

Traidcraft Big Brew 2016

A Fairtrade Fortnight resource
for churches



This is an invitation to your church to make a commitment to Traidcraft this spring.

Fairtrade Fortnight 29th February – 13th March 2016

What is The Traidcraft Big Brew?

The world is full of potential – for families to be fed, children educated and poverty consigned to the history books – but we need to **Let it grow**. This year's Traidcraft Big Brew focuses on smallholder farmers and the amazing potential they have to fight hunger in their communities.

Hold a coffee morning, tea party, big breakfast or slap up evening meal and raise money to help us give vulnerable farmers the chance to grow a better future.

Order your free resource pack today from traidcraftshop.co.uk (code 27398) and join us for a cuppa this Fairtrade Fortnight and help farmers, families and communities to build a better future.

Your pack contains an event guide, invitation cards and posters, fundraising ideas and a collection box to keep donations in. You can download extra resource and copies of your pack from traidcraft.co.uk/bigbrew

The Facts

- One in four people live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than one pound per day.
- Half the world's wealth is owned by just one percent of the population.
- If women farmers had the same access to resources as men, the number of hungry people in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million.
- Three quarters of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.
- More than 9 out of 10 farms in the world are family farms.
- 50% of hungry people are farming families.

Smallholder farmers are responsible for over 70% of the world's food. Yet they make up 50% of the world's hungry people. Many small scale farmers are vulnerable and marginalised, unable to invest in education, training or equipment to help them grow and thrive.

Rozina Begum tells her story

“From my childhood I knew that poor people had only one dream which is to be able to eat three times a day. I dreamt the same. I thought I would get to eat if I could get married to someone. I got married when I was thirteen. My mother-in-law had five sons including my husband. My father-in-law died when my youngest brother-in-law was just five. My in-laws were in terrible poverty; a kind of poverty which is not describable in words. When the men of the house were seated for dinner, my heart kept on trembling and I was worried they would ask us to get one more spoonful of rice. I would have to disclose that there was no more rice in the pot. When my husband used to ask me if I had had my dinner or not, I reluctantly nodded my head so he would not know that my mother-in-law and I ate only once a day.



I had only one Saree that I had to wash at night when everyone went to sleep. Sometimes I wore the wet Saree while sleeping. Even after working in people's houses my mother-in-law and my husband could not manage to bring food back to our home. Our bamboo hut could not stop the winter's cold breezes from coming inside. There were no beds and we kept freezing on the mud floor. In the rainy season we got wet sitting inside our only shelter and all of us remained quiet about that situation. Poor people cannot dream about having a place where cold breezes or rain are for rich people's amusement. For us it is acute suffering.

Our dream was limited to eating something good like vegetables instead of rice and salt. Many years of festivals had passed. I did not have anything to wear outside so going to visit my mother's place hardly

ever happened. I continued to sew and fix the holes in my husband's lungi and never dared to ask him for a new Saree. After enduring such suffering one of my brothers-in-law continued his studies. As he was getting education I understood that I had to clean his shirt with the only soap we had so I used it for washing his clothes. None of us washed out clothes with soap. He was studying therefore he had to eat more; I often kept my food for him. We continued to fight against cruel poverty. I had never imagined we had to lose a life in that battle.

My youngest brother-in-law Faruk (10) had fallen ill. He used to be with me all the time. I had brought him up as my mother-in-law was always outside for work. We had no money for his treatment. He used to ask for better food, often saying, 'Bhabi (sister-in-law), I want to have a sweet.' I used to weep while sitting on the corner of his bed. He left us with an empty stomach. I could not give him food or



medicine. It still haunts me all the time. Without treatment Faruk went away for stomach pain but poverty did not. There was no house, nor ducks nor hens; we had no cows or any furniture. **We were fighting against poverty with empty hands.**

After that I got pregnant with our eldest daughter. I often went to sleep y starving a whole day. My husband used to give me courage saying that one day our days would change. He said that one day we would see the rare face of happiness. I left my daughter home with my mother-in-law

and both my husband and I started working as labourers in tea gardens. Together we could earn 100 – 130 taka a day (around £1.15).

