

# ....live in peace and rest. April 2019



**'The Lord your God is giving you this land.  
It's a place where you can make your homes and live in peace and rest.'  
Joshua 1:13 (NIRV)**

Somewhere to call home. Isn't that what we all want, need and perhaps take for granted? Recently we have been saddened, angered even, to learn of the imminent closure of two homes for people with learning disabilities and major decisions affecting the future of residents made apparently without consultation. Whilst financial pressures probably make closure inevitable, how can decisions be made without consultation or advocacy? Disabled people have needs and rights just like everyone else. Simply because some are less able to voice their thoughts and feelings, should they be ignored? Count Everyone In does not have a political agenda but every Christian has a mandate from God to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and to stand up for defenceless people. How are we affected by the news that disabled people are to lose the place they have called home maybe for 20+ years, and to be rehoused in an unfamiliar place, miles from people they have lived with and without the support of carers whom they trust to understand their ways and preferences.



We don't have the money or influence to change these decisions but we can all do something. Some may be able to lobby those in positions of authority but each one of us can pray and most can befriend. How about your church, and ours? Is it a church that engages with people regardless of any disability, recognising them as people made in God's image, to be valued as highly as anyone else, not ignored, simply tolerated or, worse still, subjected to discrimination? Not only do we want their personal, social and emotional lives to be highly regarded but also to provide for spiritual life, supporting people to access opportunities for Christian worship, teaching,

friendship and indeed to be embraced (not necessarily in a physical way – not everyone appreciates hugs!) into God's family, the church.



'Home for Good' is a Christian charity encouraging adoption and fostering and it is achieving much. Last Sunday a woman with a learning disability told us that she and her sister were abandoned by their mother when they were small children; one of them was moved from placement to placement whilst the other had been given a "home for good" – her words, not ours. What a difference that made to her stability and ability to cope with life in contrast to the insecurity of her sister. Thankfully, the lady to whom we were speaking has the additional advantage of being welcomed into God's family, the only one that guarantees an ultimate 'home for good'.

We mentioned last month that Count Everyone In is officially a charity, registration number 1181852. We are now applying to HMRC for CEI to be eligible for Gift Aid and we expect this to happen fairly quickly. That will enable supporters who don't currently give via our Stewardship account to have Gift Aid added to their donations if they choose to do so (and backdated to cover earlier years). As Count Everyone In will not be an employer Stewardship will still be the preferred way for giving to our personal support. We shall be writing to all supporters as things become clearer. Watch this space .....

**Thank you** for your prayers and support over the past month. It is hard to convey just how much it means to know that people are holding us up in prayer. A near collision on a busy roundabout recently reminded us of how dependent we are upon God for safety, not to mention health, finances and so much more.

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**March highlights** included:

- a fascinating introduction to Godly Play; we shall be looking for opportunities to incorporate some Godly Play into our own methodology
- advising a church on how to be more accessible without alienating the rest of the congregation
- a meeting of hearts and minds that may result in a significant partnership. We'll share more of this in due course.
- Beyond Boundaries conference on Intellectual Disability and Missiology, at which Pete contributed to a seminar from his practical experience
- meeting with our amazing Support Group followed by the first formal meeting of the CEI trustees
- the annual get-together of the Additional Needs Alliance core group; so good for lone workers to have mutual support, sharing inspiratio, frustration and experience
- our annual visit to Fenland Community Church, Cambridgeshire, always a pleasure
- planning for the holiday week at LPO, France in June with Keith, Gill and Janneke; so good when plans come together easily!

## A reminder – your opportunity to volunteer with Count Everyone In this summer

Count Everyone returns to Creation Fest to enable adults with learning disabilities to join in with this festival of faithful Bible teaching, preaching, skateboarding and music from more than 50 Christian bands at the Royal Cornwall Showground near Wadebridge. We shall offer a welcoming oasis with gentle worship, interactive activities, engaging teaching, fun and creativity.



For that to happen we need team members to serve with us this summer. You will need to cover your own costs, including travel, camping equipment and food but the cost of your camping or caravanning pitch will be covered. You will receive a Creation Fest t-shirt and a Count Everyone In tabard. There is a good range of food vans on site, as well as a team canteen that provides basic meals at a reasonable cost for those who sign up for the whole week. Training is mandatory and you need to be on site from Friday morning 2 August. The main programme starts on Saturday evening and the CEI meetings take place each morning from Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

You will work hard but can also consider it a holiday as there will be plenty of time from lunchtime onwards each day from Sunday to Friday to enjoy the rest of the event or to explore Cornwall. Do get in touch if you, or someone you know, are interested. Email us with any questions at [counteveryonein@gmail.com](mailto:counteveryonein@gmail.com) or apply direct at [https://creationfestuk.brushfire.com/2019/449265?mc\\_cid=683c383632&mc\\_eid=ef29acea99](https://creationfestuk.brushfire.com/2019/449265?mc_cid=683c383632&mc_eid=ef29acea99) See <http://www.creationfest.org.uk/> for more details about the event itself.



### Greetings cards

We are impressed with the quality, range, price and speed of delivery of greetings cards that we buy through Tua Phelps-Jones, a good friend of CEI. Do take a look and, if you choose to buy, Count Everyone In will benefit.

