

## Recent Outreach Committee activity

**Hosting Rosie's Rainbow Choir** from Redroofs Theatre School gave a wonderful concert at the Church which raised £475 pounds plus £50 gift aid which was added to the Church's contribution to the Haiti appeal. Rosie's rainbow fund aims to provide music therapy for sick and disabled children and teenagers in hospital, school or wherever needed.

**Fairtrade tea producer story** - On tour in Berkshire and all the way from Southern India for Fairtrade Fortnight, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Fairtrade Group and the Wesley Guild hosted an event at Windsor Methodist Church on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 featuring a tea producer. Mr Vinay Devaiah explained the workings of the Thiashola Tea Estate and how tea is produced and the advantages of the Fairtrade system.

Vinay also explained about all the exciting community projects chosen by the workers and financed from the Fairtrade premium. In the last two years since becoming a Fairtrade Estate the premium as paid for the following:

Free installation of cable TV to all workers' houses

- Increased access to medical treatment to five days a week by paying an additional doctor for two days
- Free twice-monthly medical camps with access to specialists such as a dentist, eye surgeon and gynaecologist
- Provision of gas cookers – healthier than smoky fires and women no longer have to spend an hour or more every day collecting firewood
- Scholarships to help with tuition fees and other expenses of college and university students
- School bus to transport students to the secondary school 15km away at Manjoor
- Purchase of two computers to provide free training for children
- Low-interest loan scheme to finance income-generating schemes such as purchase of sewing machines, keeping cows, goats and chicken to sell their milk and eggs
- Construction of a community hall available for weddings and other social events
- Construction of a mini hydroelectric plant to augment the unreliable existing power supply (spring 2010)
- Tree-planting programme to tackle deforestation and climate change.

After hearing Vinay's story the large audience was treated to a tea tasting with Fairtrade cakes made by a new Maidenhead business "Happy Cakes" and took away samples of Fairtrade teas.

### **Whitechapel Mission**

Another trip is planned to take the monetary donations, clothing, food and toiletries up to Whitechapel. Whitechapel Mission is dedicated to providing a lifeline to the poor and homeless people of London who struggle each day against hunger, poverty and exclusion. Their goal is to help people to help themselves, giving them the confidence they need to become independent, which we do through practical support and advice and by teaching them the life skills they need to succeed.

Other very enjoyable fund-raising events are organised by the committee to support **National and International charities:**