

June 2025

Dear Friends,

Most of us won't have needed the reminder, but the recent UK heatwave – with more extreme heat predicted for parts of the UK on Sunday and into early next week – is another indication of how quickly we need to reduce emissions, invest in climate solutions and campaign for change.

Our planet could breach the symbolic 1.5C warming limit in as little as three years at current levels of carbon dioxide emissions according to more than 60 leading climate scientists. Yet the UK can provide global leadership, with the Climate Change Committee (CCC) – the UK government's climate advisors – reporting that the UK can still reach its 2050 net zero targets. Echoing many experts, the CCC also insists that a green economy – far from dragging the country down, as some politicians have claimed – will provide long-term benefits.

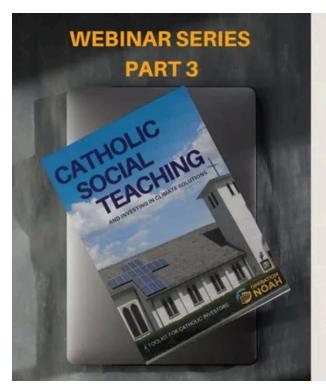
In this month's newsletter, we share some of the ways Operation Noah and our partners are working to speed up the transition to renewables and restore nature, including by <u>calling on UK Churches to achieve net zero land emissions</u>, urging Churches and faith groups to <u>sign our Green Investment Declaration</u> and encouraging you to <u>join the 9 July mass lobby</u>. As many struggle in the summer heat, let this spur us on to campaign for change.

The Operation Noah Team



Operation Noah Calls on Churches to Achieve Net Zero Land Emissions in Open Letter

Earlier this month, Operation Noah delivered an Open Letter signed by over 500 people to Church offices in London, Cardiff and Edinburgh. Addressed to the leaders of nine large UK denominations, our Open Letter calls on Churches to achieve net zero land emissions by 2030 and outlines seven targets related to restoring peatland, protecting land for nature and supporting climate-friendly farming. Alongside the letter, we also shared a photo book with stories of churches using their land to care for creation. Learn more about our Open Letter hand-in and listen to an interview our Campaign Manager Sharon Hall did with UCB News.



Empowerment and Equity: Governance, Work, and **Economic Justice**

Thursday 26 June 2025

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Join us to explore how CST principles can guide impactful climate investments and learn how to put your faith into action for a just and sustainable future



Chief Operating Officer

Mobile Power

Register now

Thursday's Catholic Social Teaching Webinar to Look at Bringing Clean Energy to Africa

You're invited to the third in our webinar series on Catholic Social Teaching and Investing in Climate Solutions this Thursday 26 June, 1-2pm. Our topic is, 'Empowerment and Equity: Governance, Work, and Economic Justice'. Hear from Luke Burras, CEO of Mobile Power, as he speaks about bringing clean energy to Africa, and connect with other Catholic organisations. Don't worry if you've missed our previous webinars - each session is self-contained. Register.



'How Can My Church or Faith Group Invest in Climate Solutions: Aren't We Obligated to Maximise Financial Returns?'

Many people mistakenly believe that registered charities must always maximise financial returns, which is why they feel unable to make 'riskier' green investments. Yet Churches, dioceses and faith groups are not only allowed to make green investments, but are arguably going against their charitable objectives if they don't! Our Campaign Director Clare Fussell explores why investing in climate solutions is firmly grounded in the Christian call to steward creation, aligned with the Church's charitable aims and permissible within fiduciary responsibilities. Read more.



Register for 7 July 'Growing Hope: Church Investment in Sustainable Land Use' Webinar

Our 'Growing Hope' webinar on Monday 7 July will explore 'Church Investment in Sustainable Land Use'. Joining us will be Caroline Pomeroy from Climate Stewards, Rolf Hogan from Landscape Finance Lab and John Weakliam from Vita Impact. They will speak on the ways in which Churches can invest in tree-growing, in protecting peatland and in promoting sustainable farming. The webinar will be relevant to individuals looking to make small investments to offset their carbon footprints as well as to larger Church and institutional investors. Register here.



Operation Noah Trustee Rebecca MacDonald Says £14.2bn Investment into Sizewell C Nuclear Plant Would be Better Spent Elsewhere

Our Trustee Rebecca MacDonald – an expert in carbon and renewable electricity markets – writes: 'Operation Noah acknowledges that, in theory, the low emissions from nuclear energy could serve as a tool in the energy transition, but given the urgency of the climate crisis, we urgently need to focus on renewable energy solutions which are more quickly deployable, whereas investing billions of pounds into nuclear energy will detract from this effort. This is a lot of money now for something that will take a long long time to deliver.' Read more.

Take Action



Register to Join us at the 9 July 'Act Now, Change Forever' Mass Lobby in Westminster

On Wednesday 9 July, thousands of people from around the UK will travel to Westminster to tell our MPs to accelerate government action on climate and nature – and faith groups will be involved. Meet with your MP and join Operation Noah and other Christian charities in a dedicated faith space at the 'Act Now, Change Forever' mass lobby. Register here.



Volunteers Needed to Help on the Operation Noah Stall at Greenbelt

Operation Noah will be at the Greenbelt Festival at Boughton House near Kettering from 21-24 August this year. While members of our staff will be present, we're looking for volunteers to help us on our stall, with the possibility of free Greenbelt tickets for volunteers. If you're interested or would like more information, email our administrator Ruth Jarman at admin@operationnoah.org.

UK Government Says Fossil Fuel
Developments Must Account for Emissions
from Burning Oil and Gas, Has Yet to Reject
Rosebank Field

From our friends at Uplift and the Stop Rosebank campaign: 'We've got some incredible news. The government has announced new rules that mean assessments to approve or reject new oil and gas projects will now finally have to take into account the CO2 produced from burning the fossil fuels in the field itself. Yes, it's shocking. Until now, the full amount of pollution from these climate-wrecking projects were not considered in the decisions! This doesn't mean we've won. It means the final decision is getting closer and it's time to ramp up the heat to make sure that we Stop Rosebank for good.' Call on your MP or MSP to Stop Rosebank.

Climate News and Resources

Last week, Operation Noah joined JustMoney Movement, Laudato Si Movement and Christian Climate Action in calling for an end to fossil fuel finance, with new research showing UK high street banks are still financing climate chaos. According to the latest *Banking on Climate Chaos* report, the world's top 65 banks have financed fossil fuels to the tune of \$7.9 trillion since the landmark Paris Agreement. Read our joint press release here.

The London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) – an £8 billion Local Government Pension Scheme fund – has committed to an initial goal of investing 5% (£400mn) of the Fund's current value in climate solutions. If the London Pensions Fund Authority can do it, why can't Churches? We're encouraging faith groups around the world to sign our Green Investment Declaration and, like LPFA, commit to investing in climate solutions. Read more about the investment decision by LPFA here and learn about our Green Investment Declaration here and

Green Christian is looking for two Trustees – one to lead on communications, one to lead on green economics – and is also hiring a part-time Digital Media Officer. <u>Learn more</u>.

The UK's saltmarshes are vital sinks that lock away climate-warming greenhouse gases in layers of mud, according to a new report from WWF. Many of the UK's saltmarshes have been lost to agriculture but are unsung heroes in nature's fight against climate change. WWF is calling for UK saltmarshes to be restored and protected. Read more.

The Vatican has completed a major solar project on a 1,000-acre site near Rome. The site is already home to Vatican Radio transmission facilities – the solar project will now power Vatican Radio and also contribute to the 'energy sustenance of Vatican City State.' Read more.

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 <u>donation</u>.

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