

**Photograph Caption** - Local Tearfund Volunteers Promote 'All I Want For Christmas' Campaign

**1. Broad Haven's Alternative Christmas Fair**

With Christmas only a few weeks away, people are already searching for that perfect present. The Justice and Ethics Group of Broad Haven Baptist Church came up with some different Christmas gift ideas at their recent Alternative Christmas Fair in Broad Haven Village Hall.

Attended by MP Steve Crabb and County Councillor Peter Morgan, the event had an excellent turnout, offering a brilliant alternative to mundane Christmas shopping. Rather than the usual pair of slippers and latest gadgets, were Fair Trade and nearly new gifts, with some unique ideas of supporting local and Third World charities.

Tearfund's Volunteer Coordinator for Pembrokeshire, Francis Maull, explains why they decided on an Alternative Fair:

' At Christmas people spend an awful lot of money and with the credit crunch coming in we as a church wanted to offer different ways of spending more wisely, thinking of people over seas, supporting the various charities and offering lots of fair trade gift ideas. By buying quality nearly new items, donated by Johnston's HELP charity shop, we offered cheaper alternative gifts.'

Francis and Ann Maull introduced Tearfund's 'All I want for Christmas' campaign showing: 'Three Wise Ways To Make Christmas count.' Firstly by purchasing Tearcraft's fair trade gifts. Secondly, buying Living Gift vouchers as alternative gifts for Christmas, where the recipient chooses a Tearfund project to support from the Living Gifts catalogue. Finally, by supporting Tearfund's Alive project.

'*Alive* marks the third year in a ten year campaign *Tearfund* are running to stop and reverse the impact of HIV in the poorest communities. With our support Tearfund offer practical, medical and spiritual help to those affected by HIV. If we can grasp our potential to affect change, as part of the worldwide church, preventing the spread of HIV can be a reality.' Says Tearfund's Francis Maull.

A great selection of Fair Trade gifts and cards were sold by several ladies, including Tearcraft and Traidcraft goods. David Pusey sold books for Book Aid and Chernobyl Children's Camp. Geoff Britten the local collector for Tools With A Mission (TWAM), who collect and refurbish old hand tools, sending them out to Third World countries, also held a stall .

Other Charities represented were: Amnesty International, Christians Against Torture and The Blue Sky's project. Blue Sky's, part of Pembrokeshire Frame, is run by 2 full time staff and about 30 volunteers who grow and sell fruit and vegetables all year round.

Emmanuel Christian book shop helped people to remember the true meaning of Christmas with a selection of Christian gifts and books.

'At Christmas we are offered the gift of a life full of hope and purpose because of the love of Jesus. We want to share this love with those who feel lost, hopeless and abandoned. I bought some great gifts at the alternative fair. By thinking differently this Christmas we can give people a chance of a better life. Together we can make a difference.' said Tearfund's local Media Officer, Sharron Hardwick.

If you would like more information on any of the charities contact Francis and Ann Maull on 01437 781216 and rethink your buying this Christmas.



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