

Oxford Churches Debt Centre Newsletter

March 2023

Over a third of adults (3 million) in the South East have gone without heat at some point this winter. The cost-of-living crisis is hitting hard, even in Oxford, and we are called to be a part of fighting poverty in and around the city. 5 of our clients have gone debt free in the six months, one after faithfully paying into their debt management plan for more than five years. One who recently found freedom from debt said “CAP have been amazing – amazing support right through!”. We also help increase people’s financial capability through the CAP Money budgeting course and the CAP Life Skills community groups.



christians
against
poverty

CAP

Life Skills Groups



We followed up our June day out in the New Forest with a picnic lunch in the park in September put on together with Emmanuel Church. Several debt clients who attended heard about Emmanuel’s CAP [Life Skills](#) course and joined the group which ran over two months in the autumn. Five of the participants continue to meet for friendship and discussion.

Emmanuel Church is preparing for another Life Skills group to meet from May 9th to July 4th. With several churches now running these courses we are looking forward to one each term in Oxford.

[Click](#) to hear course leader Helen Gallagher interviewed on Radio Oxford.

What’s happening nationally?

CAP is launching a campaign this Easter asking politicians, energy providers, utilities companies, organisations and individuals to join the fight against poverty’s stranglehold on our local communities. Find out more on Twitter @CAPuk, Facebook @CAPuk or Instagram capuk_org and help out at capuk.org/support.

Events

Kath from the Debt Centre will be at the Ark-T Community Hub Day on Monday April 3rd as part of the money advice service they are providing. This is a drop-in, offering members of the public a confidential chat from 10 am at The Venue, 242 Barns Road, OX4 3RQ. You can read about this and keep up with the news on our growing [Facebook](#) page.

Headington Baptist Church ran the [CAP Money](#) course in the lead up to Christmas. This included trialling some new features that will be part of the updated course which CAP is formally launching this year.



In what has become a tradition, a team of volunteers met in the St Clement’s Centre in December to pack 33 Christmas hampers for current debt clients.

A Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Quiz party was held at HBC, attended by clients, course participants and volunteers. One client was awarded his debt-free certificate on the night.



With the help of the churches and some clients we have been delivering postcards to 10,000 homes in Oxford and Wheatley to promote the debt help service.