

PERSONAL DEBT BREAKS 2008 BARRIER

Bad news! In August 2017, the Bank of England reported the highest level of personal debt (£201 bn) since the financial crisis of 2008. The average household owes £7,400 in unsecured debt. The Bank warns of another impending crash resulting from excessive borrowing on the one hand and irresponsible lending on the other.



And Christmas is coming... It is the largest single cause of personal debt in the UK, following rent and mortgage arrears. In 2016, the average household spent nearly £800 on gifts and seasonal celebrations. Consumer spending is again predicted to increase dramatically in the final quarter of the year. And many are still in debt from last Christmas. (see www.christmasgiving.net/the-cost-of-christmas)

BUT LET'S NOT DESPAIR!

Maybe this doesn't apply to individual readers of this newsletter. But we can all do something about it. Jesus came to 'bring good news to the poor', not to make them even poorer. Through our own festive spending and giving, many of us can perhaps do things differently ourselves, and start to make a difference for others too. After all, if Christians don't take a lead here, who will?



CAScaid has long advocated setting a personal budget well in advance of Christmas, and allocating a proportion of that budget to charitable giving at the outset ('50/50 Giving' as in Luke 3:11. (See www.christmasgiving.net/what-is-cascaid). It should not be a time of acquiring more, but of sharing what we already have with others, in preparation for Christ's coming. And there are other things we can do as well. See next page...

CAScaid would love to hear from you
Get in touch with us at www.christmasgiving.net

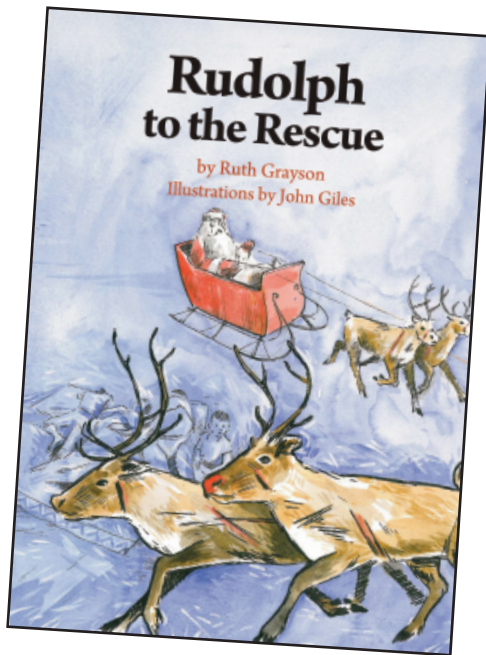
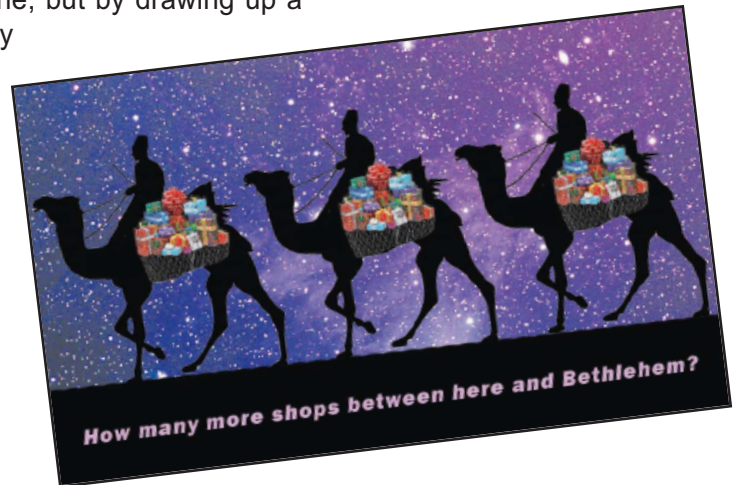
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It does not raise funds for itself or for individual charities.



IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, JOIN 'EM!

CELEBRATE BLACK FRIDAY!

Yes, seriously! The relationship between Black Friday and personal debt is obvious, so how on earth could we celebrate it? Not by buying discounted goods online, but by drawing up a budget for the coming weeks - and by sending e-cards to like-minded friends and relatives. Get a head start on your preparations by looking at www.christmasgiving.net/calendar, www.christmasgiving.net/top-tips, and www.christmasgiving.net/send-an-e-card. Send out your seasonal greetings early, let people know what you're doing - and why. There aren't many Black Friday greetings cards around, so this is a chance to remember what Christmas means, as well as take the pressure off your Christmas card writing!



WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

Isn't Christmas meant to be fun, with lots of gifts? Yes, and children can have their fun and their gifts! But they too can be made aware of the needs of others, especially children less fortunate than themselves. Read Rudolph to the Rescue (www.christmasgiving.net/rudolph-to-the-rescue) with them, and let them develop their own ideas of how they can help. Children often have a better sense of fairness and justice than we adults do. This is an illustrated story, available as a free download.

JOY IN ENOUGH - ALL YEAR ROUND, NOT JUST AT CHRISTMAS!

An opportunity to create and commit to a sustainable economy for all. Come together with like-minded people at The Big Workshop at Victoria Hall in Sheffield on Saturday, 18 November, to find out more. www.greenchristian.org.uk/bigworkshop/

Joy in Enough:
the Big Workshop

Imagine an economy which is good news for the Earth and all its people. We can.

Join us for a day building a faith-led movement for a truly sustainable economy.

Saturday 18 November 2017
Sheffield
11am-4.30pm, Victoria Hall S1 2JB

Details, and bookings by 10 November:
www.greenchristian.org.uk/bigworkshop
#JoyinEnough

Joy in enough
awakening to a new economics

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