

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT IN YOUR CHURCH: 2026

Celebrating Fairtrade: 21 September to 4 October



He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 (ESV UK)

"Do it Fair" is the Fairtrade Fortnight theme. But it's not just a slogan we adopt for a fortnight. It's what the Bible says we are called to do week in and week out. Whether we are at work or at home, alone or with others, our calling is to do justice, love kindness, and seek God's guidance and will.

Loving kindness and doing justice are often linked. When we buy a cup of tea, a new shirt or a chocolate bar, we know there are people behind the products - neighbours who grew, crafted, or processed what we buy. God calls us to show them loving kindness, indeed, to love them as we love ourselves. That means we have to care about whether they're being treated justly: Were they paid enough for their work so that they can care for their families and the land they farm? Are they free to respond to their community's needs and to ask for good working conditions? Are they protected from dangerous chemicals and helped to adapt to climate impacts they didn't cause?

Fairer trade offers a way to live out this calling. This Fairtrade Fortnight, let's help our churches get re-enthused for Fairtrade. It's easy to get started: take a look inside!

FELIX REFLECTS



Felix Tetteh is a
cocoa farmer in the
Asetenapa Cocoa
Farming and
Marketing Society
Union in Ghana and
a young Fairtrade
ambassador

“When most people think about chocolate, they think about sweetness, celebration, comfort, and joy. But behind every chocolate bar is a farmer whose story is often filled with hardship, uncertainty and sacrifice....

Imagine waking up before sunrise. Working under intense heat for long hours. Carrying heavy loads. Caring for your family and your farm throughout the year, and still not earning enough to live with dignity....

The truth is this: the people who grow cocoa like myself, are often the ones who benefit the least from chocolate.



This is why Fairtrade matters. Fairtrade is not charity. Fairtrade is justice. Fairtrade ensures that farmers receive fairer prices for their cocoa and additional support through premium money invested in projects ... Fairtrade also gives farmers a voice. It treats farmers not as invisible workers at the bottom of supply chains, but as human beings with dignity, rights and dreams...

As consumers, you have more power than you think.

Sometimes people ask: Can one person really make a difference? And the answer is yes, because change begins with awareness, choices and with compassion.”

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.



DOING OUR BIT FOR FAIR! WE WILL ...

Start off the Fortnight by committing or recommitting to be a Fairtrade place of worship.

**(RE) COMMIT
TO FAIR**

There are two criteria:

1. To use Fairtrade products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee and sugar) and share information about Fairtrade products with the wider congregation.
2. To integrate Fairtrade into the life of your place of worship, at Fairtrade Fortnight or other times of the year, for example through events, stalls and worship.

To find out more about the programme and how you can register for a certificate, go to www.fairtrade.org.uk and look in 'Grassroots Groups'.



Pray, preach, and study about Fairtrade this Fortnight ... and at key points throughout the year.

**PRAY, PREACH AND
TEACH ABOUT FAIR**

CCOW's prayer/preaching webpage - <https://bit.ly/FairTradePrayers> - has loads of materials and links. You can find an outline service, prayers, preaching resources, suggestions for group study and more.

Work with young people to share how our daily choices can reflect God's love and justice.

**DO IT FAIR IN
SUNDAY SCHOOL,
YOUTH GROUP,
AND ASSEMBLIES**

The **Fairtrade Foundation** (<https://bit.ly/FairtradeSchoolsHub>) and **CAFOD** (<https://cafod.org.uk/education/fairtrade-school-resources>) offer activities, films, stories, and more, with suggestions for every age group.

Find suppliers that can meet our needs for tea, coffee, sugar, and a wide variety of other products.

BUY IT FAIR

CCOW's guide focuses on key church supplies - from basic refreshments to biscuits, food for meals, Easter eggs, flowers, cards, and holding crosses. Find it at <https://bit.ly/UsingFairtradeInChurch>. The **Fairtrade Foundation** has a full buying guide at <https://bit.ly/FairtradeBuyingGuide>



"WE SERVE FAIRTRADE COFFEE AND TEA TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE WHO PRODUCE IT TO FEED THEIR OWN FAMILIES AND SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL."
CHURCH MEMBER, OXFORDSHIRE

LINKING FAIRTRADE AND SEASON OF CREATION

Felix Tetteh says: *“Climate change is now one of the greatest threats to cocoa farming in Africa. In my community, the rains no longer come when they should. Sometimes we experience longer droughts that destroy young cocoa trees and at times there are heavy floods that wash away farms and spread diseases among crops.”*

As the impacts of climate change become obvious in our own lives and around the world, Christians are increasingly working to care for creation in a way that shows love of God, each other, and our planet. The Season of Creation (1 September to 4 October) is an important time for climate-related prayer and action. This year's theme is 'Living Waters'. The resources discuss issues with water pollution and climate-driven droughts and floods, while pointing towards the *“divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.”*

Fairtrade fits well within this theme. Farmers are among those most vulnerable to climate impacts. They are calling for climate justice, with a focus on funding for adaptation. They're also taking action: care for the environment - including water - is an integral part of Fairtrade standards, and Fairtrade incomes are helping farmers protect waters and land. Find out more from the Fairtrade Foundation and CCOW.

COFFEE THAT CONNECTS

If you're like many churches, you may have regular coffee mornings. They're a great way to bring a congregation together and to welcome people from across your community. This Fairtrade Fortnight, why not hold a special harvest coffee morning highlighting how such times of fellowship and welcome can connect us with neighbours both locally and around the world?



Thoughts for Your Coffee Morning

- **Bring people together around the idea of fairness for people and the planet.** Invite members of your local Fairtrade and/or sustainability groups, local councillors, and other partners from your community, if they aren't already usual attendees.
- **Share a producer video or producer story** from the Fairtrade Foundation's website. If you are in a rural community, **ask a local farmer to share their experiences**, too.
- **Have a chocolate taste test, and use the interactive chocolate prayer** to highlight the contributions of Fairtrade and local farmers.
- **Ask people to bake cakes using as many Fairtrade and local ingredients as possible.** Check <https://bit.ly/FairTradeCookbook> for ideas.
- **Pop a copy of the Fairtrade Foundation's petition and a pen on each table.** If you have a special guest, ask their permission to take a picture of them signing it and to share the picture with local media.

We are grateful to the Fairtrade Foundation for permission to use their illustrations and to Felix Tetteh for his permission to share his picture and quotes from a talk he delivered in Oxford this May.

This material was prepared by Christian Concern for One World. We work for fairer trade because we feel it's a key way for Christians to show love of God and neighbour. If you'd like to find out more or get in touch, visit our website, www.ccow.org.uk, or email us at info@ccow.org.uk.