

For immediate release:

THE CHURCH GETS SERIOUS ABOUT HELPING COMMUNITIES AS CUTS LOOM

HUNDREDS of churches are reacting to the financial squeeze by reaching out to their communities with advice about money management.

As the Government's spending review continues, VAT rises loom and pay freezes become commonplace, a wide range of denominations are offering budgeting courses or debt counselling as part of their ministry.

On Saturday (Sep 25) members of **74 separate churches** crowded into a church in Watford to learn how to deliver a money management course called CAP Money – the charity's biggest training event to date.

The **74 will join more than 600 other churches** across the UK who have undergone training to do the three-session course which teaches the long-forgotten art of setting a household budget, using cash instead of cards and even saving.

The course is the brainchild of fast-growing debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP). The organisation, which 14 years ago amounted to one man with a ten pound donation and huge desire to put his financial experiences to good use, is now a national operation handling £64m of clients' debt at any one time.

Financial experts at the charity have partnered with 131 churches to open localised centres from Aberdeen to Truro and another 30 churches are expected open their own CAP centres this month.

The service is literally a life-saver in many cases, as research shows that more than a third of people with spiralling debts believe they would be better off dead.

Ends

Notes to editors:

For more information about Christians Against Poverty, contact Marianne Clough at the press office on 01274 761924 or marianneclough@capuk.org

We have case studies – just ring me for more info!

Further information

About Christians Against Poverty

CAP aims to show God's love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help. CAP's unique 'hands on' approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. Vital financial and budgeting life skills are developed through our services, thus ensuring poverty relief is sustainable.

The charity operates through a growing network of centres based around the UK, all opened in partnership with a local church. Over the last fourteen years, the charity has grown from one man working from his home with a donation of £10, to a national charity with 131 centres across the country and an annual turnover of £5 million.

CAP's vision is to answer the national problem of debt in the UK by having at least one CAP centre operating in every major town and city by the end of 2014.

