



How a Swanmore man rescued these kids from streets of Sierra Leone

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Diocese gains reputation for promoting Fairtrade goods

WE'VE DONE IT!

THEY'RE all smiles as we are officially declared a 'Fairtrade diocese'.

That means our parishes, cathedral and diocesan bodies will gain an international reputation for giving a fair deal to producers in developing countries.

The Fairtrade Foundation has declared that enough of our parishes and diocesan bodies use and sell Fairtrade products for us to gain Fairtrade diocese status.

As our diocese has links with churches in Ghana, where many

Fairtrade products are produced, it seemed appropriate for a Ghanaian bishop, the Rt Rev Daniel Sarfo, to officially present the certificate to the dean of our cathedral, the Very Rev David Brindley.

The presentation happened during the annual IDWAL Festival at our cathedral, which celebrates our links with West Africa.

Bishop Daniel said: "The people of this diocese have shown they are committed to helping their brothers and sisters across the planet. Fairtrade products are a lifeline for many people in my

country. I'm very pleased to be able to present this certificate as we celebrate our mutual links in your cathedral."

To gain Fairtrade diocese status, we had to show that one-third of our parishes used or sold Fairtrade products, our diocesan synod had to support the principle, and Fairtrade products had to be available in our diocesan offices and in meetings of our boards and committees. The Fairtrade Foundation is now encouraging individual churches to gain 'Fairtrade church' status.

Fairtrade goods are those car-

rying the Fairtrade Mark, which guarantees that suppliers in developing countries have been paid a fair price. Without that guarantee, farmers can go out of business as world prices for items like coffee, tea and chocolate fluctuate hugely. There are now 1,300 Fairtrade products, including cotton, footballs and Easter eggs.

Fairtrade status has also been awarded to the city of Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth's Roman Catholic diocese and the University of Portsmouth. Campaigners are striving for similar status for Fareham, Havant and East Hampshire.

Campaigners aim to celebrate these recent awards and promote the issue during Fairtrade Fortnight from March 6-19.

In Portsmouth there will be a Fairtrade stall in the Cascades shopping centre each day, a display in Central Library and competitions to find the best Fairtrade retailer and the best school Fairtrade display. On March 6 and 13, Fairtrade bananas will be given away in Guildhall Square, and there will be tasting stalls in libraries on March 11 and 18.

Simeon Greene from Windward Island Bananas will speak on 'Going Bananas for Fairtrade' in the Spinnaker Tower café on March 7. Join him at 4pm, and hear him speak at 5.30pm.

The next afternoon, the Lord

Mayor will host a Fairtrade tea party in Portsmouth Guildhall, to celebrate the Fairtrade status achieved by our diocese, the RC diocese and the university.

On March 11, *News* columnist Heather James will host a Fairtrade salsa evening at Portsmouth Irish Club on Elm Grove, Southsea. Tickets, priced at £6 each, are available on 023-9287 7422.

And on March 17, Caribbean banana grower Maria Sergeant will visit the university and local schools to talk about the difference Fairtrade has made to her community. See www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk for details.

On the Isle of Wight there will be a Fairtrade open forum on March 2 at St Thomas's parish centre, Newport. And campaigners will ask all the island's supermarkets if they can set up stalls from 10am-4pm on March 11 and 18. Ring Jim Curtis on 01983-526574 if you can man such stalls. See www.iwff.org.uk for details.

And in Fareham, shoppers will watch street theatre, view displays and get creative as campaigners bring Fairtrade to West Street between 9.30am and 2pm on March 11. Fareham MP Mark Hoban and the Lord Mayor of Fareham will offer their support during the day, and supermarkets will be encouraged to display which Fairtrade goods they sell.



Bishop Daniel Sarfo presents the certificate to the Very Rev David Brindley

Bishop will return for Easter

BISHOP Kenneth's first public engagement after treatment for leukaemia will be on Maundy Thursday.

The bishop will lead the Chrism Eucharist in our cathedral at 11am on April 13 after six months of chemotherapy treatment and recuperation. It will mark the start of his gradual return to public duties.

The Chrism Eucharist is traditionally the occasion when clergy, Readers and others involved with ministry gather in our cathedral to see the chrism oils blessed by the bishop. But Kenneth is



encouraging anyone to come.

After four courses of chemotherapy, the bishop's illness is now officially classed as being 'in remission'. That means it has been successfully treated, but he still has to have regular checks to see whether the cancer has returned.

Bishop Kenneth (pictured left) has also spoken about streamlining his responsibilities in the wake of his illness.

"The pathologist has been very positive about the future, and about the real likelihood of regaining all my former ener-

gies," he said. "I can't begin to say what this means to me, to Sarah, to the rest of my family. Your prayers have meant more than I can tell.

"But I am going to take it gently - it's too risky to do otherwise at this crucial stage.

"It will be a long time before I can even begin to make some kind of sense of it. But I have felt the hand of God, even at the lowest and most awful moments.

"When I pick up the reins, therefore, I don't really want to have to talk to people about my illness and how I'm feeling. I would rather put it all to one side and 'move on'."