



**FAIRTRADE
FORTNIGHT 2014
24 FEBRUARY – 9 MARCH**

**STICK WITH
FONCHO
TO MAKE
BANANAS FAIR**

 **STICKWITHFONCHO.ORG.UK**

**CHURCH
ACTION GUIDE**



**THE POWER
OF YOU**

STICK WITH FONCHO TO MAKE BANANAS FAIR

Bananas – we love ‘em! They’re the most popular and most traded fruit in the world. In the UK alone we eat over five billion a year and in 2012 we spent over £550 million on our favourite fruit.

In fact, as the fourth most important food crop in global agriculture after rice, wheat and maize, they generated a staggering US \$8 billion in global export earnings in 2011.

Yet whilst the banana business is booming, the truth is that not everyone is enjoying the benefits.

The majority of bananas we eat are grown in Latin America, the Caribbean or Africa, by workers on large plantations or by small-scale farmers. Many of these farmers and workers are seeing their earnings cut in real terms while also grappling with rising costs of production. Shockingly, many still can’t always afford to put food on the table for their families or provide the basics such as education or healthcare.

A major cause of this is severe pressure in the banana business to keep prices low. Intense retail competition in the UK has seen the price we pay for loose bananas slashed to unsustainable levels. In the last 10 years, as the cost of producing bananas has doubled, the UK supermarket sector has almost halved the shelf price of loose bananas. It’s a race to the bottom driven by supermarkets who want to offer us the cheapest bananas possible in order to get more shoppers into their stores.

Read in more detail about the problems in the banana business in the accompanying Campaign Action Guide – available to order or download from stickwithfoncho.org.uk

**SOMETHING HAS TO CHANGE,
AND THAT’S WHY, THIS FAIRTRADE
FORTNIGHT, A MAN WITH A PLAN
IS COMING.**





Albeiro Alfonso ‘Foncho’ Cantillo is a 43-year-old banana farmer from Colombia. Foncho understands the difference a fair price can make because the majority

of the bananas he grows he sells as Fairtrade. But he knows it’s not always the same for other farmers and workers. He’s fuming that the majority of the bananas munched in the UK are sold so cheaply that his fellow growers often do not earn enough from what they sell and are struggling to make ends meet. So he’s coming all the way to the UK this Fairtrade Fortnight in the hope that we can make bananas fair.

The UK has already shown great support for banana producers – one in three bananas sold in the UK are Fairtrade – and this is bringing real benefits to over 18,000 farmers and workers. Yet despite this success, to have a transformative effect on the lives of the other thousands of farmers and workers we need to go further than just choosing Fairtrade. This Fairtrade Fortnight we must act to bring about real change in the banana industry by petitioning the government

to work with supermarkets to end unfair supermarket pricing practices. And we need your church and community to stick with Foncho to do this.

MAKE BANANAS FAIR IN 3 STEPS:

- 1 **Make Foncho famous in your church**
- 2 **Gather as many petition signatures as possible**
- 3 **Of course: buy Fairtrade bananas**

We’ll let you know the latest policy analysis and details of the campaign petition in early 2014. Abolishing unfair bananas in the UK is a huge task so Fairtrade Fortnight is only the beginning of the campaign – stay tuned throughout 2014 for the next steps we’ll be taking.

Find all the latest news and lots of free resources at

STICKWITHFONCHO.ORG.UK

FIRST SUNDAY IN FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Sunday 2 March 2014

First reading: **Exodus 24:12-18**

Psalms: **Psalms 2 or 99**

Second reading: **2 Peter 1:16-21**

Gospel: **Matthew 17:1-9**



INJUSTICE IS EVERYWHERE

We live in a world where injustice is found in every corner of the globe. It may feel at times as if there is no end to the injustice and poverty we see around us. Life for many appears hopeless despite their best efforts at changing their situations. Yet people living in poor communities cling to the hope of a better life ahead and work hard to make it a reality.

FAIRTRADE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Fairtrade offers hope for many. Buying Fairtrade products means that farmers in developing countries are given a fair price for their products as well as an additional premium which they can choose to invest as they see fit. This could be in community projects to provide healthcare or education, or in their business to increase capacity, improve efficiency and create a more sustainable and secure livelihood. Through Fairtrade, farmers and workers can escape the chains of poverty and can begin to see an end to the injustice that traps the lives of so many!

GOD LOVES JUSTICE

Psalms 99 pronounces that 'God loves justice'. Buying Fairtrade products and campaigning to make trade fair allows us all to be part of bringing justice to this world. As disciples of Christ we are called to live the way of Christ – to stand with the marginalised, to give food to the poor, drink to the thirsty, clothes to the naked. Our involvement in the Fairtrade movement is an expression of our discipleship as we make intentional choices about how we shop, donate money, campaign for change and serve others in practical ways.



Philemon Allen, banana farmer from St Vincent visits St Cyniac's Church, Lacock in Wiltshire

SECOND SUNDAY IN FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Sunday 9 March 2014 – First Sunday in Lent

First reading: **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

Psalm: **Psalm 32**

Second reading: **Romans 5:12-19**

Gospel: **Matthew 4:1-11**



WE ALL HAVE CHOICES – OR DO WE?

Every minute of every day we are faced with choices, they may be big, they may be small, but I'm sure you can think of many decisions you have already made today!