We got to know that there is profit in tea planting. I heard about Traidcraft. My husband and I decided to use our land for growing tea plants. Our soil is very good for tea planting. If we can dedicate 1-1.5 years of growing tea in the garden, it will give us leaves for 80-100 years. I received six training sessions from Traidcraft. The wheel of our life then started turning.

After 1.5 years we are now able to see the face of happiness. Now we have electricity. We built a house for 30 thousand taka and we built a kitchen. I have hens and ducks and five cows. Everything has changed miraculously. The tea plant is a miracle in our life. Now we have beds to sleep in. My mother-in-law has a separate room and I made furniture for the house. I bought a tea pot and nicely decorated the room. Now I can buy a Saree when I wish. We are providing all expenses for my two brothers-in-law. My daughter is going to school. I bought a new gold earring and my mother-in-law and I now eat meat most days.

We used to earn 3000 taka monthly; now we can earn ten times that. We now earn 30,000 taka each month and sometimes more. We bought new land. I had never played with any toys in my life, but now during Eid I bought toys for my children. Everything now seems like a sweet dream which is actually our reality. In my yard happiness now resides. I have a lot of dreams for the future. We have to fulfil the educational needs of our children. We also have to finish my brother-in-law's education. We will construct a building. When money comes, dreams come as well.

My husband says that I am a big dreamer. Yes, I like to dream. Dreaming is hope; hope for an incredible tomorrow. I want to buy a red refrigerator so I can give everyone cold water in the summer. I want to buy a Television so they can watch cartoons which I never could watch in my childhood. My self-esteem and willpower have multiplied many times now. I am confident about my success and inspire to do more. I am one of the elected women members of our small tea growers association. I not only dream about myself or my family, I also think about my locality for my community. I want more people to be self-sufficient so no one goes to sleep with an empty stomach. Now people look at me with respect. They say though I had neither education nor experience I become one of their heroes. That makes me very proud. And this makes me responsible for them too. I want to educate my children and believe one day they will come forward to change the hope of the hopeless. **My dream has come true, poverty has to be defeated."**

Worship Resources

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷This is what the Lord says:

'Sing with joy for Jacob;
shout for the foremost of the nations.
Make your praises heard, and say,
"Lord, save your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I will bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the ends of the earth.
Among them will be the blind and the lame,
expectant mothers and women in labour;
a great throng will return.

⁹They will come with weeping;
they will pray as I bring them back.
I will lead them beside streams of water
on a level path where they will not stumble,
because I am Israel's father,
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

¹⁰'Hear the word of the Lord, you nations;
proclaim it in distant coastlands:
"He who scattered Israel will gather them
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd."

¹¹For the Lord will deliver Jacob
and redeem them from the hand of those
stronger than they.

¹²They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;
they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord –
the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,

the young of the flocks and herds.
They will be like a well-watered garden,
and they will sorrow no more.

¹³Then young women will dance and be glad,
young men and old as well.
I will turn their mourning into gladness;
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

¹⁴I will satisfy the priests with abundance,
and my people will be filled with my bounty,'
declares the Lord.

Psalms 147:13-20

¹³He strengthens the bars of your gates
and blesses your people within you.

¹⁴He grants peace to your borders
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

¹⁵He sends his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

¹⁶He spreads the snow like wool
and scatters the frost like ashes.

¹⁷He hurls down hail like pebbles.
Who can withstand his icy blast?

¹⁸He sends his word and melts them;
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

¹⁹He has revealed his word to Jacob,
his laws and decrees to Israel.

²⁰He has done this for no other nation;
they do not know his laws.

Praise the Lord.

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, 'This is the one I spoke about when I said, "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me."') ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in the closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

A Reflection

1. God loves to bless.

Psalm 147: 12 He strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you.

Ephesians 1: 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Count your blessings at the start of the year.

Invite the congregation to give examples of how they are blessed, especially over the last year.

Encourage them to think about both the material and spiritual blessings.

Perhaps people could call out some answers, quietly go forward to write on a large piece of paper, fill in post-its in their seats, discuss in groups, or hear a reflection from the front.

