

Press release: October 2011

## CHURCH OUT TO PROVE THERE IS LIFE AFTER DEBT

DEBT counselling charity Christians Against Poverty is opening 37 new centres this month alone in a record expansion of its service.

The charity, which receives no Government funding, is growing to meet the needs of people in debt crisis thanks to its database of 70,000 supporters many of whom give a small monthly donation.

It means that from this month, a total of 190 communities will be able to receive debt counselling via their local church alongside other free agencies like Citizens Advice Bureaux, CCCS and Payplan.

The expansion is rare good news amid headlines of householders coping with the greatest inflation rise for 20 years while many have not seen an increase in income for years – or who have lost their job altogether. As well as areas of well-known poverty, there are perhaps surprising venues for a debt centre too: Windsor, Canterbury and Skipton.

Representatives from each of the congregations have been rigorously trained to bring both hope and a solution to people with problem debts – most often caused by job loss, pay cuts or illness.

Their care and on-going support for each client will be backed up by the financial expertise of the head office in Bradford which has specialist departments in every area of debt counselling, including insolvency.

CAP's CEO Matt Barlow said: "Our experience shows that there will be people in each of these areas who think there is no hope and in fact, our research shows most people wait to get debt help because they don't think there is any available. Creditors will be ringing all day, the letters will be piling up and their sleep, health and relationships will all be suffering.

"The fantastic news is that due to the commitment of their local church, we will be able to support each client by seeing them in their own home, contacting their creditors on their behalf, setting them a budget and staying with them until they are debt free."

As well as the 37 new centres which brings the total up to 190 across the UK, other existing centres have increased capacity by taking on extra debt coaches to meet the needs of the local community.

- CAP's help is available to all regardless of age, gender, faith or background. Find out more about CAP at [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org) or by calling 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 190 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](http://www.capuk.org)

**For further information** contact CAP's National PR Manager Marianne Clough

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## **The 37 new CAP centres are opening in:**

Watford, Bromley, Nuneaton, Skipton, West Suffolk, London Hackney, Foyle, Manchester South, Stamford, Poole, Gloucester, Pontyclun, Birmingham South, Nottingham, Narborough, Newtownards, Redcar, Worcester, Clitheroe, Stevenage, Mildenhall, Benfleet, Crewe, Upminster, St Helens, Wigan, Glasgow South, Newport, Windsor, Blaenau Gwent, Belfast South, Macclesfield, Redruth, Canterbury, Lincoln East, Exmouth and South Hams.