



## **Church Action for Tax Justice welcomes McDonnell speech**

CAT warmly welcomes Labour's commitment to tax justice made by John McDonnell today. We urge all church and other institutional shareholders to support the campaign he spoke of launching, encouraging companies to sign up to the Fair Tax Mark, so - as he said - 'demonstrating transparently that they pay their fair share of taxes'.

CAT has already been in touch with church shareholders raising this question, and notes that the Methodist Central Finance Board recently adopted a Tax policy. This includes questions to be asked of companies about their tax affairs. The Society of Friends and other Church investors have also engaged companies in the tax debate. We urge the Church Investors Group to address this matter with urgency, challenging such companies as Amazon in which some Churches hold shares.

CAT Chair Revd David Haslam said, 'CAT regards the distinction between tax avoidance and evasion which companies often cite as being a false one. Tax is a moral issue and all companies should pay their fair share, not the least they think they can legally get away with'.

Further information Revd David Haslam 07963 254828

CAT is a group bringing together church bodies who are concerned about Tax issues and seek to promote a 'Big Conversation on Tax'. Its next event is a public meeting with Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP, Vice Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Responsible Tax, at the Priory Rooms, Birmingham on Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm.

[www.catj.org.uk](http://www.catj.org.uk)