**The Big Bank Switch**

This Lent three Christian campaign groups, Operation Noah, Just Love, and JustMoney, are launching [The Big Bank Switch campaign](https://email.cloud.secureclick.net/c/4494?id=90501.3183.1.2ef54e7fb2dc2c53e1b1ecc52f361482). They are inviting Christians around the UK to align their money with their values by switching from a bank that funds planet-destroying fossil fuels to one that doesn’t.

The climate crisis isn’t just happening, it’s being funded – sometimes by those of us who are most concerned about caring for God’s creation, and all because we have a bank account with HSBC, Barclays, Santander, NatWest, Chase, Lloyds or another high street bank.

Banks make their profits by investing in projects, owning shares in other companies, and lending money (with interest). For most banks in the UK, this involves directing a portion of their funds towards companies which are involved in fossil fuel extraction and expansion: the driving cause of climate breakdown. Between 2015 and 2021 banks have pumped over £4.4 trillion into the fossil fuel industry.

****The good news is that some green banks are already paving the way. Green banking is the practice of using customer power to support a bank which does not actively contribute to climate breakdown. Plus, giving support to the social and environmental projects green banks often invest in instead.

The Big Bank Switch campaign is encouraging people to switch their bank account to a green bank on 21 April 2024. Operation Noah, Just Love and JustMoney have partnered with Switch it Green who have made it easy, quick and safe to switch to a trusted, ethical UK bank. Their aim is that many Christians taking this action on the same day will deliver a clear message to bank executives that we have no faith in fossil fuels, pressuring these banks to stop funding climate breakdown.

Why are these Christian organisations launching this campaign? They believe that God’s creation is a gift that we have a duty to care for, and that the wellbeing of creation matters to God. To quote Phoebe Edmonds, a Quaker, ‘I have a deep concern for our global and local community because of my faith, and so could no longer use a bank which didn’t also respect this, or caused intentional harm to others.’

Barbara Echlin