

Press Release

THE CHURCH WAGES WAR ON THE UK'S MONEY MISERY

THOUSANDS of people will find relief from the financial gloom of January thanks to hundreds of church congregations who have trained to help people manage money.

Growing charity Christians Against Poverty has seen the equivalent of a church a day coming forward for training to deliver debt prevention course CAP Money.

Now 782 churches across the UK are ready to help their communities learn the long-forgotten art of sticking to a budget and paying into a savings account – with 268 courses happening through January and February alone.

The free, three-session course called CAP Money is quite separate from the charity's usual work of debt counselling.

CAP's founder and international director John Kirkby said: "We see what it is like for people when they hit rock bottom, lose their home and are unable to feed their children. Yet "buy now and pay later" is a message we hear at every turn.

"This is why we began this preventative course three years ago and we're delighted to see it being used to debt-proof people in this age of austerity and may be even put the joy back into dealing with our money."

In 2010, around 7,000 people went on a CAP Money course with many more expected to take up the offer in 2011 amid rises in energy bills, petrol charges and VAT.

John added: "So many of us are guessing at our finances. We're hoping for the best while continuing to spend, really without knowing what we have available. The Bible says the truth will set you free and certainly when you know what your situation is – even if it's a mess – you can start to tackle the issue."

- Find a course near you see www.capmoney.org

Ends

Notes for editors:

About Christians Against Poverty

Christians Against Poverty is a home-grown debt counselling charity which is determined to reduce poverty in the UK caused by debt. It partners its financial expertise with the care of the local church to offer free debt help and

a solution to people (regardless of gender, age or beliefs) through 150 church-based centres. The fast-growing charity, which this year celebrates its 15th anniversary, intends to have a debt-counselling CAP centre in 500 towns and cities across the UK by 2015. For more about CAP see www.capuk.org

About CAP Money

CAP Money is the pro-active educational arm of the charity. It is sometimes run by the centres that do debt counselling but mostly the courses are run by churches where congregations want to do something to empower people to fight poverty before it hits.

CAP Money isn't for people with debts (though they can be catered for). It's for everyone – students to the newly retired, single people and for families because we've seen that learning how to set a budget and stick to it helps to debt-proof people in the long term.

CAP Money is NOT a debt-counselling course.

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