

Ideas and Comments from the Fairtrade Pledge Tree

At the end of our conference, delegates were asked to make a pledge for their next step in the Fairtrade journey. The results were overwhelmingly encouraging, so much enthusiasm and ideas. However there were a few contributions from some who felt unsupported by their churches.

1 Spreading the word/vision

- Get informed, look up some websites (eg Fairtrade Foundation, Anglican Diocese, Fairtrade, Traidcraft, etc)
- Give a talk to the church, tell a producer's story (plenty of material on websites)
- Have an exhibition
- Get visiting speakers
- Write magazine articles
- Put things in weekly notices
- Put notices up inside and outside church
- Encourage user groups of halls and church to serve Fairtrade
- Make sure those producing cakes etc. for church use Fairtrade ingredients.

2 Faith, Justice and Prayer

- Any action should be underpinned by faith
- Importance of living justly - Fairtrade is **not** charity but justice
- Importance of leading by example – eg buy more Fairtrade goods
- Hold a prayer breakfast
- Hold a Fairtrade Alpha meal
- Hold a Fairtrade Confirmation
- Encourage other faiths to use Fairtrade
- Encourage more to be done at Deanery level

3 The Big Brew (11th July 2009) and Fairtrade Fortnight (25th Feb – 7th Mar 2009)

- Hold a Big Brew cream tea in the vicarage garden, send invitations round locally
- Start organising The Big Brew early
- Hold a coffee morning
- Hold a Fairtrade lunch
- Start a stall
- Hold Fairtrade Fortnight banana inspired events 'go a bit bananas'
- Make banana cakes
- Get schools involved

Other topics

Children and Young People

- Work with schools
- Work with children in church
- Work with youth groups, eg suggest living off Fairtrade food only for a few days.

Perseverance

- Every supporter matters, however small
- Keep going in spite of apathy
- Don't be deterred by lack of enthusiasm from others