Host a Switch It Sunday

The first Switch It Sunday (happening on the 21st April 2024) is an opportunity for your church to get behind The Big Bank Switch campaign - by praying for a greener banking sector, sharing information about The Big Bank Switch with your congregation, or reflecting on themes of creation care and an ethical use of money within your service that day.

Hundreds of Christians will be switching to a greener bank in the week following the first Switch It Sunday - the first wave of switches within a year-long campaign. The date for Switch It Sunday has been chosen because of its proximity to Earth Day on 22nd April.

The Big Bank Switch is a collaboration between three Christian organisations - Just Love, JustMoney Movement and Operation Noah - that have partnered with Switch It Green to support Christians across the UK to align their money with their values by switching to greener banks.

Here are some ideas for getting your church involved in the first Switch It Sunday and The Big Bank Switch. You can also host your own Switch It Sunday at any point throughout the campaign.

REMEMBER ➡️ You are part of a national campaign. Take photos and videos to showcase your involvement and send them to rosie.venner@justmoney.org.uk or upload them to your website social media pages with #TheBigBankSwitch

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Get started: Introduce The Big Bank Switch

In your church notices

The Big Bank Switch is calling on thousands of Christians to switch to a greener bank this year, aligning our money with our values and moving millions of pounds out of fossil fuel support. Find out more and make your pledge to switch at justmoney.org.uk/the-big-bank-switch

In a newsletter or on a noticeboard

You can share this article or one of our posters or flyers:

Find digital and printable posters here.

Find digital and printable flyers here.

Find newsletter inserts here.

On social media

Find social media resources here.

Pray: Resources for worship

Suggested hymns and songs:

- All that I am, all that I do
- For the beauty of the earth
- God and Money (Liz Delafield)
- God in His love for us lent us this planet
- God is love, his the care
- Make me a channel of your peace
- Oh the life of the world is a joy and a treasure
- Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
- Take my life and let it be
- Touch the earth lightly
- We are not our own
- Doxecology - new songs about ecology and creation
- Hymns for our planet - a collection of hymns by Andrew Pratt

Bible passages on money, faith and justice:

- Deuteronomy 15:1-15
- Ecclesiastes 5:8-15
- Micah 6:8
- Matthew 6:19-21
- Matthew 6:24
- Mark 12:42-44
- Luke 12:13-21
- Amos 8: 4-7

Opening prayer:

Lord God,
yours is the earth, and everything in it.
You love the world with justice and challenge us to live justly.
Help us to use the resources you have given us wisely
and for the good of all your creation.
May your Spirit fill us with passion
for a better future for all your creatures;
for a world in which all can thrive and give you praise.
In Jesus' name.
Amen

[By Revd Dr Martin Poulsom, Trustee, Operation Noah]

Closing prayer:

Creator God,
guide us to act justly with the resources entrusted to us.
Help us follow Your commandments,
and to live in right relationship
with our neighbours and all of creation.
Strengthen the movement for a fairer, greener economy
and show us where and how to speak out for the common good.
Send us out to love You, to serve You and to reflect Your glory.
Amen

[By Rosie Venner, JustMoney Movement]

Prayer points:

- For people and communities most affected by the climate crisis
- For banks to play their part in shaping a fairer, greener world
- For banks to phase out the financing of fossil fuels and support a just transition
- For more investment in green energy, housing, transport and food systems
- For greater transparency and an end to 'greenwashing'
- For better regulation of the financial sector to help people and planet flourish

Discuss: After the service

Greenwashing = the practice of misleading consumers about a product's environmental impact or benefits

Things to discuss and do over tea and coffee or in house group sessions:

Discussion points

Asking people to chat about green banking after a service is a nice way to get your church more involved with the campaign. Here are some discussion prompts to consider:

- How does our money connect us to God's creation and our global neighbours?
- What types of things might we like - or not like - the money in our banks to support?
- How might switching to a green bank align with our Christian values?

Letter writing

When people switch their bank on the Switch It Green website as part of The Big Bank Switch campaign, they will get access to tailored emails to send to their old bank to let them know why they are leaving. However, getting people to write creative physical letters after a Switch It Sunday service is a great way to engage people with the campaign.

Switching stories

Some people in your community may already be part of The Big Bank Switch or may have previously switched to a green bank of their own accord. Asking people to share their switching stories verbally can be a great way to support others in their switching journey. We would also love to receive people's switching stories by email (amber@switchit.green).

More ways to support

Spread the word:

Write a letter to your local newspaper about the Big Bank Switch or share information with other local networks and organisations. You can find everything you need here.

Eco Church award:

If you are working towards an Eco Church Award, remember to record your involvement in the Big Bank Switch. It might help you make progress in the Lifestyle section!

Switch your church's bank account:

Consider switching your church's bank account to a greener bank. A growing number of churches and Christian organisations are switching their business accounts. These switches are much more impactful and generate more coverage than individual switches alone.

Compare your options using JustMoney Movement's Greener, Fairer Banking guide. Feel free to email rosie.venner@justmoney.org.uk for more support with switching your church's bank account.