

St Peter's Church

Burwood Road, Hershams

Summer 2007



It's not quite too late ...!

It's becoming more and more obvious that our world's in serious trouble. The end of the Cold War reduced the threat of nuclear annihilation, but other tensions caused by the way we run our world have increased our sense of insecurity. The difference in life styles between rich and poor grows ever wider, and competition for the world's resources gets ever more intense.

But what can we ordinary people do? We recognise that third world poverty is an obscenity; we recognise that our consumption of fossil fuels is unsustainable – we experience the impact of climate change in our everyday lives. But what can we do? The issues are so big that no one nation's government can solve them; how can you and I have any influence? It's tempting to give up – to leave it all to our leaders, and get on with life as normal.

But that isn't an option. Life won't continue as normal. Either we start making difficult choices now, or worse will happen despite anything we do. Either we start conserving water, oil and green space, or the next wars will be for control of these dwindling resources, as the rivers run dry, the electricity is cut off, and the

inhabitants of the global south head north, their lands uninhabitable and their economies unsustainable.

Some things have to change, and fast. But our leaders won't make the hard decisions unless we force them to. What politician will make himself unelectable by banning short-haul flights and encouraging job creation in Africa at the cost of job losses in the UK? How bad have things got to get before we say "enough's enough", before we recognise that God gave us this world as a trust to cherish and share, not a gift to consume?

There are signs of a change in mood – recycling makes headlines in our local press, supermarkets trumpet their "fair trade" credentials, David Cameron poses on his bike, and even George Bush is beginning to get the message. So we should all do our bit – complain when the things you buy are covered with unnecessary packaging; consider what sort of sweatshop produced that suspiciously cheap new shirt; keep up the pressure on everyone in power – it's not quite too late ...yet!

Rev Jonathan Andrew

Fairtrade - Does it really help ?

That is the question I am often asked when I mention that I am a Fairtrader and at times I have wondered this myself. However, having spoken to the lovely Coffee Lady from Nicaragua, I now have a better insight and feel reassured that I am doing the right thing in helping St Peter's be a Fairtrade church. She and other farmers she is working with certainly believe in the Fairtrade organisation - there is nothing like meeting the people who have been positively impacted.

Why I support it.

Equality and helping others to help themselves is part of our core values and belief. Fairtrade is about allowing others to have the opportunity to gain control in their lives and build their esteem and self respect because they are actively improving their wellbeing not passively waiting for a handout.

What does Fairtrade mean ?

Fairtrade is international and the Fairtrade Mark is a certification label awarded to

products sourced from the developing world that meets internationally recognised standards of fair trade.

Fairtrade is not just about trading. It is about longevity through development.

Producer organisations are required and encouraged to continuously improve working conditions and product quality, to increase the environmental sustainability of their activities and to invest in the development of their organisations and the welfare of their members or workers.

Fairtrade is just an excuse to charge more

The **fair price** now looks high because so many other manufacturers are in a

position of power and imposing low wages and therefore able to undercut the **fair price**. We all want to be treated fairly so paying a **fair price** is about treating others how we would want to be treated.

Fairtrade - Isaiah 58:6

Is this not the fast I require: to loose the fetters of injustice, to untie the knots of the yoke, and set free those who are oppressed.

Linda Tao

Visits from charity representatives

Many of our readers know that it is our policy to support charities overseas and recently we were fortunate enough to receive visitors from two of these.

Pastor Antonio Bonga, along with colleagues Pastor Boniface and Simao, talked about their mission's work with the street boys in Mozambique. The project provides a school and other facilities to

teach gardening, goat-keeping, building and carpentry to over 50 boys.

Mike Cole and his wife Jackie gave an update on the activities of the Peace and Hope Trust. The Trust works among the poor and isolated people living on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, which is often subject to natural disasters.

Regular Sunday Services

Holy Communion	8:00am
All Age Worship 1 st Sunday of the month (with crèche) Parish Communion 2 nd to 5 th Sundays (with crèche)	10:00am
Keystones (Sunday School 4 – 12 year olds) Sundays in term time	9:50am in the Church Hall
Evening Prayer	6:30pm

The Parish Office is open on weekday mornings from 9:30am – 12:30am to receive general enquiries including baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The Parish Office, 1 Burwood Road, Hersham, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 4AA
01932 253452 (answer phone outside office hours) email: the office@stpetershersham.com
www.stpetershersham.com

For Church Hall bookings only: 01932 227152

St Peter's is a Church of England parish in the Guildford Diocese and a member of *Churches together in Hersham*