

August 2020

### Stop and smell the roses!

(idiomatic) To **relax**; to take time out of one's busy schedule to **enjoy** or **appreciate** the **beauty** of **life**.



Dear friends,

Isn't life complicated? With lockdown restrictions changing almost daily, it's easy to be dragged down by confusion and fear.

- Wear a mask / no need for masks
- How many people can meet inside / outside?
- How many households can get together in a garden / in public places?
- Is it safe to use public toilets, hand driers etc?
- Should we go on holiday? Do we fly? Where – Spain, Portugal, Greece?

One thing we have learned is that we need to take time to appreciate the good things of life. Between our back door and the garden room where we work are a couple of climbing roses and this summer we are enjoying an abundance of large pink blooms. Their heady perfume pervades the air and Christine often stops to take it in at close quarters. Words are inadequate to describe such an aroma. It is soft but intense, sweet but not sickly, powdery but pure. It



brings a smile to the face and a pause for a moment of reflection and gratitude.

Only God knows what the future holds, no one else, not even the Prime Minister or his scientific advisors. As life for many starts to speed up again, before we become embroiled in busy routines, let's make a habit of pausing to consider what has brought pleasure during this sometimes sad and barren period. It's easy to overlook the good things or take them for granted. Why not, today and every day, find five things for which to give thanks to God. It's a good habit to get into. Relax, enjoy, appreciate. Here are some of our 'good things':

*birdsong - roses - family Zoom calls - church online - books to read*

**Always give thanks to God the Father for everything. Give thanks to him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Ephesians 5:20

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### Thank you

Welcome to all new readers this month. We thank God for you and everyone else who has been supporting Count Everyone In and/or us personally, through prayer, finance and interest. It means a lot to have your support and we count it a privilege to have you with us on this journey of life. Don't forget that we are here for you too, so please ask if there is anything for which you would like us to pray.



Did you see our 5-minute devotions at midday Monday 27 to Friday 31 July? Perhaps you helped to make up the **1,600 viewings** on the first day! The videos are still available on the Keswick YouTube channel if you missed them, and hopefully on ours soon as well.

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### Know and Grow Makaton

Yes, we know we've said it before but Janneke is getting ever closer to completing the writing of what will be the only official Christian Makaton course! Recent months have seen an abundance of resources and courses appearing via social media but please be aware that some include incorrect signs and they have not been validated by the

Makaton Charity. We are not planning to deliver Know and Grow Makaton online because it is easier to ensure that accurate learning is taking place when we meet face to face. If you are interested in booking a course at your church, or a place on a course elsewhere, please contact Janneke at [makatontutor@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:makatontutor@counteveryonein.org.uk)

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## CEI Resources

One advantage of lockdown has been having time to produce new resources and we're on a bit of a roll! Order printed material from [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk). Here is the current list:

- [www.youtube.com/c/counteveryonein](https://www.youtube.com/c/counteveryonein) contains the following videos:
  - Daily devotions for Holy Week and Easter
  - Daily devotions for Ascension and Pentecost
  - Life in Lockdown – a short talk based on Paul and Silas in prison (Acts 16)
  - Worship songs written and sung by Tony Phelps-Jones
  - The Lord's Prayer signed in Makaton by Janneke
  - Other awareness raising videos
- Bible reading notes in booklet format:
  - Printed version of Holy Week and Easter £2.50
  - Printed version of Ascension and Pentecost £2.50
  - Who is Jesus? – 14 days of readings and comments £2.50
  - Prayer – 30 days of readings and comments – being developed
  - The Holy Spirit – 7 days of readings and comments by Chrissy Cole – being developed
- Teaching material – range to be expanded
  - 7 session series based on The Life of Joseph £7.00
- New International Readers Version (NIRV) – Accessible Edition New Testament
  - has large, clear print and line drawings, At present, only the New Testament (Hardback at £9.99 or softback at £7.99) and Mark's Gospel (£2) are available but Psalms is to follow later in the year. If buying a New Testament, please enter PW in the Discount Code box. It won't benefit you (sorry!) but Biblica will donate £1 to CEI. To make a purchase, go to <https://www.biblicaeurope.com/bible-resources/category/new-testaments>

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## The Future?

