

## Fairtrade Church – Make it Happen Conference

10<sup>th</sup> January 2009

### Workshop for churches who already have their Fairtrade certificate

Our first goal to becoming a Fairtrade Diocese includes this commitment:

- *And through further prayer, worship and study to develop its witness in the area of relationship and justice and engagement with the Millennium Development Goals.*

This is echoed in London Challenge 4b

*We will engage with the Millennium Development Goals and build on our existing partnerships with the church in Africa especially in Angola and Mozambique.*

And London Challenge 4e states: *We will engage with local and national government on behalf of the powerless and re-learn the difficult language of speaking truth to power.*

Looking at the Millennium Development Goals alongside the Principles of Fairtrade we noted how involvement with fair trade will lead us to a greater awareness of some of the many ‘faces’ of poverty.

Noting the goals of Fairtrade and Micah’s call to DO JUSTICE we noted that we are called to be a voice for the voiceless – to campaign and lobby on their behalf, as well as by the personal lifestyle choices we make.

Useful resources for group study:

**Justice and the Heart of God** by Emma Kennedy. 10 studies for small groups published by Christian Aid and available from Amazon

**Mind the Gap**, Rich World Poor World, The Unfinished Agenda.

A Christians Aware resource for study, discussion and action towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals. e-mail [barbarabutler@christiansaware.co.uk](mailto:barbarabutler@christiansaware.co.uk) Cost approx £10

See also other study resources from the resources page of this site.

### Practical examples:

Ros Lister spoke of the way that Chiswick Churches for Justice and Peace (CC4JP) came together in support of the Trade Justice Movement. The churches hold public meetings (4 times a year) with speakers and MP to learn more about poverty and justice issues. They lobby and campaign together. Recently they noted that Fairtrade wine was not available in restaurants and bars so organized a wine tasting and invited owners and managers of these establishments to hear Harriett Lamb and a representative from Ehrmann wines. One of the largest pub/restaurant chains is currently engaged in carrying this forward.

Now they are working with Sainsbury to encourage them to produce a cheaper Fairtrade biscuit, with churches and children in mind.

Fran spoke of the MDG prayer stations and days of prayer (involving churches of all denominations in the area) for the 8 goals. The event took place at St Mary’s, Sunbury, when Rev Paul Davis confined himself to the church for a week and lived on bread and water to be a focal point in the area for the Make Poverty History campaign.

**The church is a ‘Movement for Change’ to challenge injustice as Christ did. We must not be a weak link.**

*Archbishop of York. 2005*