



Stories

Church story: Deciding what we will and will not buy

Trinity is a vibrant and outward-looking Anglican church in the heart of Lewes. For a while they've been exploring how to link their concern for God's creation with the way that the church's money is spent. Conversations that arose through the church's engagement in [Eco Church](#) led to the development of an Ethical Purchasing Policy.

The policy explains that *"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."* It gives guidance on what the church will and will not purchase, to ensure the ethical treatment of people, animals and the wider world. This ranges from endorsing Fairtrade tea and coffee to avoiding meat from intensively farmed animals.



Trinity's policy is for the whole of the church family and applies to all the church's activities, from tea and biscuits after services, to Alpha meals and food provided at BBQs and youth camps. Those involved in drawing up the policy considered a range of options to look out for including the Rainforest Alliance standards for coffee and the Marine Stewardship Council logo when buying fish.

Revd Steve Daughtery, explains the reasoning behind the policy: *"We need to have a consistent worldview. Creation is a gift from God, and we are called to look after the world, so what we do with money needs to reflect this. When we pray 'take my life and let it be...', we offer everything to God. Thinking about how we spend our money is part of our discipleship and mission."*

The church recognised that this policy will affect the cost of some of the things they do, but the PCC agreed that they would accept this extra cost as a fair price to avoid exploitation.

Drawing up a policy like this is not without its challenges and sensitivities. Congregations will have a wide range of views and understanding around what constitutes an ethical product, but through prayer, research and discussion, members of Trinity have come up with a wide-ranging policy which helps them live out their faith and values through their power as consumers.

You can read Trinity's Ethical Purchasing Policy [here](#).

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Money
Makes
Change

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