

## **S.E.L. (Service d'Entraide et de Liaison)**

S.E.L. is the French equivalent of Tear Fund, and has similar activities, mainly to support producers in developing countries and give them correct remuneration for their products, in addition to giving them aid for projects.

I have been the S.E.L. representative for 10 years and have been putting in regular orders 4 times a year for individual members as well as for the church coffee. I have organised the yearly Christmas sale in November since 2011.

From 2008 to 2017 we ordered through La Gerbe, a humanitarian organization in Ecquevilly (Yvelines). They delivered the goods directly to the church.

Due to S.E.L. having been bought up by a German outfit in 2017, the PCC & I have decided to stop ordering from them (mainly because of my lack of time), and to buy the church coffee elsewhere. The last order was made by Kevin Bodsworth with the church office supplies. When this runs out, I could buy Fair Trade coffee from my local organic store for 3€-5€ the kilo (much less than the 11€-12€/kilo price we were paying for SEL coffee). Kevin and Carol have tasted their products and consider them good.

### **Handcrafts**

On 12th November 2017 we asked Artisans du Monde Versailles to come and do the Christmas sale for the first time.

The sale was only on one Sunday instead of the usual two, because AdM couldn't leave their products with us from one Sunday to the next.

Their products were somewhat different from those proposed by SEL and we could ask them to come again this year.

### **Sponsorship**

Various members of the congregation (as well as the Sunday School) support a child in a third world country, corresponding with, and praying for him or her. The money sent pays for a good meal at school, some medical treatment and something towards Christmas / birthday presents. Those not wanting a specific relationship with specific child may contribute toward the « *ticket repas* » system.

SEL also helps in disaster relief. SEL is also involved in more long-term projects, like construction or digging of wells. Remember that if you pay income tax in France, you get back 60% to 70% of what you pay to charities like SEL. These are extremely generous provisions, well worth taking advantage of.

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