

# IT'S TIME TO PUT FAIRTRADE IN YOUR BREAK

27 FEBRUARY – 12 MARCH 2017  
FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

CHOOSE FAIRTRADE



**DON'T FEED  
EXPLOITATION**

# Church action guide: Fairtrade Fortnight 2017

Ideas to help your church get involved with Fairtrade Fortnight 2017, from holding a Fairtrade Break to preaching on Fairtrade linked to lectionary readings. Visit [fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight](http://fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight) for further ideas, resources and stories.

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# It's crunch time for farmers

The food on our tables, the tea and coffee in our mugs, all from farmers who toil, sweat and slog. However hard they work to provide the things we depend on, millions of farmers in developing countries aren't paid what they deserve.

Many are paid prices too low to provide for their families properly. They get trapped in poverty. Their children go hungry, and can't go to school. They can't be taken to the doctor when they are sick. They have to drink dirty water because they live in communities without running water or wells. Lack of money also means pressure for children to work.

**No one deserves to be short-changed for a hard day's work.**

**'What does the Lord require of us: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God' Micah 6:8**

Tea pickers in Malawi earn less than **£1.46 a day**,<sup>2</sup> not enough to provide decent food, education or healthcare for their families

Over half of the children in Malawi's main tea growing areas don't complete primary school<sup>4</sup>

1 in 10 children in the tea growing regions of Malawi die before their fifth birthday<sup>7</sup>



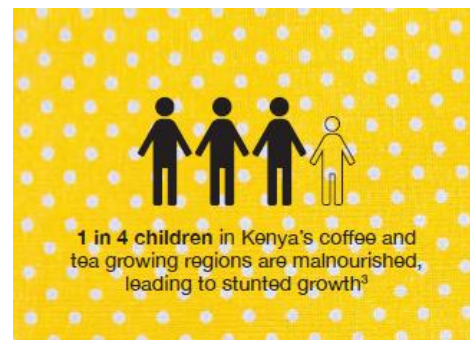
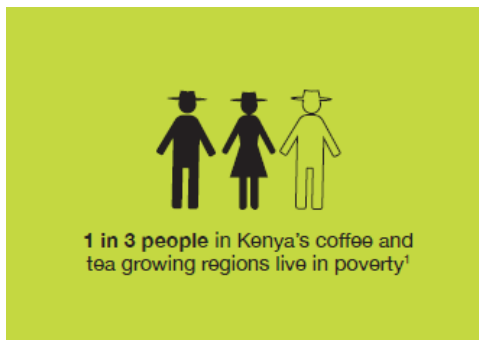
Paying farmers unfairly while we benefit is exploitative. When we reach for our everyday food, we may be unconsciously feeding exploitation. We become part of the problem. But we can make a conscious choice to be part of the solution.

Farmers get a better deal when they sell their crops as Fairtrade. This leads to a better and more stable income, and can help them break the cycle of poverty they are trapped in.

But not enough companies are buying on Fairtrade terms and not enough of us are choosing Fairtrade products.

**That's why, this Fairtrade Fortnight, we're asking churches everywhere to show their support for the farmers and workers who grow our food.**

**Hold a Fairtrade break and help farmers to get a fair deal, feed and look after their own families, and protect the environment.**



# Put Fairtrade in your break: Ideas

Holding a break isn't a new idea, but a tried and tested way to get people together around food and drink to take time out. And when people are together, it's a chance to get people thinking about the people who grow our food and drink. You'll no doubt have your own ideas, but here are a few pointers:

- **Serve Fairtrade food and/or a Fairtrade drink** (we're sure you do already if you're reading this!) – why not challenge people to a bake-off challenge using Fairtrade ingredients?
- Encouraging people to consider the impact of their choices on the farmers and workers. **Could we be unwittingly feeding exploitation?**
- **You could show a film** to get people thinking and talking. We'll be sharing a new provocative 2 minute film just before Fairtrade Fortnight – or if you have more time, show Fairtrade Matters (see page 7).
- **Making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday?** Use Fairtrade toppings to turn a regular pancake evening in to a Fairtrade Break
- **Order Fairtrade resources from [shop.fairtrade.org.uk](http://shop.fairtrade.org.uk)** (see the page 6)