However, there are many people who are so marginalised or disenfranchised that they don't have a choice in many areas of their lives. They don't have enough money to choose where to spend it, to choose a holiday or what they are going to have for dinner. They don't face many of the choices that we might have.

OUR CHOICES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The choice Adam and Eve made in the Garden of Eden – their disobedience – led to a terrible consequence for them.

Our decisions and our choices can also have a great effect on those around us. Making the right choice can mean freedom and a way out of poverty for the farmers and producers in developing countries. We can make a difference through every action we make. Through Fairtrade,

farmers receive a better price for their goods and also receive an additional premium which they can choose to spend where they feel they need to. This premium gives them choices that they otherwise would not have: choosing the best way to invest in their community or business for a brighter future.

In this Fairtrade Fortnight, and beyond, may we take more care with our choices, and choose Fairtrade. 'And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' Micah 6:8



Sculpture of St Paul's Cathedral... in St Paul's Cathedral during Fairtrade Fortnight 2013

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

Prayer for justice

As we enjoy our abundance of wealth
We pray for the hungry nations of the world.
May they be freed from the yoke of oppression.

Response: Hear your people's plea.

As we celebrate the joys of creation
We pray for the people who are denied their share.
May the earth and everything in it
Be for the benefit of all human beings.

Response: Hear your people's plea.

As we benefit from international trade,
We pray for the producers and workers
Who are deprived of their just reward.
May all created goods flow freely for all.

Response: Hear your people's plea.

Tony Singleton/CAFOD



**Creator God,
You loved the world into life.**

Forgive us when our dreams of the future
are shaped by anything other than glimpses of a kingdom
of justice, peace and an end to poverty.

**Incarnate God,
you taught us to speak out for what is right.**

Make us content with nothing less than a world
that is transformed into the shape of love,
where poverty shall be no more.

**Breath of God,
let there be abundant life.**

Inspire us with the vision of poverty over,
and give us the faith, courage and will to make it happen.

A Christian Aid prayer



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



Some examples of children's activities to be prepared in advance, ready for the congregation in the Sunday service.

1 PREPARE A SHORT PLAY ILLUSTRATING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FAIR AND UNFAIR

- Start by asking the children to think of examples from their own lives to show the difference between fair and unfair.
- Explain that despite working hard to grow products that we like, such as bananas, many farmers don't receive enough to provide education, healthcare, new clothes and food for their families. Sometimes they aren't even paid enough to cover their costs of production, such as seeds, fertiliser and fuel.
- Investigate together how Fairtrade helps producers to earn enough to pay for these things – through setting a minimum price for their produce, paying an additional Fairtrade premium to them, bringing farmers and workers together to have a stronger voice and helping them to protect the environment.
- Can the children also now act out an example of how unfair trade can be for a banana farmer and how Fairtrade can make a difference?
- Ask the children to perform this play to the rest of the congregation to explain what they have learnt about unfair trade and how we can make a difference by choosing Fairtrade.

2 AN ACTIVITY ABOUT CHOICES

- Ask the children to think of different choices they have had to make this year, month, week, day. Maybe, 'What shall you spend your pocket money on?' or 'What would you like to be when you grow up?'
- Explain to them that there are children their age who don't get choices like that, because their parents work hard growing things we like such as bananas, but aren't paid enough to have any money left for these kinds of choices.
- Explain how Fairtrade gives choices to those who otherwise might not have them, by ensuring farmers and workers receive a minimum price to cover the costs of growing their crops, and paying an additional premium – which they can choose to invest in their community or business. e.g. 'Foncho now earns enough to pay for his daughter's college fees.'
- Explain that we can also make choices, about the food or clothing we buy, which impacts on others' ability to make choices. Choosing to buy Fairtrade bananas, and other products, is one way to give more choices to others.
- Ask the children to create a collage or poem to tell the rest of the congregation how the choices we make can give more choices to others.

Find more information about Foncho and his family, films, presentations, quizzes and recipes at stickwithfoncho.org.uk



ARE YOU A FAIRTRADE CHURCH?

THE THREE GOALS A FAIRTRADE CHURCH MUST FULFIL ARE:



- 1 Use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which the church has responsibility
- 2 Move forward on using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit
- 3 Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible

Over 7,000 churches of all denominations have been awarded Fairtrade Church status. If you are not one of these, visit fairtrade.org.uk/faiths or contact us to find out more: volunteer.faiths@fairtrade.org.uk or **020 7405 5942**

FAIRTRADE DENOMINATIONAL AREAS

In denominational areas like dioceses, churches are getting together to give their Fairtrade campaigns a louder voice and a bigger impact. Join them by working with other churches in your area to meet the following goals:

- To support and promote Fairtrade, further encourage the use and sale of Fairtrade products and serve only Fairtrade coffee and tea at meetings the denominational area is responsible for.
- Ensure that at least half of the churches or places of worship in your denominational area have become a Fairtrade Church.
- Encourage other local churches, parishes and circuits to adopt a Fairtrade policy. As far as possible, display literature advertising the fact that Fairtrade products are used and served there.
- Attract further media coverage and continue raising awareness of the FAIRTRADE Mark. If possible, make reference to the denominational area's Fairtrade status on the relevant website.
- Set up a Fairtrade steering group to take responsibility for ensuring goals continue to be met and are developed over time.

www.fairtrade.org.uk

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