OPERATION NOAH

Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.

February 2017

NEWS



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Now is the time for the whole Church to speak out for creation

It's time for the Church to speak out on climate change – and we mean the whole Church. We can't rely on those who are already passionate about caring for creation to carry this burden alone. And we can't be divided along ideological lines.
In our new outreach campaign, we will be working with specific areas and congregations to see more Christians taking on caring for creation as part of their faith. If you are passionate about caring for creation and want to support us in speaking out about it to others around you, please get in touch with our campaigner Jonathan Cooper.
Read more



Meet our new patron

We're delighted that Bishop David Atkinson has agreed to join Operation Noah's patrons. Bishop David served as a board member of Operation Noah for several years, during which time he led the theology group that created 'Climate change and the purposes of God: a call to the Church' (2012). In his recent Church Times article, 'An environmental call to arms', he argues that radical action to halt climate change is needed more than ever, but as Christian disciples we need to do more. Read more

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The Church of England and fracking

Last month, the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Council and its Environment Working Group published a briefing paper which gave cautious support to fracking. We oppose the development of new fossil fuel reserves and believe the Church of England should oppose fracking because of its impact on the environment and climate change. We were able to put forward this alternative view in the media, with interviews in the Guardian and on Premier Christian Radio.

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Trump and climate change

The full impact of Donald Trump's election on America's commitment to climate change, in the US and internationally, is yet to be seen, but embedding big oil and climate denial in the heart of the US government is deeply concerning. Operation Noah board member Mark Letcher has analysed the 'big lies' behind Trump's support for the fossil fuel industry.
Read more

Baked Alaska update

Riding Lights have completed filming seven scenes from their climate change drama *Baked Alaska*, with the premiere screening taking place at their annual Members' Day on 18th March. They have produced some excellent accompanying material for schools and are now working on material for use with general and church audiences.

BRIGHT NOW CAMPAIGN NEWS



Transition Pathway Initiative

In January the Church of England launched the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI), its framework for engagement with fossil fuel companies. We welcome the publication of the TPI, but are concerned that it lacks urgency and does not go far enough.
Read Operation Noah's response to the Transition Pathway Initiative.

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Global Divestment Mobilisation

From 5-13 May, people all over the world will be taking action calling on our institutions to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in a brighter, cleaner future.
Global Divestment Mobilisation is your opportunity to join with thousands of others to highlight the climate impacts of churches, universities, local government and pension funds investing in fossil fuels and call on them to do the right thing: divest!
Could you organise an event in your church to raise awareness, such as a talk or film screening? Or could your local church make a commitment to divest from fossil fuels (or commit not to invest in fossil fuels in future), and write to national and regional church investors urging them to do the same?
Visit the Bright Now website for more information and contact James Buchanan for support or if you would like to get involved.



Revd Dr Rachel Mash, of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, supporting the climate change divestment campaign

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Divest Your Church: ‘How to’ guide for churches

We are putting together a ‘how to’ guide for local churches wishing to divest from fossil fuels and invest in clean alternatives. Please let James Buchanan know if you would be interested in this resource.

ACTION

Stop the solar tax hike

This April, changes to business rates mean that organisations who own solar panels will face a huge tax increase. Although this will not affect churches, it will affect small businesses, schools and hospitals. We believe everything should be done to help us move to a zero carbon economy. This change is clearly moving us in the opposite direction. This is why we recently signed a joint letter to the Chancellor asking him to stop this tax hike.
If you agree that clean energy should not be penalised, there is a petition and details of how to write to your MP on the Solar Trade Association website. The campaign continues until the end of February, when a petition will be handed in.



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What are you doing for Lent this year?

Christians in India and South Africa are sharing ways to observe a ‘carbon fast’ during Lent, and urging churches all over the world to do the same. They suggest daily actions to help slow the damage to God’s creation. The idea is that the carbon fast challenges people to examine their daily actions and reflect on how they impact the environment.
Read more

Donate by shopping online

Do you shop online? You could be helping to raise funds for Operation Noah via Give As You Live and Everyclick.
All you have to do is sign up via these sites to support Operation Noah, then shop at the online stores you normally use. They then donate to Operation Noah for free.
Other ways to donate to Operation Noah

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

To keep up to date with events, visit our Events page or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

28 February, London: Tearfund Renew Our World prayer walk
8 March, Hook: Money – what is it good for?
18 March, Birmingham: John Ray Initiative conference Nature in the Balance
18 March, London: SARX Creature Conference The conference aims to explore animal issues theologically and to reflect spiritually upon animal advocacy in Christian daily life. Ruth Valerio, who has spearheaded Eco Church, is among the key speakers. Bursaries available on request.
25 March, international: Earth Hour
5–13 May, international: Global Divestment Mobilisation
13 May, Lincoln: Faith and Environment conference
3 June, Coventry: Anabaptist/Green Christian conference: Is religion costing us the earth?
21–23 July, Swanwick: Justice and Peace conference

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Please support the work of Operation Noah

Our campaigns and activities rely on donations from individuals and organisations so please consider giving a one-off or regular donation here. You could also encourage your church to do a service collection or make a donation.

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