# Put Fairtrade in your break: Resources

Visit [shop.fairtrade.org.uk](http://shop.fairtrade.org.uk) to order:

- **Event packs:** Include posters, leaflets, stickers a game and more to get people thinking about the people who grow our food.
- **Posters:** Brand new for 2017, and suitable for use all year-round.
- **Merchandise:** T-shirts, aprons, bags and more
- **Other items:** including Fairtrade Matters on DVD



**Breaks and Ladders:** Our twist on the traditional game, ideal to get young people thinking about life for farmers and workers.



# Films on Fairtrade

## Don't Feed Exploitation

A new film for this Fairtrade Fortnight - A hidden camera follows normal families discovering the potential consequences of buying non-Fairtrade products. This short, thought-provoking film is under two minutes long and is perfect for starting a discussion.

We'll be sharing the film and more information in the run up to Fairtrade Fortnight – make sure you are signed up to receive updates at [fairtrade.org.uk/newsletters](http://fairtrade.org.uk/newsletters)

## More films on Fair Trade

Our friends at Christian Concern for One World (CCOW) have collected lots of films on their website:

[www.ccow.org.uk/showing-fair-trade-film/](http://www.ccow.org.uk/showing-fair-trade-film/)

## Fairtrade Matters

A thought-provoking short film featuring Edson and Tsala, tea producers in Malawi. See the difference Fairtrade makes for them, their families and communities, and the challenges they face in a poignant portrait of the everyday reality of life behind the tea we drink.

These reflection notes could help kick start a discussion or talk following the film.



# Sunday 26 February

# Sermon notes

**Last Sunday before Lent** (and the last one before Fairtrade Fortnight...)

- Exodus 24:12-18
- Psalm 99
- 2 Peter 1:16-21
- Matthew 17:1-9

In the Transfiguration, God's eternal past and future break into the present in a burst of clarity and glory. There are strong echoes of Moses' encounter with God on Mount Sinai: the dazzling light of revelation and instruction in a high place follow six days of darkness and challenge (for Moses, literal cloud; for the disciples, the weight of Jesus' declaration that those who would follow him must take up their cross and follow him, whatever the cost). But here, words of love and comfort, and Jesus' gentle touch and presence, replace Sinai's "devouring fire". And God's instruction is simple, "This is my Beloved Son... listen to him!" Although terrified, confused and flustered to the point of babbling at the time, Peter later looks back on the Transfiguration as a seminal moment of understanding and seeing. And he urges his readers to heed such moments: "be attentive, as to a lamp shining in a dark place".

Where do we see the eternal breaking into our world today? What is Jesus saying today that we need to hear and attend to? Like Peter, are we in danger of rushing headlong into activity and being side-tracked by structures? Or will we be attentive to moments of understanding and revelation - God's shining moments – and live in light of them?

The psalmist writes, "Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice". The Fairtrade movement stands for equity and justice, determinedly offering an alternative model of trade, which puts poverty alleviation, sustainable development, environmental protection and social justice at the heart of international trade. By buying and promoting Fairtrade products we affirm our faith in a God of justice, seek to share God's love in our daily lives and take a simple, practical step to follow in the way of Jesus.



# Sunday 5 March

## First Sunday of Lent

- Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
- Psalm 32
- Romans 5:12-19
- Matthew 4:1-11

The account of the Fall in Genesis is a stark and pertinent warning that having to have everything – refusing restraint – brings suffering and the loss of innocence. In contrast, Matthew records how Jesus rejected the temptations of personal satisfaction, abuse of position, and worldly power, choosing instead the service and worship of God.

Lent offers us the opportunity to take time to reflect with Jesus in the wilderness on our fallen world, to decide what words and principles we will live by, to face our temptations and to determine how we will repent and respond.

