



Speak Out for Fairtrade!

A brief guide to some unusual actions for UK schools for or before Fairtrade Fortnight 27 February to 11 March 2013

SPEAK OUT FOR FAIRTRADE is a full-of-fun contribution to the portfolio of activities that schools of all sorts and sizes have available in their support for or studies of Fairtrade.

This brief has an innovative but simple set of suggestions for schools linked with or close to a local church - whether it's Fairtrade or not.

Secondary level schools will certainly want to be in on things - though primary-age schools may well lead the way. Both may well want to seize the opportunity to have pupils stand up in a local pulpit, speaking out to whole congregations on why churches of all sorts should commit and recommit to Fairtrade. The material includes a simple renewal of the three pledges - and there'll be churches not yet signed up which will like the idea of a local school coming in to make the case. To help, this brief includes a suggested script, and some hints on speaking.

Notice that Speak Out can engage not only pupils but School Councils, PSHE/RE teachers, PTAs, governors, parishioners, parish clergy, local councillors, and MPs.

The suggestions are:

- **SPEAK OUT TO WHOLE CONGREGATIONS** with pupils in pulpits presenting on why schools need their local churches to commit to Fairtrade
- **SPEAK OUT TO THE EYES OF PASSERS-BY** with banners and bunting outside schools and churches
- **SPEAK OUT TO THE EYES OF CHURCHGOERS** with pupil-made decorations inside a local church
- **SPEAK OUT TO PARISH CLERGY** with the present of a Fairtrade clerical shirt!
- **SPEAK OUT TO YOUR MP AT WESTMINSTER** with the 1-minute Bing Bong Song

As well as this document, the website www.just1.org.uk/fairtrade includes news, extra links, and a place where you can register the likelihood and outcome of a school dressing and addressing a church.



GET PUPILS OUT OF CLASSROOMS AND INTO PULPITS

Speak Out to a Congregation

A suggested 5-minute talk during a weekly service by one or more primary or secondary pupils - on why it's important for faith groups to be seen committed to Fairtrade

This is a just a guide for use before or during Fairtrade Fortnight (ie at the end of February). You might consider involving several pupils - or parents. NB The words are not sacrosanct, and you're welcome to amend or embellish anything to suit. Holding up something Fairtrade would be a useful visual extra - eg banana, bunting, bar of chocolate...

Like many others, our school is for Fairtrade. So we are here to thank you for your own support as individuals and families. But we also need to tell you why it's important for us that you should be a Fairtrade Church.

Schoolchildren like us are taught that Fairtrade is a movement that aims to help producers in developing countries obtain better trading conditions and promote sustainability.

Fairtrade aims to ensure payment of proper prices to producers, and raising social and environmental standards. Through Fairtrade you are making a real difference to the lives of more than 7 million farmers, workers and their families in over 50 developing countries.

You'll know Fairtrade from coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, , honey, cotton, wine, clothing, chocolate, flowers, gold - and bananas. You can buy over 4500 products with the Fairtrade mark in all sorts and sizes of retail outlets - from the biggest supermarkets to small Traidcraft stalls. Sales are £1.3 billion. That's over £20 for every person in the UK - and continuing to grow strongly despite pressure on family budgets.

The Fairtrade Foundation was established in 1992 by Christian Aid, CAFOD, Oxfam, Traidcraft, and the World Development Movement - quickly joined by the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Many other organisations and millions of people now support its aims - not only in this country but worldwide.

Today in the UK, there are over 500 Fairtrade Towns and Boroughs, and 100 Fairtrade universities and colleges. Schoolchildren across the country get to appreciate Fairtrade

at all our stages of learning about social justice. So we need to see and be reassured that our churches share and show the same appreciation. Over 4000 Churches and faith groups have said they want to show their commitment to Fairtrade.

To be called a Fairtrade Church, parishioners have to sign up to three simple goals. They are not hard to observe.

1. We will use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which we have responsibility
2. We will move forward on using other Fairtrade products
3. We will promote Fairtrade both during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year, through events, worship and other activities whenever possible - and that's what's happening today!

If you agree with all these, please hold up your hand - like the figure on the Fairtrade symbol! Thank you.

We'll pass on the message that - like our school - you're for Fairtrade.

Finally, we've a present for you from Fairtrade and all the people it serves across the world - their heartfelt thanks.

