

Generosity at Christmas with CAP in Newquay

CAP have a tradition of giving hampers to all of their Debt clients at Christmas time. We were completing our first year of the Newquay Area Debt Centre and had to figure out what that meant for us and how to go about it. The word hamper can have different meanings for different people, especially if you have lived in America like me where the connotation is laundry!

The local food banks do an excellent job of providing Christmas food boxes for their clients, which was something we did not want to double up on, but we did want to support.

We partnered with the 23 churches of the Pydar Deanery who generously donated funds for the hampers. We also reached out to local community businesses and were blessed to receive items and support from Finsterre, the Buttermilk shop and Saint Eval Candles with promises of support for next year from others.

When I arrived in Cornwall, I had a picture of the Saints being connected as a series of lights across Cornwall - a common vision I have learned. Through this process, we saw that in action. The Saint Agnes community, who have been building food hampers for the local community since Covid, had a problem in that their usual recipient could not take the boxes, but we're able to deliver 40 beautifully wrapped Christmas Food Hampers to my house. This provided a great food base for all the families that needed it with many extra to spare that we could bless the Newquay food bank with. The food bank were delighted and it answered a very real need that they had.

Our clients are all very different and have different needs in living conditions so we were able to tailor gifts to the needs of families, their particular children, and individuals in different living conditions.

The churches and their befrienders and representatives gathered together for a fun night of hamper and gift wrapping. It was such a delight to connect with others across the Deanery, with befrienders writing personalized notes for the clients, and in some cases, delivering.

Thank you to everybody who took part in this work, it was such a joy. We had beautiful responses from our clients who overwhelmingly felt seen and loved.

I am excited to see how the bonds between churches, the community and the poor among us go from strength to strength in 2026.