

Press Release

St Paul's 'What Money Can't Buy' debate moves up a gear

Wednesday, 23rd May 2012

St Paul's Institute will announce an initiative at today's public debate with Michael Sandel to take the debate beyond the doors of the Cathedral.

Today (23 May), St Paul's Institute, the London School of Economics and Political Science, JustShare and Penguin UK are holding a public debate with noted public philosopher and Harvard professor Michael Sandel on the subject of his new book, *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets*.

This debate is being held within St Paul's Cathedral in order to explore the intersection of faith, morality and markets and the power that money has in our lives. Interest has been intense, with 1,800 tickets registered, and it is anticipated that the Cathedral will be full.

But the debate is too important to stop at the doors of the Cathedral. Following the event, St Paul's Institute will be seeking views from 100 well-known figures from across British public life, including the leaders of the main political parties, on two key questions raised in the debate:

What things do you think money can't buy and, if you can't buy them, how can you get them?

AND

What are the most important things you think money can buy, but shouldn't?

The responses received will be published later in June.

At the same time, the Institute is providing a chance for people to comment on its website, www.stpaulsinstitute.org.uk, through which those who came to the debate and the public at large can express their views.

Speaking of the initiative on behalf of St Paul's Institute, Bishop Peter Selby said: "In all the endless discussion of currency, money, and markets we somehow always avoid the issue. Michael Sandel's book is a great opportunity to ask the deepest questions about the place of money in our lives – and where better to face those questions than in St Paul's Cathedral? This debate is what has been at the centre of the Institute's vision all along."

Michael Sandel said: "A market economy is a tool - a valuable and effective tool - for organising productive activity. A market society is a way of life in which market values seep into every aspect of human endeavour. It is a place where social relations are made over in the image of the market. The great missing debate is about the role and reach of the market. I am delighted that St Paul's Institute is seeking to foster just this debate."

ENDS

For more information please contact Rob Gordon, Manager of St Paul's Institute, on 020 7489 1011 or email institute@stpaulscathedral.org.uk

St Paul's Institute

Over a ten-year period, St Paul's Institute has engaged the public with questions of morality, ethics and financial integrity. In doing this, the Institute seeks to recapture the Cathedral's ancient role as a centre for public debate, contributing to the current discussion surrounding the direction of our financial and economic institutions. By also exploring wider themes such as global poverty, business ethics, economic theory and the meaning of the common good, we aim to bring the distinctive wisdom of the Christian tradition to bear on our understanding of the way money works in modern society.

www.stpaulsinstitute.org.uk

DETAILS OF TODAY'S DEBATE

Public Debate with Michael Sandel - *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets*

Is there something wrong with a world in which everything is for sale? If so, how can we prevent market values from reaching into spheres of life where they don't belong? What are the moral limits of markets?

Date: Wednesday 23rd May 2012

Time: 6.30-8pm (6pm doors)

Venue: [St Paul's Cathedral, EC4M 8AD](#)

Speaker: Professor Michael Sandel

Discussant: Rt Revd Peter Selby, Prof Julian Le Grand, Stephanie Flanders

Chair: Ann Pettifor

This event is free and open to all.

Noted public philosopher and Harvard professor [Michael J. Sandel](#) will explore some of these pressing questions in discussion with **Bishop Peter Selby** (author of *Grace and Mortgage*), **Stephanie Flanders** (Economics Editor, BBC) and **Julian Le Grand** (Richard Titmuss Professor of Social Policy, LSE). The event will be chaired by **Ann Pettifor** (Director, PRIME – Policy Research In Macroeconomics).

Canon Mark Oakley will introduce the evening. St Paul's Cathedral is delighted to host a public debate on this vital topic within a sacred space in order to explore the intersection between faith, morality and markets and the power that money has in our lives. Questions and comments from the audience will be taken.

This public debate is being organised by St Paul's Institute in collaboration with the London School of Economics and Political Science, JustShare and Penguin UK. Copies of Michael Sandel's new book *What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets* will be available on the evening, and a book signing will take place following the event.