

## Press Release

### St Paul's Cathedral launches economics think tank

London (27<sup>th</sup> July 2010)

For immediate release

In the first project of its kind, St Paul's Cathedral launches St Paul's Institute, a think tank that aims to explore the moral themes surrounding business, finance and global economics.

Located within the heart of the City of London, St Paul's Institute seeks to foster an informed Christian response to the most urgent ethical and spiritual issues of our times: financial integrity, economic theory, and the meaning of the common good.

Visitors to [www.stpaulsinstitute.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsinstitute.org.uk) can find theological commentary, video interviews, original research and analysis, as well as daily news aggregation. St Paul's Institute will also host a series of lectures, debates and study days.

Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury said;

*"An ethical approach to economics requires us to move away from the illusion that economics can be considered separately from questions of the health and well-being of the society we inhabit. It also involves recognising that we exist in a world of materially limited resource – so that environmental degradation has to be taken into account in any assessment of the cost of projects or transactions. I suspect that getting this right would in itself introduce into the language of economics a sense that it couldn't be only about the mechanics of generating money and might help keep issues of ethics, justice and trust in perspective. So I welcome the continuing focus the St Paul's Institute brings to these issues by providing a challenging and well-resourced space for conversation and I wish the Institute every success in this new phase of its work"*

Reverend Dr Giles Fraser, Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral said;

*"The right use of money is at the heart of the moral vision of the Bible. Given the world's current financial troubles, a Christian moral perspective brought to bear on questions of finance and economics is as urgent now as it has ever been."*

The 2010 St Paul's Institute programme kicked off on 6<sup>th</sup> July with a lecture by Niall Ferguson. Attended by an audience of over 1,500 people, Ferguson asked what the current generation of bankers need to learn from their predecessors.

**-ends-**

**For more information please contact:**

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Note to editors:

## **1. St Paul's Institute**

St Paul's Institute was founded in 2002 to provide a forum for adult education and public debate as part of the mission and ministry of St Paul's Cathedral.

Contributors to the Institute's programme have included Kofi Annan, Gordon Brown, Kevin Rudd, Vince Cable, Adair Turner, Salil Shetty, Julia Neuberger and John Polkinghorne

In 2010 St Paul's Institute was re-launched as a web-based economic think tank. A series of themed debates, seminars and study days continues under the adult education programme, *St Paul's Forum*.

## **2. St Paul's Cathedral**

St Paul's is the cathedral church of the diocese of London, which it has served for over 1,400 years. The current building has become a potent symbol of the life of a nation and is one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren in the late seventeenth century, its stones have absorbed the hopes, fears, sorrows and joys of generations and stand as an enduring symbol of our communion with those gone before and those still to come. Each year nearly two million people flock to the cathedral for services, concerts, debates, educational events, performing arts and sightseeing. All are most welcome.