

September 2021

Doors

**Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in. I will eat with that person, and they will eat with me.**

Revelation 3:20 (NIRV)



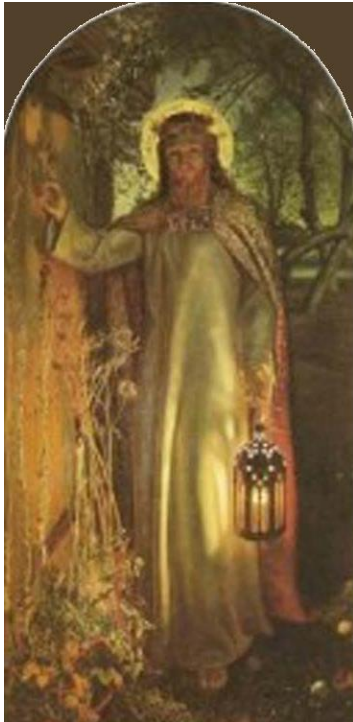
Dear Friends,

Old doors, new doors, closed doors, open doors, revolving doors, swing doors, sliding doors, bi-fold doors – we could go on.

At last, after almost 18 months of closed doors, some are slowly beginning to open. Some continue to be closed and are likely to be so for some while yet but others are beginning to edge open, with creaks and squeaks as they do so.

The picture across the UK varies quite considerably. Sadly, opportunities for people with learning disabilities are not opening up as much as for many people in our communities. We hear of day services that will remain shut and families are at their wits' end as they seek out alternative facilities for their relatives. Finance is a big issue for local authorities and charities, as is fear.





Some residential services, understandably taking their responsibilities very seriously, are slow to allow people in or out, which adds to levels of boredom, anxiety and, in some cases, challenging behaviour. This reluctance to allow social mixing affects church-based ministry groups and if/when/how they may re-open. These decisions rest as much with church leaders and team members as they do with families and care providers. In every case we urge that risk assessments are conducted and caution is exercised. In preparation for holding Meet Monday on-site in Newbury for our October meeting, the first time since March 2020, we are talking with families and care providers to reassure them that every step possible is being taken to ensure safety for everyone.

Please pray that no person with a learning disability will feel abandoned and unloved. After all, Jesus is still standing at the door, ready to respond to anyone who knocks. How we long to eat and drink with one another, let alone with Jesus Himself!

Welcome, thanks and prayer

We welcome new readers again this month. Thank you for your prayers, interest and support which make all the difference and without which we would find it hard to continue.



p Counts is the idea of one keen supporter who will be 10 miles to raise funds for CEI.

you are, on **Thursday 30th September** (or at a date to suit) can take part doing whatever distance you choose.

you use a wheelchair, walk, run, roller-skate, or swim – every 'step' counts as you ask people to sponsor you

at <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/CEIeverystepcounts> Once you have completed your 'steps' you might like to send us some pictures.

Here are the benefits:

1. To get fit

2. To raise **funds** for CEI
3. You can tell your **friends** about CEI, your church/group and Jesus
4. Encourage others to begin a group

Disappointing news

Regular readers of our newsletters might think that we are always upbeat, cheerful and trusting God to open doors for us. On the whole this is true but there are also doubts and disappointments. This has been particularly true in the last few weeks when, by agreement with [Spring Harvest Holidays](#), we decided that the CEI week at [Le Pas Opton](#) in Western France would not after all take place this year. Pete and Christine have been leading this holiday every year (bar one) from 2006 to 2019 but this is not the end. God willing, we shall be back next year with an exciting holiday marked by fun, friendship and faith for adults with learning disabilities, their families and care-givers. We'll publish the dates for 2022 as soon as we can.



CEI Friends – for church groups and individuals

Until recently the **Friends with CEI** scheme has only been available for **churches and group**, a network that offers mutual support for learning disability ministry across the country.

Now though, prompted by a couple of enquiries, we have opened a new category for individual Friends. If you are an **individual, a couple or a family group** and would like to be involved with CEI, as an ambassador for the charity, a person who commits to pray for or give financially to CEI, or maybe to volunteer at festivals or exhibitions, then we would like to invite you to become a **Friend with CEI**. Please drop us a line at info@counteveryonein.org.uk or by post to 34 Enborne Road, Newbury RG14 6AH and we'll send you a form to complete. We look forward to hearing from you.



