

September 2020

Social distancing?

Come near to God, and He will come near to you.
Wash your hands, you sinners.
Make your hearts pure, you who can't make up your minds.
James 4:8 (NIRV)



Dear friends,

Social Distancing is defined by Wikipedia as ‘a set of non-pharmaceutical interventions or measures intended to prevent the spread of a contagious disease by maintaining a physical distance between people and reducing the number of times people come into close contact with each other’.

Our God is a loving Heavenly Father who doesn't push us away but invites us to draw close to Him, whoever we are and however we are feeling. Weary, confused, physically unwell, troubled emotionally, struggling mentally or, perhaps, full of the joys of spring, God opens His arms wide and welcomes us into His presence. He has made a way through Jesus for all people to approach Him. Our lives, just like our hands – remember 20 seconds of washing while singing ‘Happy birthday’ through twice! – can be washed clean from sin through faith in God's Son Jesus who loves us and has died to give us life. No social distancing with God!



Welcome, thanks and prayer

Welcome to new readers joining us this month. As ever, we give thanks to God for everyone who supports 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. Please let us know if there is anything for which you would like us to pray.

You're the first to know!

We're thrilled to give you early notice of a national **CEI celebration** via Zoom on **Thursday 19 November at 7:30pm**. It's for all CEI supporters, churches and, of course, people with learning disabilities. In true CEI fashion it will be brief (we're aiming at no longer than an hour) and will be broken up into chunks with various presenters bringing music, prayer, vision, testimony and a short talk from CEI trustee and former General Secretary of the Baptist Union, Rev Jonathan Edwards. Do put it on your calendar, in your diary, on your fridge etc and be sure to tell others to reserve the date too. It will be great to see you!

Prayer and Encouragement groups – an opportunity

This is the time of year when churches traditionally start their autumn programmes and this includes CEI groups as well as former Prospects and Livability groups. This year, needless to say, it's different. Face to face meetings are a thing of the past and, we hope, also of the future – but not yet. One thing we are planning is to expand the **Prayer and Encouragement Groups** which, for many years, have brought group leaders getting together two or three times a year in regional clusters. Since Covid-19, these groups have taken to meeting via Zoom and more frequently than before. Such is their success in providing fellowship, support, ideas and prayer that we are looking to establish more such groups. Because these are virtual meetings there is no need to be restricted by geographical location. Do you lead a ministry group, or are you part of a team? If you're interested in joining a Prayer & Encouragement group please let us know at info@counteveryonein.org.uk Why not share this invite with people you know from other areas. All welcome. Let's reach out, encourage and pray for each other.

Update – the Psalms are coming soon!



Count Everyone In is a partner with **Biblica**, the people who produce the NIV and NIRV Bibles. They have been amazed at the response to the New International Readers Edition – Accessible Version, even though so far only the New Testament has been published in this edition. People have appreciated the large, clear font, the grey tinted paper and simple illustrations, and so much so that the Book of Psalms will soon be rolling off the press. We'll keep you posted but

we understand that it should be available before the end of the year.



It started with an orange

If you've seen the September/October edition of IDEA, the magazine of our partner organisation the **Evangelical Alliance**, you may have spotted Pete's article on page 23. It's a testimony of how Pete's life has been shaped by his response to significant questions and challenges posed by discerning Christians. Do get hold of a copy and consider the final challenge: 'Am I missing opportunities to help people find faith in God and live for Him? How about you?'

Turning the Tide

Churches for All is another of our partner organisations, this one with a broader focus than our own. It aims to represent people with all disabilities and what they can bring to their churches, even if some changes are necessary along the way. We are to be involved in a Zoom 'Turning the Tide' conference, in place of a planned residential event, on 16 September.

CEI Resources

We're continuing to do a lot of writing and here's the latest list of resources:

- 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

- The Holy Spirit – 7 days of readings and comments by Chrissy Cole
- Prayer – 30 days of readings and comments – 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
 - has large, clear print and line drawings. New Testament (Hardback at £9.99 or softback at £7.99) and Mark’s Gospel (£2) are available. Psalms is to follow soon. 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. Make your purchase at <https://www.biblicaeurope.com/bible-resources/category/new-testaments>

Flamingo Cards – a message from Tua

“I thought I would let you know that the Flamingo new catalogue can be seen on the link below and it includes the Christmas cards and goods. It can all be ordered from my website from 2nd September. I think early orders are recommended to avoid disappointment later. Besides all orders (via my website) supporting Count Everyone In, Flamingo is supporting three Charities from the sale of Christmas cards; Together for Short Lives, Alzheimer’s Society and Macmillan Cancer Support so truly Charity cards!!”

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/905540/>

Dates for the Diary (subject to confirmation)

2020

- Tue 8 Sept – European Disability Network – Zoom
- Thurs 10 Sept – Herts, Beds & Cambs Prayer & Encouragement – Zoom
- Weds 16 Sept – Churches for All ‘Turning the Tide’ – Zoom
- Mon 21 – Mon 28 Sept – Holiday – UK
- Sun 11 Oct – Crossways Baptist Church, Dorking – Zoom preach
- Thur 19 Nov – National CEI Celebration – Zoom
- Sun 22 Nov – Littlehampton Baptist Church – tba

2021

- Tue 6 – Sun 11 April – Word Alive – Prestatyn
- Sat 10 – Thur 15 April – Spring Harvest – Minehead 2
- Mon 7 – Mon 14 June – Spring Harvest Holidays – (LPO) France
- Sat 24 – Fri 30 July – Keswick Convention – Keswick
- Thur 26 – Sun 29 Aug – Connect Festival (NF Commission) – Shepton Mallet

Please note that we try to take Mondays off

We hope to offer the full range of training again before long so don't forget that we are here for you. Please register interest via info@counteveryonein.org.uk 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

Prayer requests for September – Giving thanks no matter what happens. 1 Thess. 5:18 (NIRV)

1. For Janneke and the Know & Grow Makaton course. Do contact her (as below) if you are interested in being trained. She also offers online general Makaton training levels 1 –3.
2. For ministry groups trying to keep in contact with and to encourage members
3. For vision and direction for CEI
4. Exciting new developments in the partnership with Biblica
5. For at least 3 more CEI core team members
6. For CEI trustees (Tod, Val, Richard, Tim, Jonathan and Keith) who carry legal responsibility for the charity, for wisdom, discernment and integrity

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 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 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 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

Pete & Christine Winmill