

## **St GEORGE'S CHURCH FAIRTRADE STALL**

### **End of Year Report - 2024**

Much of the food we eat in the UK is provided by producers and workers in the developing world.

Many of these people live in poverty. They are kept in poverty due to the many dishonest practices imposed on them including late or short payment on contracts, cheating on weights and other similar unfair practices.



**Fairtrade** addresses this dishonesty by setting social, economic and environmental standards that farmers and other producers must adhere to.

The standards include protection of worker's rights as well as promoting gender equality.

In return producers are paid no less than the Fairtrade minimum price for their goods as well as the additional 'Fairtrade Premium'

The 'Fairtrade Premium' enables co-operatives to invest in community, environment or business projects such as healthcare, education, sanitation, water and housing – things we in the UK take for granted

### **So, how are we doing at St Georges?**

The Fairtrade stall was started by Clare & David Palmer some 10 years ago as part of the Parish initiative to live simply as encouraged by Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si' - caring for our common home.

Challenges along the way include the Covid pandemic and the loss of Traidcraft who were one of the UK's biggest providers of Fairtrade goods before they went into administration. However, these challenges have been overcome due to the concerted efforts of our local supplier, Fairer World in Gillygate enabling us to provide an extended range of foodstuffs and other goods all at competitive prices.

The Fairtrade stall can be found in the church entrance after both Sunday Masses usually on the second Sunday of each month with 'specials' provided before Easter and Christmas.

From its simple beginning the stall has now become very much part of St George's Parish. In 2024 £3200 worth of goods were sold. Up from £2,500 in 2023 which was double that sold in 2022. This is entirely due to the outstanding generosity of St. George's parishioners. Many parishioners have been loyal patrons since the beginning and it is pleasing to see many new faces especially amongst the younger members of the congregation.

Every sale helps to provide improved living conditions to producers and workers in the developing world.

Very many thanks for your support,

Frances & Dennis