

Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church (BSBC)

Fair Trade Policy

The Church supports the principles of fair trade and as such has signed up to be a Fairtrade Church. As far as possible, the Church will make purchases in line with the principles of Fairtrade.

The Church promotes Fairtrade Fortnight, uses Fairtrade products where possible and engages with other Fairtrade campaigns.

Full information showing what Fairtrade is about is given in the Appendix.

This policy was adopted by the Trustees on 4th May 2020 and will be reviewed every three years.

APPENDIX

Fairtrade is a global movement with a strong and active presence in the UK, represented by the Fairtrade Foundation.

The Fairtrade Foundation is an independent non-profit organisation that focuses on six key areas:

- it licenses the use of the FAIRTRADE Mark in the UK
- It helps to grow demand for Fairtrade products and empower producers to sell to traders and retailers
- It finds new ways of working with our partners to support producer organisations and their networks
- It raises public awareness of the need for Fairtrade and the significant role of Fairtrade in making trade fair
- It supports small scale farmers and workers who are marginalised from trade in a variety of ways and carefully monitor the impact of Fairtrade on these communities.
- As a certification scheme, Fairtrade Standards demand minimum commitments and requirements, such as on pricing, and empower small farmer and worker organisations.

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

Fairtrade has been shown to increase standards of living and reduce risk and vulnerability for farmers and workers. The Fairtrade Minimum Price provides a safety net for farmers which can mean they are less vulnerable to price volatility. In turn, this can mean a better cash flow, greater access to credit and the ability to save more easily.

Food security is linked closely to economic growth, stable incomes and reduced risk and vulnerability. A better income means more money to buy food and the ability to invest in generating other food sources, such as growing new crops.

Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love.

Fairtrade is unique. It works with businesses, consumers and campaigners to ensure farmers and workers have an equal say in everything done. Empowerment is at the core. Fairtrade's vision is a world in which all producers can enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential and decide on their future.

Fairtrade's mission is to connect disadvantaged farmers and workers with consumers, promote fairer trading conditions and empower farmers and workers to combat poverty, strengthen their position and take more control over their lives.

Very importantly there are benefits for Fairtrade farmers and workers too by partnerships with robust company-owned schemes. Not only does this take a step closer to making the vision a reality, it can make sure Fairtrade principles and Theory of Change impacts are embedded at the heart of a business. It can make sure farmers and workers are benefiting, and their needs are central – in line with the empowerment principle. Farmers have control through organisations over how their additional premium (or equivalent) income is spent. It can also ensure that there is transparency and can hold businesses to account. Partnering with businesses shows Fairtrade is able to be flexible beyond its core expertise in certification, and remain relevant in a changing world.

Fairtrade knows from its research that supporters are comfortable with it working with companies behind the scenes to help them do better. Indeed the involvement of Fairtrade reassures people that companies are being held to account and are not able to over-claim or engage in 'greenwash'. And so in this context, Fairtrade has chosen to engage with the very best of these schemes, ones it believes will help reach its vision and deliver significant impact for farmers and workers. Fairtrade will only consider entering into a scheme which meets its partnership principles, which focus on the impact on producers, the potential for empowerment of farmers and workers and the commitment to independent third party verification. If it does not feel a proposal meets its partnership principles it will work with companies to reshape their schemes or will step back from supporting a scheme if that cannot be achieved.

The **International Fairtrade system** (which the Fairtrade Foundation is a part of) represents the world's largest and most recognised fair trade system. It is a global organisation working to secure a better deal for farmers and workers.

But beyond the standards and certification, the Fairtrade system also provides direct and indirect support to farmers and workers and their organisations to deepen social and environmental sustainability.

Rather than focusing on all the ingredients for one final product, FAIRTRADE Sourced Ingredients (FSI) means companies can make big commitments to sourcing one or more specific commodities for use across their ranges, or even their whole business, without necessarily labelling the end product.

Farmers still receive all the benefits of Fairtrade as with the core FAIRTRADE Mark. This includes the protection of the Fairtrade Minimum Price (where relevant) and the Premium to choose how to invest in their community.

Fairtrade has a committed programme of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) that supports internal learning and improvement and helps build the evidence base for assessing the difference we make. This programme is based on its 'Theory of Change' and ensures it gathers the right data and information on what difference Fairtrade makes to the lives of farmers and workers.