



Press Release

Should we Bank on the Robin Hood Tax? Debate at St Paul's Cathedral, 29th March 2011

London (22nd March 2011)
For immediate release

St Paul's Institute, CAFOD, Tearfund and The Salvation Army have come together to host a panel debate in **St Paul's Cathedral** on **Tuesday 29th March 2011** at **7.00pm**. The debate will focus on to what extent banks have a responsibility to contribute to the common good and, if so, is the proposed Robin Hood Tax the solution?

Entry is free and unticketed. The debate will be followed by a Q&A session.

The evening is being chaired by Evan Davis, Economist and BBC presenter for the Today show and Dragons' Den.

The panel includes:

Ken Costa, Chairman of Lazard International
Rt Revd Peter Selby, Former Bishop of Worcester
Michael Izza, CEO, Institute of Chartered Accountants
Baroness Shirley Williams, House of Lords

Public discussion on this topic has been stirred by the Robin Hood Tax campaign, which proposes an additional tax on the financial sector to raise billions of pounds that could be used to fight poverty and climate change both here and abroad. This debate will examine the viability of a financial transaction tax on banks within the wider context of exploring innovative sources of finance dedicated to good causes.

Economist and BBC Presenter Evan Davis, who is chairing the debate, said:
"It's not often that taxes get people very excited (unless it is to grumble about them), so it's fascinating to see the Robin Hood tax proposal generate such a lively debate. I'm looking forward to hearing both sides make their case"

Canon Dr Giles Fraser, Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and Director of St Paul's Institute said:
"Tax is how we subscribe to being in a fair society. How much tax is the moral question of the day."

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For more information please contact:

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Note to editors:

1. **Listings:**

Event: Should we Bank on the Robin Hood Tax?

Panel debate chaired by Evan Davis, followed by Q&A

Venue: St Paul's Cathedral

Dates and Times: Tuesday 29th March, 7pm

Tickets: Admission is free and un-ticketed

2. **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.
3. **St Paul's Cathedral** 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 a 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.
4. **CAFOD** is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. CAFOD works with local communities in over 40 countries to help them meet their own needs. It does this through more than 500 partner organisations – trusted, local organisations staffed by local people who are working to reduce poverty. The agency works with all people regardless of race, gender, religion or nationality.
5. **Tearfund** is a Christian relief and development agency building a global network of churches to help eradicate poverty. www.tearfund.org
6. **The Salvation Army** is a worldwide Christian church and registered charity, working in 123 countries and offers friendship, support and very practical help to people of all backgrounds, ages and needs. In the UK and Republic of Ireland The Salvation Army's work includes more than 800 corps (community churches) and social service centres. Registered Charity Nos 214779, 215174, in Scotland SC009359, SC037691, and in Ireland CHY6399. For more information visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk
7. **[The Robin Hood Tax Campaign](#)**
- The Robin Hood Tax campaign proposes:
- A tax of 0.05% on transactions like stocks, bonds, foreign currency and derivatives. Raising up to £250bn a year.
 - Spending 50% of the money on poverty in the UK, 25% on poverty overseas and 25% on climate change at home and abroad.