communities world wide.

Why bother?

- Traidcraft was initiated through concerns by Christians about inequalities

The purposes of Fairtrade include:

- allowing individuals, with support, to work their way out of poverty.
- improving skills
- redistributing wealth and sense of wellbeing (and contentment about staying)
- tapping into the idea of globalization
- providing a wider group of buyers the opportunity to buy an increasing range of products to the satisfaction of all.
- to provide opportunities to improve social and mental wellbeing.

Questions that might be asked include;

- How easy is it to change from the products we use to alternative products?
- What is the cost to others as a result of the choices we make?
- What are choices based on? Image/ quality/ ethics/ familiarity/ inertia
- What is a fair price?

Questions that the Circuit policy requires Churches to ask are:

- Is Fairtrade included on the Church council agenda?
- Is the commitment to claim status as a Fairtrade Church being fulfilled?

For more information please visit

- the circuit website
- www.fairtrade.org.uk

Prepared 9.3.16 By Rodney Thorpe