

# Fairtrade Newsletter



## Grant Award

Our Fairtrade Group applied for a grant to fund:

- a bespoke piece of furniture to securely store and display our Traidcraft stock.
- display materials including a desktop display stand.
- promotional materials to take to events outside the church.

We are delighted to say the grant from the Scottish Fair Trade Forum for £372.65 has been successful.

Rainer Lohmann from Glenzier will be making the storage and display cabinet which will be made out of pew doors and pew wood so that it is in the same style as the servery and the cabinet will be on wheels so it can be moved if needed.

## Stay well connected

“Only connect! That was the whole of her sermon. Only connect the prose and the passion, and both will be exalted, and human love will be seen at its height. Live in fragments no longer,” wrote E. M. Forster in ***Howard’s End***.

“Only connect! ... Live in fragments no longer.” Though he did not put it quite like that, that is certainly how Jesus lived his life and invited (demanded?) others to lead theirs – by connecting and not fragmenting: connecting with others regardless of *their* connections, their class, income level, size and location of house, their place and date of birth, their job, gender, status, skin colour, culture, religion, their education, their intellect, or any other attribute by which we differentiate ourselves so effortlessly from others.

That is why his message is so tough, because that is what we do most of the time: differentiate, and judge; disconnect, and defend; self-centre, and fragment. These are our default positions.

Now, with the down-turn in the economy, we face a particular challenge of *staying connected*, and of not entirely self-centring and fragmenting. One way in which this will affect us in particular will be when we are shopping. Why? Simply because shopping *by its nature* is such a self-centred activity – centred on ourselves, our partners and our families: ‘What can I afford?’ ‘What can I not do without?’ ‘What do I fancy?’ For the past fifteen years Fairtrade has invited us to think beyond our own wants and needs, while doing this very self-centred activity, by inviting us to *connect*, for

example, with the woman who picked our bananas, or packed our roses; with the man who grew our coffee, or who drew our honey from his hives; and the woman who plucked our tea from her bushes, or our cotton from her fields.

Look on the reverse of a jar of CaféDirect coffee and you will see just how explicit is this *invitation*, and how personal is that *connection*. There you will meet one of the very farmers whose coffee has gone into *this* jar, Daniel Minaya Huaman, from Peru. Daniel says – and it is there, *on the label* – “When we started selling our coffee to CaféDirect at Fairtrade prices, we really noticed the difference. We can say with pride that due to the additional payments, we can now better educate our children. It has meant our way of life has improved.” Look on the back of a packet of Coop granulated sugar. There it says – *on the packet*, “... direct from the Kasinthula Cane Growers in Malawi, a cooperative of small holders who receive a fair deal for their sugar cane to invest in their communities.”

So, our plea, in these tougher times, is don't desert your Fairtrade principles. Stick with Daniel, the Kasinthula sugar farmers in Malawi and the 5 million other farmers and their families in 54 countries worldwide, whose lives are infinitely tougher than ours will ever be, and whose livelihoods, in these uncertain times, will be much, much more vulnerable without Fairtrade. Don't cut them out of your shopping ...

Stay well connected.

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*Keswick and District Fair Trade Campaign*

# Fairtrade Fortnight 2009

## 23<sup>rd</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March

### Fairtrade Promotion Day

#### Volunteers Needed

The Prysbytery Fairtrade Group is holding a Fairtrade Promotion Day at **Gretna Gateway on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February**. If you are able to give an hour of your time that day to help please contact Kirsteen on Canonbie 71725 or email her at [kirsteen@midascomp.co.uk](mailto:kirsteen@midascomp.co.uk)

### Black Gold

**Remarkable – a moving but scandalous story**

**Don't miss this film!**

3pm Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Annan Lonsdale Cinema

£4.40/£3.70 Concession

Call 01461 206901 to book

### Cash for Trash

The recycle box for old mobile phones and printer ink cartridges is now situated in the office area. This is a great green way to support Fairtrade as all the money made goes directly to Traidcraft's charity arm Traidcraft Exchange.