

It's a first!



Churches Together in Gomersal and Birkenshaw have become the country's first such grouping to achieve Fairtrade status.

The group of churches has been certified as a Fairtrade zone for their commitment to supporting the Fairtrade mark and using and promoting Fairtrade goods and products.

The certificate had to be specially designed

because the existing standard design was intended for individual churches.

The presentation was made by Mike Wood MP to the Rev Ralph Davidson, secretary of Churches Together, at St Paul's Church, Birkenshaw during their Big Sing event.

Mike Wood said: "We have every hope that Batley and Spen will become the first parliamentary constituency to be designated as a Fairtrade zone. The accreditation of Churches Together in Gomersal and Birkenshaw is excellent news and a first in itself.

"We hope Gomersal and Birkenshaw's achievement will set the standard for the wider constituency campaign and that there will be more such zones as well as inter-faith zones to follow."

The bid for Fairtrade Constituency status for Batley and Spen, which was launched by Mr Wood, is presently being considered by the Fairtrade Foundation.

Wakefield diocese led the way with churches working together ecumenically for the "Churches Together" accreditation. Interfaith possibilities are now being investigated! Exciting!