2. **What about those who don't seem to be so blessed?**

Jeremiah 31:8 ... Among them will be the blind and the lame ...

The job is not done yet. The now and not yet.

Question whether everyone in the world has the same blessings.

Are some blessings more important than others?

State some of the known facts about conflict, dispossession, poverty and oppression.

What if these people were our church members?

Are they members of our wider church, human family?

Consider our own responsibility as consumers at the end of unfair supply chains.

How can this situation be rescued?

3. **God loves to redeem.**

Jeremiah 31: 13 I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

Ephesians 1: 7 In him we have redemption through his blood

John 1: 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

Grace upon grace.

God is righteous and just which means he wants to 'make things right'

He calls us to be part of this.

Imitators of Christ who identified with the poor.

4. **What are WE going to do this year?**

What is our response as individuals, and as a church?

How can we ensure that our commitment to Fair Trade grows this year?

Set out an Action Plan.

Say the Fair Trade Covenant prayer together (provided near the end of this pack).

**There are 2,000
references to
poverty and justice
in the Bible.**



Make this Fairtrade Fortnight count

There are some great ways to make this Big Brew your best ever event...

- **Use our lovely resources**

Order your free resource pack (code 27398)

- **Buy your treats and refreshments from our Fairtrade Fortnight Bonanza!**

Go to www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

- **Invite everyone you know**

Serve some tasty fair trade treats to entice your guests.

- **Raise funds to support our life changing work.**

With your help we could support hundreds more farmers like Rozina to thrive.

How to throughout the year.

Fairtrade
Fortnight
29th Feb –
13th Mar

Look out for and use the **Let it grow** videos and stories as they're released at www.traidcraft.co.uk/letitgrow



- **Serve** Traidcraft Refreshments at all services and events
- **Lent & Easter** – instead of giving something up, swap to Traidcraft.
- **Traidcraft Week** (June) – invite a Traidcraft Speaker and hold a Fairtrade Tasting event.
- **Fayres and Special Events** like Harvest, Back to Church Sunday and One Work Week – provide an extra stall.
- **Autumn and Christmas** - collect catalogue orders for cards and gifts.

How to in church

Buy

All across the world, skilled farmers, artisans and workers struggle to earn because of factors outside their control. But every product you buy from Traidcraft gives them a chance to escape poverty – it gives them the power to cultivate a better future.

These people have so much potential - but we need to Let It Grow. Together, we can provide people with the opportunity to truly thrive.

- Serve tea, coffee and refreshments from Traidcraft
- Shop with Traidcraft. You can order by phone, by post, online.
- Support your Church Fair Trader and buy from their Traidcraft stall.
- If there are no local Traidcraft Stockists, distribute catalogues and collect whole church orders for regular groceries, gifts and cards.
- Help farmers, families and whole communities to grow.

Find out more about Fair Trade in Church at www.traidcraft.co.uk/buy-fair-trade-for-church

Donate

Without the right conditions, nothing grows. It's true for plants, but it's also true for people – we need opportunities, we need training, and we need to be treated fairly.

That's what **Let It Grow** is all about - providing farmers and artisans with everything they need to escape from poverty and cultivate a better future. These people have so much potential – but we need to **Let It Grow**.

Give what you can today and help farmers, families, and whole communities to grow.

You can give to Traidcraft by phone, by post or online at www.traidcraft.co.uk

Campaign

Companies can bring huge benefits when they invest in developing countries - growing jobs, skills and income.

But a minority of UK companies don't do this. They get away with things abroad that simply wouldn't be allowed in this country. We're campaigning to have UK companies held accountable for their actions – so that people in developing countries can get justice.

How to Order

 0191 491 0855

 Traidcraft plc, Kingsway, Team Valley
Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE11 0NE

 traidcraftshop.co.uk

 Fair Traders or Traidcraft stockists



How to Donate

 0191 497 6445

 Traidcraft Exchange, Kingsway, Team Valley
Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE11 0NE

 www.traidcraft.co.uk



Add your voice to the Justice campaign today and ask our government to bring irresponsible companies to book.

