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# Praying and Preaching about Fair Trade (2018)

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.

Each year, the **Fairtrade Foundation** produces a "Church Action Guide," which contains prayers, Bible studies, and other helpful material. To read the 2018 Church Action Guide, click [here](#). CCOW also has [a page](#) where you can link to earlier Church Action Guides.

**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 prayers that were provided by Asha Handicrafts, a Fair Trade Organisation in India, which you can download [from the same page](#). 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.

**Traidcraft's "Resources"** webpage has links to an excellent array of materials including a series of reflections for Lent, and materials for Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter, Advent and Christmas. Methodist churches may also be particularly interested in the [Fair Trade Covenant Service](#). Some of Traidcraft's best prayer resources (prayers, whole services, etc with a focus on India, Chile and tea) are no longer on their website, but have been archived in the Diocese of London's ["Prayer and Worship Resources"](#).

**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](#). **Christian Aid** has a prayer on fair trade [here](#).

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

Want to try something more informal than a written prayer? Why not go for something fairly new? For example, following a suggestion by Peter Graystone, hand everyone a sample tea bag as they come into church. 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. Or show a powerpoint sequence of images as a focus for your prayers. Traidcraft has a [ready-made powerpoint](#) with a wonderful story about Fairtrade tea.

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## Sermons

If you're preparing a sermon in a church that uses the Revised Common Lectionary, you can find some very helpful resources in the [Church Action Guides](#), or in Elizabeth Perry's new "linked lectionary" which offers notes and illustrative stories/reflections that tie into the weekly lectionary 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 own experiences of helping to set up the Fairtrade Foundation – obviously a unique perspective! – but also contains more general reflections on lectionary texts
- The Revd. Guy Wilkinson, St Peter's, Wolvercote, ["Go Bananas for Fairtrade"](#)
- The Revd. Simon Cutmore, [A Sermon to End Fairtrade Fortnight 2011](#)

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
- Ezekiel 28:5, 14-15
- Amos 8:4-7
- Luke 4:16-19
- James 4:13-14, 5:4

## Talks, Sketches , Films ... Cafés?

At a recent service at High Street Methodist Church in Witney, Reverend Richard Donoghue incorporated into the service an interview with a visiting producer. If you don't have a producer visiting your area, could you interview someone from your local Fair Trade shop? Your church's Traidcraft or Created 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 [wide selection of films](#), and there are many other excellent options available (click [here](#) for our Fairtrade Film Night summaries). The [Traidcraft powerpoint presentation](#) mentioned above has a strong narrative, too.

Sketch possibilities include [Praying for Change](#), a [sketch about bees and honey](#) (with the added bonus of local poet Averil Stedeford's Fairtrade Song added – lyrics [here](#)), [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!

*CCOW can provide further information about Fair Trade resources – and we're always happy to give talks in churches or to local groups: ring 01235 851763 or email [maranda@ccow.org.uk](mailto:maranda@ccow.org.uk)*

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