

# What can we do about... Fair Trade



**The field of the poor may yield much food,  
but it is swept away through injustice.  
*Proverbs 13.23***

***Think about your life and your beliefs.***

How do you look after creation and how do you love your neighbour? Does what you buy exploit others or the environment? Find lots of resources for churches at: <http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/>



***Be aware.***

There's no excuse for ignorance. The web has lots of information about Fair Trade. Over 3000 products have been Fairtrade certified and display this label.

Start by having a look at the Fairtrade Foundation site: <http://dev.fairtrade.org.uk/>

***Buy local products.***

Fair trade applies to Scottish producers and farmers too. Support them and reduce carbon emissions from transport by buying local products. Find out about farmers' markets at:

<http://www.scottishfarmersmarkets.co.uk/>



***When you can't buy local - buy fairly traded products.***

Despite global warming you still can't buy Scottish bananas. Choose products with the Fairtrade mark whenever possible. This guarantees a better standard of living for the growers and helps to alleviate poverty in the developing world.

***Only serve fairly traded tea and coffee at church events.***

Have a church tasting session where you try out different brands and switch to your favourite Fair Trade products. Use Fair Trade sugar and biscuits too.





### ***Lobby your local store***

Find out what Fair Trade products are **not** available in your local supermarket. Plan a day or a week in which your church members ask the manager to stock a particular product. Use letters, phone calls and visit the store.

### ***Think creatively.***

Organise a fun event for your church family based around locally bought food and Fair Trade food. Invite your neighbours. Find Fair Trade recipes at: <http://www.fairtradecookbook.org.uk/>



### ***Campaign with the Trade Justice Movement***

International trade could help millions lift themselves out of poverty. But, as things stand, present trade rules are making poverty worse. Learn about Trade Justice and how you can campaign to get the rules changed: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/issues/trade/facts/index.aspx>

<http://www.tjm.org.uk/>

### ***Set up a Fair Trade stall.***

Organise a weekly or monthly stall after church or at mid week events which stocks Fair Trade products. Getting together with other local churches could make the ordering and organising easier. Or get a stock of Fair Trade catalogues and encourage your friends and family to order items from these. Look at the Traidcraft website to learn how to be a Fair Trader:

<http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/>



### ***Finally, have fun!***

Switching to Fair Trade can lead to all sorts of fun activities to raise awareness.

# Bible Study and Discussion Material

*Leviticus 23.22; Deuteronomy 8.12-14; Proverbs 13.23; Isaiah 42.5-7; Matthew 25.31-44*

1. As Christians, how can we interpret biblical teaching on issues related to food and farming at the current time?
2. How can the principles of 'fair trade' usefully be applied to Scottish food production?
3. How do we balance the power of the supermarkets with the needs of individual farmers in Scotland and the developing world?
4. What, as individual church members, can we do
  - a) at a local level
  - b) at a global levelto bring about a fairer deal for those working in agriculture.

The following resources can be found on the Church and Society web pages on the Church of Scotland website:

- **Fair Trade in Food:** Report to the General Assembly 2007
- **Children's Show:** 'Fair Trade and Food Miles' – suitable for schools and Sunday schools
- **Children's worksheet** – to go with the above

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/churchsociety/csresources.htm>

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