Stand up for Justice with Traidcraft by visiting www.traidcraft.co.uk/campaigns

Pray

Fair Trade Covenant Prayer – A Fair Trade Resolution Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours.

Call me and open my eyes to the injustice around me, the unfairness around me and the poverty around me;

call me to dare to change my lifestyle, my habits and my outlook for you.

Call me to strive for fairness and justice in everything I do, not just in words, but in actions; not just locally, but globally.

Let me change myself for you, and so change the world for you.

I freely and wholeheartedly commit myself to this duty, knowing that in everything you will give me your inspiration, strength and grace.

Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven.

Amen.

Traidcraft Prayer

Loving Father

Throughout Scripture, Your written Word, And through the life of Jesus Christ, Your living Word.

We clearly see Your heart for Grace, and Your passion for Justice.

We thank you that you love the poor and the marginalised;

We recognise our own poverty before you.

We want to be filled to overflowing with Your love for the poor,
And your rejection of oppression and exploitation.

We are your servants in this world;

This beautiful world, this corrupted world.

Thank you for the gifts you've given each one of us,

Especially the gifts you've given to farmers and artisans throughout the world.

Thank you for the world's resources, and the possibilities of trade.

Bless the work of Traidcraft;

As we seek to fight poverty through trade.

Use our work to further your Kingdom of Grace and Justice;

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Pray for Traidcraft

Here are some points to guide your prayers:

**“The righteous care about
justice for the poor”
Proverbs 29:7**

- **Our Christian Identity**
That we would remain faithful to our Foundation Principles and play our part in 'Thy Kingdom Come' in the world of trade.
- **Inspiration**
That God would inspire our planning and strategies, He would allow us to continue to pioneer and innovate.
- **Our Producers**
That God would protect our producers from natural disasters and human strife, and that our work would have a positive impact on even more people and communities.
- **Our Supporters**
We thank God for each of our supporters! May there be more of them, and we ask God to bless every one of them, their families, communities and fair trade ventures.
- **Our Staff**
Thank God for the talents and skills that our staff bring to the organisation. May they feel motivated, fulfilled and fairly rewarded.
- **Our Managers, Directors and Trustees**
That God would give them divine discernment as they lead and that their passion and understanding of fair trade would grow and grow.
- **Our Products**
That when we select items we would find the right balance between producer impact, and what will sell. That God would provide enough sales and income to meet our commitments and demonstrate that the fair trade model can work well.
- **Our Development Projects**
That we would raise sufficient funds from large grant making bodies and the general public to be able to run transformational development projects overseas, and that God would watch over our Overseas Offices
- **Our Campaigns**
That as we lobby governments and challenge big business, hearts and minds would change toward making trade rules fair for the poor.
- **Our Impact on the Environment**
That we would reduce our negative impact and improve our positive impact on climate change, whether in the UK, or overseas
- **Our Messaging**
That our communications would always be honest and engaging.

Thank you and God Bless!

Traidcraft: the Best of Fair Trade.

Traidcraft is a Christian response to poverty.

The organisation was set up by a group of Christians as a practical response to the call of God as revealed in the Bible to love God and serve the world. We are founded on Christian principles which are used to shape our policy and guide our decisions. We believe that God is love, God is Just, and that Jesus Christ proclaims good news for the poor. However, in a world of plenty, inequalities of trade keep billions of God's children trapped in grinding poverty. This is an affront to God's goodness and justice. We must act. We work with all faiths and none. We ask people to Buy, Give and Campaign with us. We are thankful to the churches who continue to form the backbone of our support, and we ask people of faith to Pray with us.

Further Sources of Information about Global Poverty

- Human Development Index
- United Nations
- World Bank
- World Health Organisation

Traidcraft is the leading practitioner of fair trade in the UK.

Why choose Traidcraft?

- we're pioneers of new areas of Fair Trade
- we're 100% committed to trade justice and fair trade
- we work with individuals and communities that would struggle to produce the volumes required by big business
- we pack as many Fairtrade ingredients into products as possible, and keep Fair Trade standards high
- we run development projects that transform lives
- we campaign to make trade rules fair for the poor.

www.traidcraft.co.uk/letitgrow