# Sermon notes

Today's world is one of gross inequality, where many millions of people still live in extreme poverty and go hungry, despite there being enough for all. The rich world's refusal of restraint and the temptation to put our material comfort before godliness are part of the problem. We have created an unfair global trading system that allows us to enjoy cheap clothes and food but causes others to suffer. Many of the farmers and workers who grow the tea, coffee and other products found in our store cupboards aren't getting paid fairly.

But as Paul writes to the Romans, God wills life and offers the healing power of repentance. And we, by grace and following Christ's example, can reject temptation. One way is through Fairtrade, which is a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Its purpose is to create opportunities for producers and workers who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalised by the conventional trading system. Fairtrade is good news – and a way we can respond practically to our hurting world.

# Sunday 12 March

## Second Sunday of Lent

- Genesis 12.14a
- Psalm 121
- Romans 4.1 5, 1317
- John 3.117

God's call to Abram poses a significant challenge – to leave all that he knows for an unknown land. But the promise that accompanies it is perhaps even more challenging: “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” Abram, who appears to have been of no particular importance in his society, might have wondered “why me?” But he goes - and God, pleased with that faithful obedience, fulfils the promise spectacularly.

We might feel that God's call to Abram is far removed from our experience. But our Gospel reading makes it clear that we too are called and challenged: *whoever* would follow Christ must undergo a change so radical that it can be compared to a new birth.

# Sermon notes

God's call throughout Scripture comes to very ordinary people, because the point about God's work is that it relies on God's power, not ours. And throughout history, God has shown a willingness to transform the world that He loves so much by using ordinary people in ordinary places

Where is God calling us to step out in faith today, leaving what is familiar for something new? Where is God challenging us to accept new birth and to become, by God's grace, a blessing to others?

About seventy years ago, a single US Christian began what became the first Fair Trade shop. Almost forty years ago, UK Christians started selling Fair Trade goods through their churches. Over twenty years ago, agency supporters in the UK handed in their till receipts to convince supermarkets to carry the first Fairtrade goods. These were – are – ordinary people, who saw that loving your neighbour involves caring about the people behind the goods and services we use. They sought to do the right thing – and today Fairtrade involves more than 1.65 million farmers and workers in certified Fairtrade organisations

# Prayers

A selection of Fairtrade-themed prayers

Lord God,  
In the fields of the poor  
Even when abundant fruits ripen,  
Injustice sweeps them away,  
And families hunger.

Help us to share  
The fruits of Your bounty  
So that all Your family may benefit  
From Your gracious gifts.

*Based on Proverbs 13:23*

## Change Our Habits, Lord

Where our habits have reflected our sin and not your love,

*Have mercy, Lord – forgive us our sins.*

Where we seek help to form habits that conform to your ways,

*Grant us grace, Lord – your will be done.*

Where new habits of righteousness transform unjust structures,

*We praise you, Lord – your kingdom come!*

## Simple Things

O Lord,

You revealed your Kingdom in parables

That spoke of simple things —

Yeast in a loaf of a bread,

A woman sweeping her home.

Grant that the simple choices we make –

What tea to drink, what fruit to eat –

May honour your Name

And reveal your Kingdom present among us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen

## Just a moment

It starts with a change  
So outwardly insignificant  
That no one would notice  
Except the person  
Behind you in the aisle.  
Just a moment  
When instead of seeing  
Rows of labels  
On a supermarket shelf  
You imagine the people  
Behind them,  
Tilling the earth,  
Sowing the seed,  
Gathering the crops.  
And you pause,  
Wondering,  
What their names are,  
Where they live,  
What difference it will make  
If your hand picks up  
This box instead of that,  
Wondering: how do I  
Love these neighbours?  
Can I help change  
This child's long journey for water,  
Her mother's lack of healthcare,  
The prospect her father faces  
Of another year unable  
To feed his family well?  
Just a moment.  
And the person behind you,  
Her impatient baby  
Squirming in the trolley,  
May never realise  
That in that brief hesitation,  
A life hung in the balance.





Thanks to Christian Concern for One World for providing the prayers and sermon notes in this guide. You'll find more worship materials on Fair Trade and other topics at **ccow.org.uk**.

**fairtrade.org.uk**

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