

J STRUCTURES 6 Fair Trade

- 1 At its meeting at Garstang in March 2001, the Synod heard how Garstang had worked to become the first Fairtrade Town. Since then other towns have worked to meet the criteria and add to the promotion of Fair Trade and many churches made commitments to use fairly traded goods. The Synod carried out a survey of all the churches in the Synod in 2003 to measure the extent of those commitments. The results showed that more than half the churches were taking action to use and promote Fairtrade. The Synod was therefore in a position to meet one of the criteria for claiming to be a Fairtrade Synod and that was reported to the Synod meeting in March 2004.

- 2 There are five goals for a Fairtrade Synod, similar to those for a Fairtrade Church:
 - passing a resolution supporting Fairtrade and agrees to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee at its meetings and on other occasions. Every opportunity should be used to display literature or posters advising that Fairtrade products are used;
 - a range of Fairtrade products are readily available on Fairtrade stalls, and are regularly served, in a majority of churches in the Synod;
 - Fairtrade products are promoted by a majority of local united Reformed churches in the Synod and their members are encouraged to buy Fairtrade products;
 - publicity about becoming a Fairtrade Synod is organised to attract media attention and popular support;
 - a Synod Fairtrade steering group (or steering groups in the districts) is convened to ensure maintenance of the Fairtrade status.

- 3 Since 2004, the Fair Trade campaign has had substantial effect and the Fairtrade Mark is on many products, many of them in the major retail stores. More churches have taken up Fairtrade or expanding what they were already doing. However, continuing promotion is needed to ensure maximum awareness and action.