

London press release: April 2011

TWO NEW DEBT COUNSELLING CENTRES TO OPEN IN LONDON

LONDONERS struggling with overwhelming personal debt are set to receive free help from an acclaimed charity opening two new centres this month.

Growing debt counselling organisation Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has partnered with a range of churches during the past decade, and with the latest in Greenwich and Merton, it now has 20 specialist centres in London alone.

It is rare good news for people in the capital who according to recent reports are seeing the biggest squeeze to their income since the two world wars thanks to pay cuts and inflation.

CAP offers people a uniquely in-depth, caring service to people with spiralling personal debt. Every client is visited in their own home and supported face-to-face until the day they are debt free.

The free debt counselling has been described as “unsurpassed” by TV’s Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis and “staggering” by Prince Charles when he visited a centre in Peckham last year.

Launching London’s latest centres with New Life Church, Woolwich Road, Greenwich and at Dundonald Church, Kingston Road, Merton; CAP’s CEO Matt Barlow said: “A huge number of people in London will believe that where their finances are concerned, all their hopes have run out.

“Very likely their debt will have been caused by a change in circumstances such as job loss, pay cuts, illness or relationship breakdown.

“Creditors will be ringing all day, the letters will be piling up and their sleep, health and relationships will all be suffering. We’re just so delighted to see the church joining us to give this service which reaches some of the very poorest in our society.”

London Merton Centre Manager Claudia Demuth said: “We’re just so pleased to be able to partner the concern we feel for our community with the financial know-how at CAP.

“CAP saw 71 people become debt free last month. We’re delighted to think that in the future, some of those will be from these new areas of London.”

The charity has 160 centres around the UK currently supporting £66m of secondary debts for its clients regardless of income, age, gender, background or faith.

- To find out more www.capuk.org or call 0800 328 0006

Ends

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 through 160 centres. The fast-growing charity 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

CAP's 20 London centres are in: Greenwich, Merton, Acton, Battersea, Camden, Cricklewood, Croydon, Dagenham, Ealing, Harrow, Lewisham, Peckham, Penge, Southwark, Streatham, Sutton, Tulse Hill, Walthamstow, Wandsworth and Welling

For further information

Please consider the local centre as **your great new contact** on issues of personal finance and local poverty – and possibly the source of case studies in the years to come.

Greenwich centre: Jon Darby is on 07930 051 223

Merton centre: Claudia Demuth is on 07905 792860

Contact CAP's National PR Manager Marianne Clough

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or telephone 01274 761924

CBER report as reported by BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-13029870>

During April, 16 new CAP centres are opening in:

Bexhill on Sea, Brighton, Birmingham Central, Derby, Doncaster, Kircaldy & Burntisland, Leeds & Wharfedale, Leeds East & South, London Greenwich, London Merton, Penicuik, Pontefract, Saffron Walden, Southampton East, Sunderland and Yeovil

Extra debt coaches have been taken on Belfast East, Chichester, Causeway Coast and Woking.