

## Press release

### DEMAND SEES LOCAL DEBT CHARITY EXPAND

A FREE LOCAL debt counselling charity is expanding to cope with the high numbers of local people requesting help with their finances.

The Liskeard & Looe Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre, based at St Martin's Church in Liskeard, have appointed two new debt coaches in readiness for an increase in demand due to the impact of the pandemic. Since opening 18 months ago, the centre has seen steady growth as word has spread of their uniquely in-depth, caring and face-to-face help. The expanded centre will double its capacity.

Darren Arulvasagam, Liskeard & Looe CAP Debt Centre Manager, said: "It's been frustrating to have a waiting list, particularly as many of our clients are vulnerable and need help straight away. The predictions for COVID-19 related job losses in this area are worrying and if true, rising debt will surely follow. We want to be ready to help anyone so they're not forced to decide between heating and eating."

He added that the centre had appointed volunteers Deborah Hale and Mark Allen to work two days per week. Deborah is a recently retired IFA whilst Mark retired from managing a Looe GP practice earlier this year. Both wanted to help improve the lives of people living in their community. They will undergo training this year, prior to being able to take on new clients from January.

To help finance the centre's growth, Darren was due to run the London Marathon this month, but due to COVID restrictions, instead ran 26.2 miles on the Camel Trail raising over £1,500. You can still support their work by visiting: [totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/darrenscapvIm2020](https://totalgiving.co.uk/mypage/darrenscapvIm2020)

Darren said: "Our help is free. If you know things are out of control and you're stressed or missing meals, don't ignore it. Please give us a call and let us help you get your life back on track."

To make an appointment call 0800 328 0006.

ENDS

#### Notes for journalists:

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity determined to reduce UK poverty across the country by delivering debt counselling, money management, job clubs, life skills groups, and support for people breaking habitual dependencies. Many of our services are currently taking place online or over the phone. Visit [capuk.org](https://capuk.org) to find out more. CAP is committed to its services being available to all individuals regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

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