

January 2021

## Holding on

**'Let us hold firmly to the hope we claim to have. The God who promised is faithful.**

Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love.

Let us help one another to do good works. And let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ's return approaching."

Hebrews 10:23–25 (NirV)



Dear friends,

**Happy New Year!**

That greeting holds more significance this year than in any other we can remember. Little has changed in the last nine months since the first UK lockdown but at least there are glimpses of hope as more vaccines are being approved for mass vaccination programmes across the developed world. It is impossible to know when, or even if, life will return to anything like we knew pre-Covid 19. We have no idea whether we shall be able to resume face-to-face training and festival programmes, although we plan in hope. In the meantime, let's follow the advice in this verse from the Epistle to the Hebrews; clinging to the sure and certain hope we have in God our Saviour and Provider. Restrictions, guidelines, tiers and lockdown are intended to protect us, our families, friends, the NHS and the economy but they also create isolation, fear and despondency. This January, why not join us in focusing on these verses in Hebrews and doing all we can to encourage other people, even if the only way we can meet is online.

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## Welcome, thanks and prayer

Welcome to any new subscribers this month! We feel grateful for and very encouraged by your interest, prayers and any financial support. This is a 2-way relationship and we would love to pray for you too.

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## News update

December is normally a quiet month for Count Everyone In but this time it was surprisingly busy and we kept the Royal Mail busy too. 'Christmas is Coming', our new daily Bible notes for Advent, rolled off the shelves as fast as we could print them and 65 copies were sold! We've received positive feedback and also for our 4-part Advent series on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/c/counteveryonein>

Look out for more daily Bible notes in the next few months.

It's been great to hear of innovative ways in which the message of Christmas has been told. Some groups have ventured into the realm of Zoom first time, following the training given by Myles Pilling. From fairly conventional 'meeting/service' style to nativity plays performed in various care homes and shared via YouTube and Zoom, no two groups have done the same. For Meet Monday in Newbury we did a narrated Spoo-n-ativity on Zoom. A simply 'dressed-up' wooden spoon with 'goggly eyes' – Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, Gabriel, chief shepherd and wise men – was delivered to each of our Friends. Team members dressed their wooden spoons as shepherds or angels, also preparing understudy spoon-actors in case any Friends were unavailable. Not only was it great fun to hold up our character at the appropriate part of the story but it involved everyone and provided a good basis from which to explain that God loves ordinary people like each of us. Here's a screenshot of our team taken by Rick Coward, chair of trustees.



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## Travel on the Tube

Our title,  **Holding On**, is reminiscent of journeys on the crowded London Underground when social distancing was unheard of. The only way to squeeze into a carriage and travel safely was to cling on to one of the straps hanging from above. If the train lurched, then everyone moved with it and, generally, everyone remained upright! Seriously though, Pete, Christine and Janneke have been thinking about how best CEI can help people to hold on during these difficult times.

- **Support to adults with learning disabilities**
  - via the internet on YouTube and Zoom celebrations
  - through developing new daily Bible reading notes
  - by encouraging and equipping churches and group leaders
- **Support to churches and group leaders**
  - training in the use of Zoom provided by Myles Pilling with more to come 2021
  - **Prayer & Encouragement groups** via Zoom; we already have regional ones in Wiltshire Area, Surrey and Home Counties North, plus a new non-geographic one that draws people from as far apart as Northern Ireland, South Wales, Guernsey and the south coast of England. These groups provide a safe place to share achievements, ideas, concerns, even feelings of hopelessness and helplessness with a small group that includes one of the CEI team. Some meet every six weeks or so, others less frequently. *Is this the kind of group you would like to be part of? Do let us know.*
  - **Friends with CEI** – enables churches and groups to partner with CEI in a more formal yet friendly way. Whilst we always offer what support we can for ministry with adults with learning disabilities, the Friends scheme is a more regular and intentional way of doing this. We ask for an annual or monthly donation but other than that our aim is to build close links with groups and churches, circulate regular confidential prayer updates for Friends groups only and provide easy access to all that CEI offers including the right to use the logo. An information/application leaflet is available on request from [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk)

