

## **Fair Trade Stall at Our Lady of Muswell, Muswell Hill**

I don't think it is much sacrifice really. You are paying for this coffee and I think it is helping other people.

I would say start off simply; buy a few items, tea and coffee maybe sugar, biscuits. Chocolate is a very good seller.

When it is for Fair Trade I eat it more than anyone because it is for a good cause.

I am happy to buy the Fair Trade chocolate and pay more and know that that money is going to a good cause. Find yourself a space, advertise it in your newsletter and just go ahead and do it. You will find the people will respond and will be interested to know what it is about, what you are doing.

I know the people who work very hard to produce these flowers and they have been marginalised. If buying these roses puts a penny back into their hands it will have made my day. I would be grateful if a lot of people would do that. The farmers in the developing world, most of them eke out a living by working so hard in difficult conditions.

There is a Waitrose advert which has the song 'I am proud to be African' which shows the products they sell and they show the farmers whom they get the products from. It shows how much of a better standard of living they get by getting the right amount of money for their products.

We have sold approximately £24,000 worth of Fair Trade goods since May 2000 which indicates the level of support from parishioners here that they give to the project.

We have raised the awareness of the parish about the issues of Fair Trade and about our faith in a way that brings it to life for people. It is real and it is the things we use every day that may not mean so much to us but giving a fair deal means a great deal to those in developing countries.

As brothers in Christ we are all called to be fair, kind and just to each other and what that means is that we do not take advantage, just as we would not want someone to take advantage of our own immediate siblings. When they can't speak for themselves we speak for them. Fair Trade is a way of us making a stand and saying well it is unfair and I stand for this so I will purchase this.

The world is so full of people chasing money that they take advantage in areas where the money means a lot more to them because they have a harsher existence; they need to be sustained and justice has to be done.

Just by showing that normal parishioners are working for Fair Trade will have an affect on everyone else.

We live in a global family, these are our brothers and sisters. Our brothers and sisters are in need and we have a duty of care towards them. It is not something that can't be done, it is not an unrealisable dream, it is achievable: by making choices when we do our shopping. The idea behind this is that people will go to the supermarkets, not just when they come here to buy the odd packet of tea and coffee, but they will actually go the supermarkets and choose Fair Trade products that are available there.

Buying coffee at church means that I don't need to buy it at the supermarket but what I find at the supermarket is bananas. I always buy Fair Trade bananas.

The idea here is not that this should go on for ever but people should become so used to buying Fair Trade that where there is a Fair Trade option that nothing else is acceptable and thereby alleviate the dire poverty in the developing world. It is our duty, it is not just an optional extra, it is our duty as Christians.