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New Malden and Kingston CAP Debt Centre (St John's New Malden)

Newsletter January 2021

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength an ever-present help in trouble.

Dear Friends,

Who could have ever imagined what the world would be going through in these days? Praying you would find refuge in His love during these uncertain and anxious times.



Bringing a little cheer to our clients, thanks to Paul Pickhaver and his amazing team of helpers at Kingston Foodbank and the many volunteers who so lovingly packed & assembled The Lunch on Jesus hampers. My lovely housemate Kirsty from Everyday Church helped deliver Hampers to our CAP clients along with a band of 'merry men' from St John's NM! Just checking to see if anyone reads this!



Client Appointments are still going ahead, but are being done over the phone at present. We do continue to do emergency shops for clients and provide whatever practical help we can, given the current limitations.

Exciting news – thanks to receiving a number of grant awards from the Royal Borough of Kingston, a grant from the Kingston Foodbank, generous donations from St Pauls, Kingston Hill and the Kings Church, and the regular support of a number of regular givers, we are thrilled to say I am able to increase my working hours per week to enable us to see more clients. This includes direct referrals from the Foodbank and also the chance to prepare ourselves for a possible deluge of clients - once life starts to stabilise again. Eviction hearings are postponed until February 2021 but once these start again, we expect the volume of referrals to increase.



Expansion – We are pleased to announce that Helen Dennis Smith from Everyday Church Wimbledon will be joining the Debt Centre as a Debt Coach once she has completed her Debt Coach training in March.



Talking of Debt Coaches – We are looking to appoint another Debt Coach (initially on a voluntary basis but could lead to a paid position), so if you or someone you know would be interested in finding out more about the role, please contact Phil Hutchinson on 0208 942 3942 or philipcap48@yahoo.com



Service Support Administrator: 'WANTED' A behind-the-scenes superhero who will help our CAP service be even more effective in helping people out of poverty, by undertaking various administrative tasks for the centre, including keeping CAP's systems up to date. This is a voluntary role and online training will be provided by CAP. Please contact Gayle for details.



Team Work - We have a new client who has needed extra support from other 'help organisations' and churches and I must tell you how encouraged I have been by the immediate and helpful responses I have received. It has encouraged me no end to know we are all in this together, all working together to share God's love in our communities.



Publicity – your help is needed in getting the word out there! Please please please SHOUT the CAP National Helpline number from the rooftops! **0800 328 0006** If you are interested in purchasing a CAP banner to hang outside your church then please do let us know.



As the usual avenues for advertising are unavailable due to lockdown, we have decided to take to the airwaves! We will be mentioned on Kingston Hospital Radio and will be running a campaign on Radio Jackie. If you have any ideas or would be happy to distribute leaflets or hang up posters please do give me a shout (07892 712257).



Additional CAP Frontline Services – Please note that CAP also run Job Clubs, Life Skill Courses, Fresh Start Courses (for addiction help) and CAP Money Courses. If your church is interested in setting up a service. please do let me know and I will put you in touch with the relevant person at CAP. CAP Job Clubs have seen a vast increased uptake of participants and have been successful running online courses during lockdown.



Pastoral Support – as you know our befrienders would normally come on visits and aim to build a relationship with our clients. However, as this not possible at present – with the client's permission, I aim to contact churches directly so ministers can arrange this support locally. Thanks to those of you have already been in touch with clients, it really does help them know they are not alone but they have people in their communities who will walk alongside them.



Also, if you know of people in your congregation who would make great befrienders please do encourage them to get in contact with me. A befriender will provide the link to the local church and help clients become knitted into a church community. St John's NM is the hub church but this work belongs to each church and because the work of the Debt Centre covers such a vast area, we really can't do it without your help, so please do partner with us as we reach out into our communities.

Lastly, we would like to say we have been greatly encouraged by people who have been in touch with us over the last year, and have wanted to be involved in some way. We do so appreciate your support and value your prayers. Phil Hutchinson has done a great job for us in applying for grants to keep this work going. However, it is only through the support of the individuals who faithfully give each month, and to the churches who have donated to this work, that can we continue this service. We have a lot to pay for – we pay the CAP national organisation on a monthly basis for their debt advice service and administration, the cost of my salary, and the day to day running costs of providing such a service. Please prayerfully consider if you would like to be a regular donor or be one of our partner churches, as we are truly all in this together.

Many blessings to you and your loved ones

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