

## CHURCH CHAT – AUGUST 2013

### **We're Fairtrade at last!**

Are you good at "spot the difference"? If so, you may well have seen the "Welcome to Sudbury" signs by the roads leading into Sudbury, but what's different about them? The words "We are a Fairtrade Town" have been added to each sign!

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013, the Fairtrade Foundation officially declared Sudbury a Fairtrade Town, the culmination of four years of hard work by the local Fairtrade Group and Sudbury Town Council. Now we need to build on our achievement and expand the awareness, purchase and use of Fairtrade products across the town. Look at our website [www.sudburyfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.sudburyfairtrade.org.uk) and if you would like to help us to tackle world poverty through Fairtrade, please call John and Ann Boardman on 01787 372738. Our group has both Christian and non-Christian members, with Christian members taking inspiration from Jesus' own concern for the poor - as shown for example in Matthew 25:37-40.

We went to Hyde Park recently to support the IF Campaign. The 'IF' movement challenges the Prime Minister to tackle 4 big IFs, to help there be enough food for everyone:

**IF** we stop poor farmers being forced off their land, and use the available agricultural land to grow food for people, not biofuels for cars.

**IF** governments keep their promises on aid, invest to stop children dying from malnutrition and help the poorest people feed themselves through investment in small farmers.

**IF** governments close loopholes to stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries, so that millions of people can free themselves from hunger.

**IF** we force governments and investors to be honest and open about the deals they make in the poorest countries that stop people getting enough food.

We want our leaders to act on the four big issues that stop everyone getting enough food. Taking action on the 'corporation tax gap' by multinational companies alone would enable developing countries to raise enough revenue every day to save the lives of 230 children under five currently dying of malnutrition.

Desmond Tutu supports Enough Food for Everyone **IF**, and said:

*"Hunger is not an incurable disease or an unavoidable tragedy. We can make sure no child goes to bed hungry. We can stop mothers from starving themselves to feed their families. We can save lives. We can do all of this, IF we are prepared to do something about it. IF we challenge our leaders to take action."*

Your support for Fairtrade, simply by changing one product you usually buy to a Fairtrade one, will help to bring about positive change in the world. The community where that product is grown will benefit from the fair prices paid, from price stability and from the premium. This premium can enable communities to collaboratively decide how their life can be improved. This might be through providing a water supply, a clinic, a school or bicycles for workers; many things we take for granted in Sudbury.

Please support our Fairtrade campaign in Sudbury – a Fairtrade Town!

*John Boardman*