Go to <https://www.flamingopaperie.co.uk/web/tuaphelps-jones> and look for the Customer Club tab where you will find more details and can sign up. You will see that there are special offers from time to time and you will get a small gift with your first order. There is a new catalogue so it's definitely worth a look. Delivery is £3.50 but **free** for orders of £30 or over.

Thank you so much for your custom!

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### Additional Know and Grow training dates

We are adding additional dates and venues for this year's programme so please take a look at the list of events below or check them out at <https://www.counteveryonein.org.uk/>

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**Accessible Bibles** The reprint of the New International Readers Version (NIRV) – accessible edition (New Testament) is available from Biblica Europe. The softback costs just £7.99 but for £2 more, at £9.99, you can get a beautiful, dark blue, hardback copy and even a softback Mark's Gospel at just £2.00. Take a look at <https://www.biblicaeurope.com/bible-shop/all?for=Accessible>

If you place an order for the whole New Testament in either hardback or softback you might like to help Count Everyone In by entering Pete's initials (PW). Remember, if you are looking for the whole Bible in the NIRV it is available in smaller print either from Christian bookshops or online.



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### Prayer points

- Thank God that the Garden Room is nearly ready for us to start working there
- Give thanks for our Support Group's prayerful concern for us and for the CEI trustees as they help us move forward as a charity
- Give thanks but continue to pray for safe travel and good health
- Next Sunday in St Albans at our old church morning and afternoon
- Word Alive – for logistics, our team, guests (including support staff and families), and for the Holy Spirit to move amongst us; we are thrilled to have heard from the local authority day services who joined us for one morning last year that they intend coming for two mornings this time - please pray that they receive the message of God's love
- For plans to move towards starting a ministry group at our own church

### April dates - correct at time of publication \*:

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Reading Area Prospects groups Easter Special, Greyfriars Church

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

Pete addressing Thatcham Baptist Church men's breakfast

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

Cornerstone Church, St Albans – morning service and afternoon  
Prospects group

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Birthday lunch for Christine's brother; accessibility teaching at Life Church, Hook

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

Allsorts Easter craft & games evening, Hope Church, Oswestry

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>

Word Alive, Pontins, Prestatyn – pray for team and guests

Two celebrations daily, 'Living for Jesus' based on 2 Timothy

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

Long drive home!

Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> –

Easter weekend at St Nic's, plus visits from all the family

Easter Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

At St Nic's – Jesus is alive!

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

Prom Praise, Royal Albert Hall

*\*Please note that we try to take Mondays off, especially following weekends when we have been working.*

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### **CEI Events to October 2019**

Sat 13 – Thurs 18 April

Word Alive, Pontins, Prestatyn <https://wordaliveevent.org/event/>

Sun 19 May

Shine 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Worthing Baptist Church, Christchurch Rd, BN11 1JH [shineworthing@gmail.com](mailto:shineworthing@gmail.com)

Weds 29 & Thurs 30 May

Friends of Jesus, Cranham Baptist Church, Upminster RM19 1NS [christinemh50@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christinemh50@yahoo.co.uk)

Mon 3 – Mon 10 June

Holiday week in France, Le Pas  
Opton <https://www.springharvestholidays.com/feature-weeks/everyone/>

Sat 22 June

Celebration Day, St Martins, 127 Suez Rd, Cambridge CB13QD [cacole2607@gmail.com](mailto:cacole2607@gmail.com)

Sat 29 June

Know & Grow 1, Crownhill Methodist Church, Plymouth PL6 5AG [claire\\_j\\_harris2003@yahoo.com](mailto:claire_j_harris2003@yahoo.com)

Sat 6 July

Know & Grow 1, Camberley (details to follow)

Sat 13 July

Know & Grow 1, St Nicolas, West Mills, Newbury RG14 5HG [counteveryonein@gmail.com](mailto:counteveryonein@gmail.com)

Sat 20 – Fri 26 July

Keswick Convention, St Herbert's School, Keswick [counteveryonein@gmail.com](mailto:counteveryonein@gmail.com)

Sat 3 – Fri 9 August

Creation Fest, Wadebridge,  
Cornwall <http://www.creationfest.org.uk/>

Thurs 22 – Sun 25 August

Westpoint (Newfrontiers), Westpoint, Exeter  
<https://www.commission-together.org/westpoint/>

Sun 22 Sept

10:30am Parkside Evangelical Church, Littlehampton BN17 6BD

Sat 5 Oct

Portsmouth Area Celebration Day, Kings Church PO5 4QA

Sat 12 Oct

Know & Grow 2, Farnham Baptist Church GU9 7HA (Details to follow)

Tues 15-Thurs 17 Oct

Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park

Sat 19 Oct

Alive Together Celebration, Kings Centre, Chessington KT9 2GZ



All our ministry is self-financed so, if you wish to support, you can give directly to us or online via **give.net**

Simply use the link below on your PC, phone or tablet and you will be taken to our **give.net** page, then follow the instructions. [www.give.net/20043120](http://www.give.net/20043120)

**Thank you** for your prayers and support. Please feel free to get in touch and do let us know if we can pray for you.

Please be assured that your data is not passed to any third parties. You receive these newsletters because you have requested them but please free to unsubscribe (below) at any time, should you wish.

**Social media** - See [www.counteveryonein.org.uk](http://www.counteveryonein.org.uk) and you can also keep up with us on Facebook and Twitter. Please follow, like and share.

Love and blessings,

*Pete & Christine*