Now give yourselves a pat on the back, and say Well Done for standing up for Fairtrade once again.



www.just1.org.uk/fairtrade





HOW A WHOLE SCHOOL MIGHT VOLUNTEER TO

Speak Out for Fairtrade!



MAKE A BANNER TO GO OUTSIDE SCHOOL – TO SHOW PASSERS-BY WHAT YOU VALUE AND BELIEVE IN

This one was hand-made at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School in South Ascot. (For many weeks, it was there to catch the eye of parents, parishioners and the many passers-by.) “We’re all for Fairtrade” makes a good general-purpose banner, too. And if you want to go bananas inside or out, get one of big inflatable ones.



GET SOME READY-MADE FAIRTRADE BUNTING TO STRING UP OUTSIDE OR INSIDE A SCHOOL OR CHURCH

It comes in 10-metre lengths, made of coated paper but remarkably weather-proof. You can loop it out as St Francis pupils did alongside the banner above, or bundle it up to make a different eye-catching display.



HAND-MAKE YOUR OWN FAIRTRADE BUNTING FOR INSIDE A CHURCH

At St Francis Primary School, every one of the 200+ pupils created their

own personal design on triangles of cotton – PSHE/RE with its sleeves rolled up. The Chair of the PTA then spent an evening (thanks!) sewing them together ready to be draped around the church next door. Parishioners in the pews were able to admire the children’s handiwork close-up, and even bowed their heads in respect...



DRESS YOUR PARISH PRIEST WITH A SPECIAL PRESENT: - A FAIRTRADE COTTON CLERICAL SHIRT!

They’re available to buy on-line in a range of colours and sizes for both men and women. NB Fairtrade communion wine makes a good routine way of extending the use of Fairtrade goods in a parish.

AND TAKE A MINUTE TO UNITE, ADDRESS, AND SURPRISE WESTMINSTER - WITH THE 1-MINUTE BING-BONG SONG

Winkfield St Mary’s CofE Primary pioneered a unique idea – for schools and churches. Facing towards Westminster, they said *Good Morning Prime Minister, we have good news:*

the UK citizens of tomorrow really do care about a fairer world today. They then sang We’re/For/Fair/Trade to the tune of the chimes of Big Ben!



So you might sing the same to your local MP or councillors. And the school council can spread this good story to the local papers, parents, former pupils, and other nearby schools.

More? See www.just1.org.uk/fairtrade





A few tips for schoolchildren prepared to **Address a whole church on Fairtrade**

Well done - and many thanks for being prepared to speak up for Fairtrade. You'll find it good fun, good experience, and good news for your audience.

Here are some thoughts to keep in mind if you're addressing a local church using the Just1 script or something like it. The purpose is to make them appreciate why it's important for them to commit to Fairtrade. So think of taking along something Fairtrade as a visual aid. It might be a jar of coffee, or an inflatable banana, or a poster, or a bit of bunting, or just a big picture of the Fairtrade logo. And at the end, you might invite the congregation to join in the Bing Bong Song.

If they are already a Fairtrade Church, you can invite them to renew their pledges. If not, you can invite them to think of signing up.

The key thing is that you've a lot going for you!

- You have a friendly audience - who like the idea of you talking to them
- Your talk is very different from the usual ones by adults - including sermons
- You're not there to ask for money!
- You can get their attention by thanking them for what they've done for Fairtrade - as a church and individually - and asking them to give each other a pat on the back (which always goes down well)
and
- You've a big success story to tell them - with up-to-date information on the value of supporting Fairtrade
- You'll be getting them to do something there and then: renew their pledges with a show of hands
- You'll probably find the parish priest wants to welcome and introduce you

You'll probably be reading out loud from a script - just one A4 page

- If necessary, break the script up into small paragraphs and short sentences.
- Check out where you'll be presenting - for example, lecterns may be already loaded with a Bible, bidding prayers, and notes.

Take your time - you don't have to hurry. Speak clearly and as if you are having a normal conversation. Your aim is to let people hear and understand, not 'get it over and done with'. At most you'll take less time than most sermons.

Speak up - you can never be too loud. And practise keeping the volume and pitch of your voice up at the end of sentences (dropping them is a common problem with many grown-up speakers.) People appreciate that - and it keeps them listening.

Pause as you move on to a new paragraph. It's so your words can sink in, and let the audience know you're moving on to a new topic. If you're sharing the talk with others, then this will happen naturally. And a big pause at the end is a good idea - so the audience can start applauding!

With best wishes - you'll enjoy things - and many thanks again.

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