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## Printed resources

Here's the full list of CEI resources only available from us. Please add a donation for p&p:



- Undated Bible reading notes, including Bible text, thought and prayer each day
  - Who is Jesus? – 14 days £2.50
  - Easter – 9 days £2.50
  - Jesus returns to heaven and what happened next – 14 days £2.50
  - The Holy Spirit – 7 days by Chrissy Cole £2.50
  - Prayer – 30 days by Keith & Gill Barnard £4.50
  - *Christmas is coming – 25 readings for Advent* £4.50
- Teaching material – range to be expanded
  - 7 session series based on The Life of Joseph £7.00

Available from Biblica, we recommend the **New International Readers Version (NIRV) – Accessible Edition**. With its large, clear print and line drawings. the New Testament (Hardback at £9.99 or softback at £7.99) and Mark's Gospel (£2) are available. If you're buying a New Testament online from Biblica, please enter **PW** in the Discount Code box. It won't benefit you (sorry!) but Biblica will donate £1 to CEI. Go to <https://www.biblicaeurope.com/bible-resources/category/new-testaments> At present only the New Testament is available but .... **Psalms is coming soon!**

### Greetings cards

January is a good month to stock up on greetings cards, especially when so many shops are closed. Take a look at <https://www.flamingopaperie.co.uk/web/tuaphelps-jones>. Thank you to Tua for passing on your profits to CEI.

### Helping you to help us

We have recently signed up to **Give as You Live** and **Amazon Smile** so that you can contribute to CEI without paying anything more than the price of the goods you're buying. If you decide to sign up please indicate that it's for Count Everyone In.

### Makaton Update

The imposition of Tier 4 to so much of the country has scuppered plans for the second pilot of this exciting new course but, Covid permitting, we'll be back on track very

soon. Please contact Janneke, our very own Makaton tutor and the creator of the new course (in conjunction with the Makaton Charity) to discuss your Makaton training needs, Christian and generic Makaton. [janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk)

The first pilot has already made a difference at our church in Newbury. Makaton is being used for St Nic's Kids and Christine signed Mary's Boy Child for a compilation that was shown on the Christmas Day livestream.

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**Contact us at [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk) to talk about training for your church and locality:**

- **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 [janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk)

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## Dates for the Diary

### 2020

- Wed 23 Dec–Mon 4 Jan – *Office Closed*

### 2021 Generic online Makaton training with Janneke

- Thursdays 7 & 14 January      Level 1 – 1:00–4:30pm Zoom £69 per person
- Mondays 1, 8 & 15 February      Level 2 – 7:00–9:30pm Zoom £69 per person

*Level 1 to be completed before level 2 – book direct with Janneke*

### 2021 (subject to confirmation)

- Mon 4 Jan – Meet Monday – Zoom
- ~~Tue 6 – Sun 11 April – Word Alive – Prestatyn – Cancelled~~
- Sat 10 – Thur 15 April – Spring Harvest – Minehead 2
- Sat 24 April – Know & Grow 2 St James' Church – Muswell Hill

- Sat 22 May – Know & Grow 1, Lighthouse Christian Minist. London E15 TBC
- 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

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**Prayer requests for January** – Never stop praying. 1 Thess. 5:17 (NlrV)

1. For adults with learning disabilities and care providers who are struggling with prolonged restrictions
2. Provision for adults with learning disabilities to be included in the planning of church programmes during these difficult days
3. For speedy validation of Know & Grow Makaton
4. Exciting new developments in our partnership with Biblica, including filming to accompany the launch of Psalms
5. For wisdom in deciding which resources to develop and inspiration to do so
6. For CEI trustees (Richard Coward – chair, Keith Barnard, Dorothy Blackhall, Jonathan Edwards, Val Pritchard and Tim Roberts – treasurer)
7. For at least 3 more CEI core team members

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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  
<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>  
<https://org.amazon.co.uk/>

**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

*Pete & Christine*