

## Press Release

### What kind of City do we want? St Paul's debates look at City and the Common Good

Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013

A series of debates under the dome of St Paul's Cathedral will look at the financial heart of the UK and ask, 'The City and the Common Good: What kind of City do we want?'

Following a widely discussed 2011 report '[Value and Values: Perceptions of Ethics in the City Today](#)' which surveyed over 500 financial sector professionals, the three debates in April, May and June will explore the theme under the headings: *Good People, Good Money and Good Banks*.

Organised by [St Paul's Institute](#) with [CCLA](#), the debates will be chaired by **BBC Economics Editor Stephanie Flanders**.

**Good People** – Thursday 11 April – 6.30pm

**Archbishop Vincent Nichols with Bishop Peter Selby; Polly Toynbee; Tracey McDermott**

In our relations with friends and family we reckon to know what goodness is and how it informs our lives. In the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> century market place, what does it mean to be a good person and contribute to the common good?

**Good Money** – Tuesday 7 May – 6.30pm

**Lord Robert Skidelsky with Andrew Bailey; Ann Pettifor; Tarek El Diwany**

If the influence of money over us is unavoidable, how can we ensure that the results are positive? Does the issue go beyond our attitude to money to the nature of money itself? Is there such a thing as 'good' and 'bad' money? Is it just the 'love of money' we must guard against, or has something happened to money itself?

**Good Banks** – Wednesday 12 June – 6.00pm

**Archbishop Justin Welby with Baroness Shirley Williams; Antony Jenkins**

The relationship between banks and society has been described in the aftermath of the financial crisis as a 'social contract', but what is the objective of the contract? What is the purpose of banking and how do we foster a culture that helps that purpose be realised?

Twitter hash tag: **#CommonGood**

Entry to all three events is free and open to all. To register for tickets [click here](#).

For press attendance, please do not register online but instead email [robert@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:robert@stpaulscathedral.org.uk)

The Reverend Canon Mark Oakley, Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, said: "After four years of discussion about what has gone wrong and who might be responsible, there is now a call for changes that will reinforce a culture of integrity and prudence and ensure that we do not repeat the mistakes of the recent past. But if we are to discuss the individual steps, do we not first need to ask: what kind of 'City' do we want?"

Michael Quicke, Chief Executive of CCLA, said: "The pressure to maximise short-term shareholder value inevitably strains even the strongest commitment to integrity. It is tough to balance what is good for clients and what is good for shareholders, especially when your pay and future employment are aligned with short-term shareholder returns. The system we have is finding it difficult to reform itself, and I hope this series of debates will encourage further examination of the link between morals and markets at a time when the public is acutely aware that the single minded quest for profit can come at a great cost to both individuals and society at large."

## **ENDS**

For more information please contact [Ed Holmes](#), St Paul's Cathedral, or [Sarah Gilbert](#), CCLA.

[St Paul's Institute](#) works to stimulate dialogue on contemporary economic and financial issues and to focus on the need for positive values systems, rooted in the Christian faith, to inform current debate surrounding the direction that financial and economic institutions might take in the 21st century.

[CCLA](#) invests money for more charities than any other fund manager in the UK. Being owned by our charity, church and public sector clients means we are in a unique position and not under pressure to favour shareholders at the expense of clients. As pioneers of ethical and responsible investment, we are committed to pushing forward a positive agenda for change.