

Newsletter from the Weston Area CAP Debt Centre

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Weston Area CAP Debt Centre Newsletter

Like a lot of organisations, coronavirus has given some extra challenges to the way we'd usually want to work. CAP have had to stop face to face visiting at present during this crisis, although we're staying in touch with clients as much as we can through telephone support. CAP Head Office are urgently trialling 'virtual' ways of visiting, but this will require FCA approval and may mean extra training.

This Facebook post shows that the work of getting clients to be debt free continues as **134** people became debt free in the last two weeks - Source: <https://www.facebook.com/CAPUK>

Christians Against Poverty UK
3 hrs · 🌐

Don't worry - we might not be able to sit at our usual desks right now, but hundreds of CAP staff are still busily beaver away and 134 people have become debt free in the last two weeks!

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We're not closed. We're still here. For any clients out there who are worried - you can still contact us on the usual phone number and email address. It may take us a little longer to get back to you right now, but we're doing everything we can to progress your case, even in this difficult time. #DebtFreeMonday

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It was only just over a couple of weeks ago that I was with church leaders at the CLIF meeting. We were talking about the impending coronavirus situation and thinking about what it must have been like for Jesus as he faced the cross:

"Right now I am storm-tossed. And what am I going to say? Father get me out of this? No, this is why I came in the first place." John 12:27 MSG

For Jesus, there was tension and triumph - the awareness and agony of what he was facing, which we'll be remembering during Holy Week and Easter. Many of us must be thinking that Easter is going to be very different this year, but however we do so, let's truly celebrate the triumph that Jesus won over sickness, sin and death.

Please continue your prayers for people in the Weston-Super-Mare area who are struggling with debt, and especially for those facing uncertain income during this time. Please pray for Weston Foodbank, and also pray for Citizens Advice, StepChange and the other debt advice agencies. We'll be doing as much as we can through telephone support for our existing clients and new clients. We'll also be preparing for new ways of visiting, for what I expect will be an even greater demand, in the coming months.

Paul Larcombe, CAP Centre Manager, Weston Area

March 2020

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Debt Coaches: Paul Larcombe & Caroline Williams

Items for Praise

- Earlier this month, there was an open-door for us at the Weston-Super-Mare JobCentre Plus and we were able to speak to around 35 work coaches about the work of CAP
- Paul also addressed the Bath and Wells Diocesan Synod to speak about the work here in the Weston-Super-Mare area
- Two churches are interested in a CAP Money Course
- Client G, has at last been told that her benefit income is to be increased to a realistic level
- Praise God for the 11 clients from the Weston Area that are paying regularly on a debt management plan
- Thank God for the regular income that is being given by churches and individuals

Items for Prayer

- Client M, has stopped communicating with CAP and has lost her job. She is apparently wrestling with alcohol addiction
- Client X, is still wrestling with health issues
- Client Z, is still on-hold awaiting favourable terms for a loan repayment, but making good progress

- Client Y, repaying over three years, pray for strength
- Client O, has nearly completed his Debt Relief Order
- Client W, who is still desperate for a long-term housing solution, even though she is now debt free
- Client J, has been in prison, and we are trying to resume contact
- Pray for the fantastic befrienders, who would usually accompany us during client visits

Easter Eggs: In view of the coronavirus restrictions, we've had to cancel the annual distribution of our amazing gifts of Easter Eggs. However, we'll be bringing Easter greetings to our clients in whatever ways we can.

CAP Talk: Would you like to have a speaker to talk about the Weston Area CAP Centre in your church or group in the future? If so, please could you phone Paul Larcombe on 07563 880577.

CAP Money: There are around ten people in the Weston-Super-Mare area who are trained CAP Money Coaches. They have learned how to deliver CAP's acclaimed three-week, flexible course on managing money well and saving for the future. If you know anyone that is interested, please contact me.

Finance: If you would like to personally support this initiative you can make a one-off payment through your bank account (Destiny Church CAP, Account Number: 71605925 Sort Code: 404618) or give a monthly amount by standing order. Please contact Paul for a Standing Order and Gift Aid form. There's also now a Donate Button on the Facebook page. We appreciate anything you can do to help us to reach more people.

If you know anyone that is in debt and needs a visit, please ask them to phone the New Enquiry Team on 0800 328 0006. Contact Paul if you would like some helpful publicity leaflets and cards entitled, Weighed Down by Debt.

Where's the Centre? This isn't a physical Centre. Paul and Caroline work from home and visit people in their homes. Those needing help call our freephone number. Calls are sympathetically handled and an appointment or referral is made.

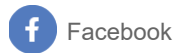
Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has been helping people to get out of debt and poverty for over 20 years. CAP's head office in Bradford is home to over 250 staff who form an incredible poverty busting team. Visit capuk.org to find out more.

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