**In their hearts human beings plan their lives.**

**But the Lord decides where their steps will take them.** Proverbs 16:9 (NirV)

Although only God knows what lies ahead, we can't sit back and expect everything to fall into our laps. Instead, we are planning as if events will take place whilst being well aware that they may not. For that reason we are taking provisional bookings for training days from October onwards.

We have so far been asked to reserve 2021 dates for **Word Alive** (6–11 April), **Spring Harvest Minehead 2** (10–15 April), **Spring Harvest Holidays – LPO** (7–14 June), **Keswick Convention week 2** (24–30 July) and **Connect Festival** (NF Commission) 26–29 August

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## Prospects ..... CEI Friends

Most churches welcome people with learning disabilities but not all are intentionally accessible through attitude, language and style. In 2016 there were 220 church-based ministry groups that were partners with Prospects to whom they would look for advice, training, resources and prayer. Now in 2020, Count Everyone In is the only Christian organisation that offers spiritual support to people with learning disabilities through local churches and their ministry groups. Our aim is that people not only know Jesus as Saviour, Lord and Friend but also grow in their faith and love for Him.

Is your church and group ready to become Friends with CEI? The initiative for this scheme came from former Prospects group leaders who wanted relationship and support. If you're interested, do drop us a line at [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk) and we'll forward the information leaflet to you. If you live over the border, our friends at Prospects Across Scotland will be pleased to hear from you at [ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk)

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## Staying in touch

Running out of cards, notecards or wrapping paper? You can stock up and benefit CEI at the same time at:

<https://www.flamingopaperie.co.uk/web/tuaphelps-jones>

- postage is free on orders of £30 or more
- by ordering 8 cards you get two more for the same price, that is **10 for £16** instead of just **8 for £16**.

Any 'Guest Publisher' ranges are not included in these reductions. Thanks Tua!

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## Prayer requests for August

**Giving thanks no matter what happens.** 1 Thess. 5:18 (NirV)

1. For Janneke as she nears completion of the Know & Grow Makaton course. Do contact her (as below) if you are interested in training.
2. For opening up of churches for public worship to be managed sensitively so that no one feels excluded.
3. For ministry groups trying to keep in contact with and to encourage members.
4. For us to seek God for His vision and direction for the future.
5. For at least 3 more CEI core team members.
6. For CEI trustees (Tod, Val, Richard, Tim, Jonathan and Keith) who carry the legal responsibility for the charity, for wisdom, discernment and integrity

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## Know and Grow Training

Training dates currently in the diary for 2020:

- Sat 31 Oct K&G 2 at St James's Church, Muswell Hill, North London – to be confirmed
- Sat 14 Nov K&G 1 at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Dorking – to be confirmed

We hope to offer the full range of training again before too long so don't forget that we are here for you. We offer:

- **Know and Grow 1** – foundational training for churches and individuals involved in, or planning for, ministry to adults with learning disabilities
- **Know and Grow 2** – supplementary training that addresses key issues such as relationships, mental health, healing, death and bereavement
- **Know and Grow Makaton** – an introduction to key word signing for Christian worship, teaching and communication. Contact Janneke at [makatontutor@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:makatontutor@counteveryonein.org.uk)

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Count Everyone In does not make appeals for funds but we are thankful to everyone who chooses to support either CEI (the charity) or us personally. Every little bit helps!



**If you are thinking of supporting us financially, there are options:**

**To donate to Count Everyone In**, please go to [www.give.net/20280624](http://www.give.net/20280624) or pay directly into Metro Bank account (Gift Aid form available on request) - Sort code: 23 05

80 - Account no: 33248601

**To support Pete and Christine personally**, please go to [www.give.net/20043120](http://www.give.net/20043120) or pay directly into our TSB account (Gift Aid not possible by this method):

Mr P & Mrs C Winmill - Sort code: 77 70 64 - Account no: 01822668

**GDPR** We hold your contact details for the purpose of sending you this newsletter at your own request. We also hold details of people who serve on CEI teams or attend training days. If you have any questions about this, or you wish to be removed from mailing lists etc, please let us know.

**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 so that more people find out what is happening.

Every blessing

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Pete & Christine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Pete & Christine Winmill