



This October marks five years since we took over the Fairtrade stall from Val Scrivener and her team. Back in 2012 we didn't quite know what we were getting into but as we were both Fairtrade supporters we didn't want to see the stall fold.

Over the last five years we've held monthly stalls in the church hall, taken orders for the Real Easter Egg, advent calendars and candles plus your requests for presents and treats from the Traidcraft catalogue. The tea and coffee served after church also come from Traidcraft. At the time of writing we've sold nearly £6,000 of stock. Our best seller is the stem ginger cookies and over five years you've munched your way through 288 packets – that's 2,304 biscuits! We've also sold over 27kg of Divine chocolate bars.

The last year has been particularly challenging. The shop where we had previously purchased all our stock closed down but we bounced back and registered with Traidcraft directly. Since then we've been very busy:

In addition to keeping you up to date through the magazine and notice sheet we've set up a Facebook page with lots of news and information - find us at www.facebook.com/FairtradeGoldingtonPutnoe

We had a stall at the 2017 summer fete

We went to the Traidcraft Roadshow in London - a really inspiring day

We're running a stall every other month at Putnoe Heights Church

In Bedford we've been working more closely with the St Andrew's Fairtrade Shop and enjoyed attending their AGM where we heard all about their work and plans.

Lots of you signed the successful Traidcraft postcard campaign to promote better trade deals for poorer countries post Brexit

We also now carry a range of items from the Rehema Project in Tanzania where our CMS Mission Partner Heather Johnstone is based. The project supports disadvantaged and vulnerable women and children in many ways including providing employment in their craft workshop.

Any surplus made on the stall is donated to Traidcraft Exchange's work helping disadvantaged communities across the world. Over the last five years the PCC has been able to donate £400.

To mark this five year milestone we are planning to launch two of the brand new flavours of Traidcraft chocolate with free samples of both. These are a Fairtrade Organic Milk Chocolate with Praline and Fairtrade Organic Dark Chocolate Mint Cream - come and see us on October 15th in the church hall after the 9:30 am service.

Thank you so much for your support, encouragement and prayers over the last five years - we couldn't keep the stall going without them.

Shelly and Andrew Dennison