August highlights

- **Holidays: Pete & Christine**

1. 5 days in a campervan in South Devon alongside our family who were camping
2. A short break on the Hampshire coast

- **Holidays: Janneke**

A long-awaited visit to her family in the Netherlands

- **Team meeting** – for a change Pete, Christine and Janneke met at Hinton Ampner, a National Trust house in West Sussex with lovely grounds and good coffee. It's always good to meet up but somehow we feel more refreshed, energised and creative when we meet in different surroundings.
 - **Preaching opportunities** Not having preached to a live congregation for 18 months, Pete faced the exciting but daunting prospect of doing so not once but twice. The first was at our 'old' church in St Albans where we received a warm welcome. Pete took the passage in Acts 12 where Peter was freed from jail by an angel. If you're not familiar with it, it's definitely worth a read and you may start wondering whether you really expect God to answer your prayers! The following Sunday, at our own church, Pete had been given Acts 19 to speak from. It is a difficult passage in many ways so he was encouraged to hear that quite a number of people had been challenged by the message he felt God had given him.
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Training news

We have had a trickle of new enquiries and are also making fresh arrangements with churches that we had had to put on hold because of Covid. If your request for training is a new one, we are likely to be looking at the New Year but please don't delay in contacting us as it takes a while to organise and publicise training events. **Know and Grow 1** may be just right for your situation – definitely for new groups but also to re-energise and equip teams as they reopen. **Know & Grow 2** will get you thinking and is ideal if you have already done K&G 1 and wish to dig a bit deeper into the issues facing adults with learning disabilities and how the church may support them. Don't hold back simply because you don't think you have enough people to make it worthwhile; we will publicise it through our networks too. Let's talk! info@counteveryonein.org.uk

Don't forget, Janneke is now taking bookings for **Know & Grow Makaton**. Please get in touch with her if you are interested in hosting or attending this training which will be the only validated Christian Makaton course available. Janneke also continues to offer generic (i.e. not Christian) Makaton courses via Zoom. These sessions should be undertaken in numerical order. Please contact her for details of dates and cost at janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk

Printed resources

Don't forget, you can purchase our daily Bible notes by emailing info@counteveryonein.org.uk. Prices listed exclude p&p, for which we request you add a donation:

- Undated Bible reading notes, including Bible text, thought and prayer each day
 - Who is Jesus? – 14 days – £2.50
 - Easter – Palm Sunday to Easter Monday – 9 days – £2.50
 - Jesus returns to heaven and what happened next – 14 days – £2.50
 - The Holy Spirit – by Chrissy Cole – 7 days – £2.50
 - Prayer – by Keith & Gill Barnard – 30 days – £4.50
 - Christmas is coming – 25 readings for Advent – £4.50

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.

Psalms – NirV accessible edition – watch this space for news of the official launch and how to obtain your copy. See Makaton signed dramatic readings of a selection of the psalms on Facebook.

Ways to help CEI

- **Greetings cards** from the lovely range that Tua Phelps-Jones sells continue to raise funds for CEI. If you haven't looked recently do check them out at <https://www.flamingopaperie.co.uk/web/tuaphelps-jones>
 - Tua also collects **postcards** for another CEI supporter to sell at auction so, if you have any new/old, written/unwritten, stamped/unstamped cards, Tua is happy to receive them and bundle them up until she has a decent lot to pass on. Please email info@counteveryonein.org.uk for her address, or send them directly to us.
 - If you would like to support CEI when you're doing online shopping see links at the bottom of this letter for **Give as You Live** and **Amazon Smile**. Be sure to indicate that you're supporting Count Everyone In.
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Diary dates (as at time of publication) for information and prayer

- Mon 6 September – Meet Monday – hopefully our last one on Zoom
- Tues 7 September – Janneke joining P&C for their 1st day back – Newbury
- Fri 10 September – Additional Needs Alliance core team prayer – Zoom
- Tues 14 September – European Disability Network core team meeting – Zoom
- Mon 20 September – Meet Monday planning meeting – Zoom
- Thurs 23 September – Strategy Meeting with Rick & Jonathan (trustees) – Newbury
- Tues 28 September Churches for All meeting (daytime) – Zoom
 - CEI trustees meeting (evening) – Zoom
- Weds 13 October – Oxford Diocese Disability Conference – Zoom
- Fri 22–Sun 24 October – St Nic's Church family weekend away
- Sat 30 October – Support group and trustees' meeting – Newbury
- Sat 27 November – CEI Christmas Celebration – live & livestreamed – Newbury

Please note that the best time to contact us is Tuesday to Friday 9:30 – 5:30.

Prayer and praise – “Don’t worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him.” Philippians 4:6 (NirV)

1. Give thanks that we can now take bookings for Know & Grow training in churches
2. Pray that Know & Grow Makaton will soon be validated by The Makaton Charity
3. Pray for people with learning disabilities and their care-givers and families
4. Pray for Every Step Counts, for our pioneer walker and for it to attract other participants and sponsors
5. Pray for the launch of Psalms (NirV Accessible Edition) and our partnership with Biblica and Living Breath Videos – that Psalms will be helpful to all who read/see/hear
6. Thank God for CEI trustees (Richard Coward – chair, Keith Barnard, Dorothy Blackhall, Jonathan Edwards, Val Pritchard and Tim Roberts – treasurer) and pray for them too

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

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1181852-0>

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, Twitter & Instagram. 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, flowing style.

Pete & Christine Winmill