Money doing good
Good Money Week
19–25 October 2014
Helping you consider sustainable and ethical options for your savings, investments and financial products.

Invest ethically. Make a difference

Churches, charities, and people of faith were the first to take account of ethical criteria when making investment decisions. For much of the twentieth century, faith groups used their power as investors to address such issues as unfair labour practices, apartheid in South Africa, and arms trading. Sustainable or ethical investing means that managers of pension schemes and investment funds are obliged to take social, environmental and/or ethical considerations into account. There are also ethical products for banking, ISAs, pensions, insurance and even mortgages.

What you and your church can do

The denomination or church organisation that you belong to is likely to have considerable investments through pension funds or other assets. For example, members of the CIG* manage combined assets of over £15bn and use responsible and/or ethical policies to guide their investment decisions. Recent academic assessment of engagement has proved that Church investors are raising the operating standards of companies across the UK market.

How to invest ethically

Your church can join the pilot project for Ethical Money Churches – an exciting new initiative from ECCR which works with Church groups to promote Christian stewardship of financial resources and provide opportunities for sharing and learning about the ethical use of money and what it means to be an Ethical Money Church.

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ECCR
Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility
Works toward economic justice, environmental stewardship and investor responsibility. Check out www.yourfaithyourfinance.org – a place to explore ethical and spiritual issues around the use of money.

CIG
Church Investors Group
A group of 32 investors, predominantly connected with the Churches of Wales and Ireland, which work together to increase the awareness and influence of the Church as a society. Their investment portfolios reflect the two key teachings of the Christian faith: the importance of the commonwealth of Christ and the importance of the commonwealth of creation.

Your Ethical Money
yourethicalmoney.org
Provides information on ethical banking, investments and ISAs, pensions, and insurance.

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How to get involved

Ethical Investment Worship Resources
For prayers, reflections, sermon outlines and suitable Bible readings.

Work toward economic justice, environmental stewardship and investor responsibility. Check out www.yourfaithyourfinance.org – a place to explore ethical and spiritual issues around the use of money.

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Connect with others

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Holy Spirit, Counsellor and Friend, grant me the wisdom to choose as you would at the supermarket, in the bank, in the travel agents, on the high street and at my computer.

Holy Spirit, Counsellor and Friend, grant me the wisdom to choose as you lead which supermarket, which bank, which investments, which, if any holiday, shop, or purchase I make.

Holy Spirit, Counsellor and Friend, grant me strength as I wrestle with competing priorities – buying fairly priced products; spending less so I have more to give; reducing my impact on the environment and remind me that what you ask for is a simply a heart that chooses you.

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Father God, Lord of the just scales and the fair measure, I ask your forgiveness for those times when I have added to the burden of the poor. When I have chosen profit above principle. Forgive me.

When, as a church, we have rated the value of our investments above the demands of justice. Forgive us.

When, as a nation, we have used power and prestige to win advantage over countries that are poorer, weaker and lacking our resource. Forgive us.

I confess the ways we have failed to match our lives to your commands. Trusting in your forgiveness, I commit myself once again to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly before you.

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Jesus, our Light and Lord who preached in terms financiers use and taught we should give to this world’s powers their due, you drove traders from your Father’s house and revealed how hard Heaven’s access is to those who prosper; give us your eyes to see the human faces of worldly wealth and poverty, and make yours our management of their complexities so that those among us who buy and sell, labour and invest, may do so only in your just and loving name, and always to your Father’s glory and the welfare of all people in this land and right across the world.

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Pray for wisdom and justice in the use of money

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