

# Praying and Preaching about Fair Trade



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*

## Prayer

Praying for Fair Trade allows us to bring trade issues before God, asking that God's love and justice will transform the rules and practices of trade. We pray that God will assist those suffering because of unfair trade ... those developing new ways of trading ... those making choices about what they sell or buy.

The **Fairtrade Foundation** has annually produced a "Church Action Guide," with prayers, Bible studies, and other helpful material. Several past guides – [2009](#), [2011](#), [2012](#) - are online, and we also have hard copies of materials from these and other years. Let us know if you'd like some.

**CCOW** has collected a number of the prayers we've provided for Church Action Guides over the years in a single sheet, available [here](#). We also have Fair Trade prayer points that were provided by Asha Handicrafts, a Fair Trade Organisation in India, which you can download [here](#). If you'd like to give your congregation something to take away, we have a [prayer card](#) based on the prayer at the top of this page. You can get up to 50 copies free (though donations for postage and packing are appreciated).

**Traidcraft's** "[Church Resources](#)" webpage has links to an array of materials including materials for [Lent](#), [Mothering Sunday](#), Harvest, Advent and Christmas. Methodist churches may be particularly interested in the [Covenant Service](#). Some of Traidcraft's best prayer resources are no longer on their website, but have been archived in the Diocese of London's Fairtrade campaign "[Prayer and Worship Resources](#)". One World Week also has a [full service](#) that people connected with Traidcraft produced for OWW in 2008.

**CAFOD** has a collection of resources – including Scripture, reflections, excerpts from Catholic Social Teaching and prayers – around trade and Fairtrade. You can find them on the CAFOD website [here](#) (scroll down). **Methodist Relief and Development Fund** has a Fairtrade prayer in its [prayer resources](#) and a Fairtrade-related [reflection](#) on Mark 5; **Christian Aid** includes its prayer in a section on [just economies, trade and tax](#).

New Zealand's **Church World Service** has an excellent worship service, which ties into Pentecost, [here](#).

Want to try something more informal? The Sanctuary Centre has ideas for [prayer stations](#). Or you could follow a suggestion by Peter Graystone and hand everyone a tea bag as they come in. During prayer time, ask them to hold it, to sniff the aroma of tea, to pray for all who have grown, picked and transported the tea – and for justice in the tea trade over all. CCOW has also done a "[cuppa](#)" [prayer](#) that focuses on the

impact of climate change on tea farmers, fluctuating prices on dairy farmers and trade rules on sugar farmers. Or you could show a powerpoint sequence of images as a focus for your prayers. Traidcraft has a [variety of presentations](#) with very strong pictures. CCOW can also email you images upon request.

## Sermons

If you're preparing a sermon in a church that uses the Revised Common Lectionary, you might want to look at the 2012 Church Action Guide (see above), where Elizabeth Perry offers notes on the lectionary texts. Elizabeth also does a "linked lectionary" called [Development Matters](#) for every Sunday of the year, offering not only notes but also illustrative stories/reflections that tie into the weekly lectionary readings. (2012 and 2015 have the same readings ....)

CCOW is beginning to put together a "bank" of sermon notes and sermons. You can find some interesting ones online:

- The Revd. Dr Bruce Hamill, a Presbyterian Anabaptist in New Zealand, "[Learning to Consume Rightly](#)"
- Dr Mark Hayes, [Fair Trade](#) sermon at Robinson College, Cambridge. Shares his experiences of helping to set up the Fairtrade Foundation – obviously a unique perspective! – but also contains more general reflections on Isaiah 58 and Matthew 20.
- The Revd. Guy Wilkinson, St Peter's, Wolvercote, "[Go Bananas for Fairtrade](#)"
- The Revd. Simon Cutmore, "[A Sermon to End Fairtrade Fortnight 2011](#)"
- The Revd Hilary Dawson's [Fairtrade sermon](#) (includes discussion of Transfiguration)
- Colin Hull's sermon at St Mary's, Welwyn: "[A Challenge to a King and the Call to Fairtrade.](#)"
- "[Healing and Justice in the World,](#)" from St Mary the Virgin, Godmanchester

We'd love it if you were to share your sermons with us! Please send them to [coordinator@ccow.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@ccow.org.uk).

## Readings

If you are preparing a service in a church which has more flexibility to choose readings, there are many options. In terms of readings, for example, options might include Isaiah 3:14-15, Isaiah 58, Ezekiel 28:5, 14-15, Amos 8:4-7, Luke 4:16-19 or James 4:13-14, 5:4.

## Talks, Sketches , Films ... Cafés?

Could you ask someone to speak or be interviewed in your service? Perhaps a producer visiting your area? someone from your local Fair Trade shop? Your church's Traidcraft rep? Or someone from a Fair Trade-related charity? (CCOW is happy to provide thoughts or speakers).

Other things that can be effective include films and sketches. The Fairtrade Foundation has a brand new film called [Fairtrade Matters](#), and there are many other excellent options available (click [here](#) for our Fairtrade Film summaries).

Sketch possibilities include [Praying for Change](#) and [Enfield Fairtrade Group's Ready, Steady, Cook sketch](#).

Or why not do something completely different ... perhaps a café-style church with Fairtrade products and a talk on the Christian principles of Fair Trade? Take a look at [Haddenham church's Cafepius+](#) for some ideas. A great way of inviting people who don't regularly go to church to consider the Good News!