

Ethical Purchasing Policy & Practice

Introduction

We are stewards of the money given to us by our church family and we are accountable to God for the way we use it. The purpose of this policy is for Trinity to play its part in endorsing ethically produced goods and services through what we do and do not purchase.

This policy is for people who purchase food, food ingredients, drinks and supplies for any ministry which is:

- done in the name of Trinity church (whether the recipients contribute towards the cost or not), or
- where the costs are reclaimed from Trinity church.

It does not apply to events that are not part of Trinity's ministry and where no portion of the costs is reclaimed from the church.

We live in a broken world where the true source of the things we purchase is often misleading and camouflaged. In this context, there is a scale in the welfare of people and animals ranging from the very worst to the very best ^{*1}. Often the differences between the available options are poorly documented and confusing. Definitions are evolving and often ambiguous. Sometimes the ideal product is not available and therefore a balanced choice must be made between the best options and changing the type of purchase completely (eg. a different meat dish or a vegetarian option).

For the above reasons this policy, more than any other, has been difficult to formulate. However, we have decided neither to ignore this subject, nor veer towards a simple polarised position.

Individual members of the church may have strongly held and different interpretations for what is acceptable for them and their family. However, we ask everybody involved in purchasing for the church to follow this policy even if it represents a different conscience and interpretation of scriptural principles. We also recognise that this is not an exact science and therefore **we are asking for your best and thoughtful endeavours** in conformity to this policy. Please do not feel judged by your final purchasing decisions.

We understand that this policy will affect the cost of some of the things we do. As a PCC we want to reassure those leading our various activities that we accept this extra cost as a fair price to avoid exploitation. Thus we may need to pass on the costs of our events to those participating, reduce what we do or seek subsidy from the PCC. If you have any questions please do talk to a member of the leadership team.

With this in mind, the following should be adhered to in relation to relevant purchases:

Ethical Treatment of People.

- purchase fairly traded products where available (eg Fair Trade), including Tea, Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa products;

Ethical Treatment of Animals.

- do not purchase intensively farmed animals; *2
- buy higher welfare animal products *1 (eg. free range, organic, pasture based). However for eggs and dairy products:
 - buy eggs produced from at least free-range reared chickens;
 - buy milk from at least free-range animals;
- prefer animals reared locally;

Ethical Treatment of our World.

- buy coffee with at least Rain Forest Alliance standards where available;
- buy products containing organic/sustainable palm oil where available;
- buy sustainable seafood (eg use the 'Marine Stewardship Council' logo when buying fish);
- use any recycle bins provided (eg. Church End) for food waste, paper, glass and cardboard;
- prefer recycled products, especially paper;
- prefer locally sourced products;

Activities Covered by this Policy

This Policy applies, but is not limited, to:

- CaféLife, Coffee and Tea and Biscuits/Cake around services;
- Youth Fellowship meals, Youth Discussion Breakfasts, FNL, After Hours, House-parties, Camps (eg Soul Survivor)
- Men's Saturday breakfasts and other meals,
- Monday Club lunches,
- Alpha, Youth Alpha
- Congregation Lunches, Hospitality Events (eg. Student Teas), CONNECT events
- Ministry BBQs,
- Lunch Bunch
- Small Groups (eg Links, Link Up, CAMEO, Inspire)

Other areas, such as energy and cleaning products (inc toilet paper and paper towels), are being considered separately.

Steve Daughtery

on behalf of the PCC and Leadership Team.

*1 See the attached Compassion in World Farming Compassionate Food guide for a more detailed understanding.

*2 Intensive animal farming is where animals have been kept in over-crowded feedlots or in confining stalls/cages to increase their productivity, please see the attached Compassion in World Farming: Intensive Farming booklet. http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/animalwelfare/intensive_farming_booklet.pdf. **If the source of the food is not clear**, then we should assume that the supplier is acting to minimise their costs (ie. intensive farming) with little or no obvious/public regard for the welfare of the animals involved.