

**How are the charities we support through our Outward Giving coping during the pandemic? Over the next few weeks we share some of their experiences.**

## **Christians Against Poverty and Guildford Action**



**Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** ([capuk.org](http://capuk.org)) works with those struggling with long-term debt, helping them to become debt-free by negotiating with their creditors and devising a budget for them to work with. They also offer the support of the Christian faith, although this is in no way a condition for providing help.

Normal face-to-face meetings have had to be set aside because of the pandemic, but 'visits' over the phone (and sometimes video link), whilst challenging, are providing the necessary support. It is expected that, as lockdown eases and people's finances become more stretched, CAP will be busier than ever.

Supporters are asked to give thanks for two clients who went debt-free at the end of June, and also for the Head Office staff (in Yorkshire), some now back in the office, others working from home, having young children.

Please pray for a client who is struggling with post-viral exhaustion having had COVID-19, and for those struggling with mental health issues, exacerbated by isolation in lockdown.

Please pray that the Job Club will be able to run another course in September, whether face-to face, or online, like the June/July one.

Pray too for Jane and Suzanne at the Debt Centre in Guildford, as they try to provide the CAP service, needed more than ever, and just as much in Guildford as other parts of the country.

*Mike Bishop – Parish Friend  
July 2020*

**Guildford Action (GA)** ([www.guildfordaction.org.uk](http://www.guildfordaction.org.uk)) has been woven into the life of our town for over 25 years. It began as a group trying to help the unemployed survive and find work; perhaps that is about to become a primary role again.

Just now, having had to close completely and have only phone links with users during lockdown, GA has partially reopened during mornings. The aim is to target known rough sleepers and those accommodated in lodgings and hotels. This group has made great use of the open door and acceptance offered by GA at their Centre in Haydon Place. Despite observance of social distancing, new arrivals will always be welcomed.

Linking with GA, Footsteps has resumed on Sunday evenings and offer sandwiches and drinks at the main door of the Centre,

The other arm of the charity, Guildford Action for Families, is now seeing families face to face in their gardens or in a public place to try to support parents and young people and children in surviving current loneliness, frustration, fear and poverty. This is certainly better than only using the phone but still falls short of the privacy of home visits.

It is hard to overestimate how much need there will be for the responsiveness and flexibility of GA as the mental stress of lockdown, the ensuing unemployment and family rupture become clearer.

Each person working with GA's users will be striving to respond usefully to those needs though they too know these realities and feelings – as we all do.

*Maureen Wright – Parish Friend  
July 2020*

*Update, August 2020:* Since lockdown restrictions eased, Guildford Action for Families have been able to organise family visits to Elm Farm, Bocketts Farm and Littlehampton as well as paddleboarding on the Wey – with the help of ROAR Outdoor!

