

## FAIRTRADE UPDATE



Welcome to the final Update of 2017!

Once again, we hope that you find it informative and providing you with more reasons for choosing to make Fairtrade a very real aspect of your own life .... Not only in choosing to purchase Fairtrade products but also in becoming more aware of the 'bigger picture' that addresses matters of human rights abuses and exploitation.

So, we do hope that you are beginning to fully appreciate that Fairtrade is much more than chocolate, coffee and cookies! ..... There is just SO much injustice and exploitation facing thousands of people in poorer countries. Whatever we can each do in this corner of Kent may seem like a drop in the ocean, but together lots of small drops can create a huge pool of water with which we can help to wash away the mistreatment and exploitation of employees by their employers in poor countries around the world.

As we think about our celebration of Jesus' birth, we are reminded of the mission that He had in His life as His Father's Son ..... To bring the Father's love to everyone.

His life, as prophesied by Isaiah, also challenged the powerful in society who were also guilty of exploitation.....

'The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners' (Isaiah 61:1)

In choosing Fairtrade gifts this Christmas, we will, in a practical way, be 'Do(ing) what is just and right 'and '...defend(ing) the cause of the poor and needy ...' (Jeremiah 22: 3 &16).

'Is that not what it means to know Me.' Jeremiah 22:16)

As you think about your Christmas gifts this Christmas, in choosing Fairtrade items to give to your family and friends, you will be giving them the Lord's LOVE at the same time as doing what you can to help end the lives of oppression and captivity being experienced by many workers in poor countries.

### FOCUS ON CHRISTMAS ..... Make it a Fairtrade Christmas!

**Christmas orders.....** There's still time to look through the *Traidcraft* catalogue to see for yourself what a wonderful range of goods are available and place an order. As long as we have your order by Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at the latest, you should receive your goods in time for Christmas.

#### **Dried Fruit .....**

If you have not yet made your Christmas cake, Mince Pies and Christmas Pudding, come to the Fairtrade Stall on 9<sup>th</sup> December at the St Laurence Christmas Fair to buy the dried fruit that you will need. (See also last month's Fairtrade Update in the November edition of *The Beacon*.)

### **Fairtrade Apricot Frangipane Tart .....**

(See the November edition of *The Beacon* with article on Child Labour and its link to CHILD LABOUR.)

If you have not yet tried out this recipe, there's still time before Christmas!



The recipe that uses Fairtrade VANILLA ESSENCE is now on the Parish website ([www.stlaurencparish-ramsgate.org.uk](http://www.stlaurencparish-ramsgate.org.uk)) and Facebook page (The Parish of St Laurence-in-Thamet). You can get the Fairtrade vanilla essence and sugar from Waitrose, but we always have Fairtrade sugar on the monthly Fairtrade Stalls.

Don't forget to send us your comments and review of the recipe once you have made it.

We would love to hear from you.

It could well become a contender to offer as an alternative to the traditional Christmas Pudding for those of your family and friends who do not like Christmas Pudding!

## **Product Review**

**NEW PRODUCT Chilli Geo Sticks** (22g bags at 90p each) – An ideal 'nibble' to have with a drink or as part of a buffet meal over the festive period.



Here is our independent Reviewer Assessment of the product:

**Quality** (1 = Poor/5= Excellent)

Score: 5/ 5

Comments : **Delicious.**

**Value for money** (1 = Poor/ 5 = Excellent)

Score: 5/ 5

Comments : **Compares well with other single snack bags.**

**Overall Assessment** (1 = Would not buy it again/ 5 = Would recommend it to others)

Score: 5/ 5

Comments : **Crunchy and tasty. Would get it again.**

Thank you to our reviewers for their time and effort.

## Product Focus Special!

**Festive Biscuits** : These make ideal gifts for someone or as a gift for host or hostess of a Christmas 'do' you will be attending.



**Festive Shortbread Biscuits** (200g box @ £3.85)

**Chocolate Christmas Tree Biscuits** (200g @ £2.75)

**Cranberry or Ginger Biscuit Boxes** – 12 luxury dark chocolate coated cranberry / ginger biscuits in an attractive gift box. (200g @ £4.25)

## Special Offers



**Divine Dark Chocolate Mint Thins** (200g) and **Divine Dark Chocolate Ginger Thins** (200g)  
..... Each at £3.90 ! Normal retail price £4.35 ..... **SAVE 45p per box!!**

Both would be delicious to have at the end of your Christmas lunch or you could use them for a gift item.

### Cookie Bundles



2 x 180g packets of *Traidcraft's* deliciously chunky cookies at £3.55.

(Normal retail price at £3.70)

### Chocolate Bundles

3 x 40g bars of *DIVINE* chocolate ( Milk, dark and white chocolate) at £3.00.

(Normal retail price at £3.30)

All of these products as well as our usual range of Fairtrade groceries and household cleaning products will be available on the **Fairtrade Stall** at the **St. Laurence CHRISTMAS FAIR** on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017** in the Parish Hall.

However, don't forget that if you are unable to be at the CHRISTMAS FAIR, you can **place an order** with us for these and any other Fairtrade goods and gifts from the *Traidcraft* catalogue. Simply contact the Parish Office with the details of your order by **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** at the latest to ensure receipt of your goods in time for Christmas.

To help give your Christmas celebrations go with a Fairtrade swing, once again this year, we will be raffling an **Afternoon Tea Fairtrade HAMPER**. (Valued at approximately £30.00)

So, we hope that many of you will make a point of coming to the **Fairtrade Stall** at the **St. Laurence Christmas Fair** to take a look at what we have on offer for you.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

And finally .....

#### Fairtrade Stall Stall Dates

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December (St. Laurence Christmas Fair)

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June

THANK YOU to so many of you who have supported our Fairtrade Stalls throughout the year. Together we are keeping the flag for Fairtrade flying ever higher here in this corner of Thanet. Let's all look forward to making 2018 even more of a Fairtrade year ..... and do what we CAN do to help bring remove the OPPRESSION and INJUSTICE experiences by so many people in other parts of the world.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.



*The St. Laurence-in-Thanet Team Ministry Fairtrade Group*