

December 2022

Treasure

But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart.
She thought about them, over and over again.

Luke 2:19 (NirV)



Dear Friends,

Celebrating Christmas with CEI

And then it was over! Rather like Christmas itself, the weeks of thinking, talking, planning, praying, a few hours of setting up in church and then, just an hour later, that was it, all finished – apart from hot mince pies, spiced apple juice and an opportunity to browse the CEI merchandise.

There's something special about singing the first carols of the season and it was great to be led with enthusiasm and sensitivity by the gifted worship band from St Nic's. This was Rosey's first 'public appearance' for CEI, alongside Janneke, Pete and Christine. Stephen Marlor in North Wales read from Luke 2, followed by Steph and Caz from Meet Monday with us in the church. We were thrilled to welcome visitors from Chessington, Worthing, Calne and Reading, as well as people joining online from as far away as Leyland and Southport in the North-West, Whitley Bay in the North-East, Seaton in Devon and Farnham Baptist Church in Surrey. We are grateful to all at St Nic's, Newbury, for their practical and prayerful support of the celebration. Here are some photos to give you a flavour of the event.



We thought about Jesus as the greatest treasure we can ever have. Let's not spend all our time and energy on shopping, writing cards and letters, wrapping presents and preparing food (not that these aren't important) but be sure this Christmas to think about what actually happened when the 'extraordinary came to the ordinary' and eternal life was offered to all mankind. Christmas celebrations come to an end and guests depart but Jesus promises to stay with us always. He really is the greatest treasure.

If you missed the Christmas Celebration you can catch up on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/f8z8WqPrqgU> (or search on YouTube for St Nicolas Church Newbury), and add to more than 210 views that have already happened.

"We are in admiration of the vitality with which you presented the message of Jesus this Christmas. It was such a clear and carefully thought through event. Sitting looking at the screen we were drawn into the celebration in a way which was totally different to just watching one more TV programme. It was obvious that the treasure is Jesus." *Margaret and Dennis, Reading*

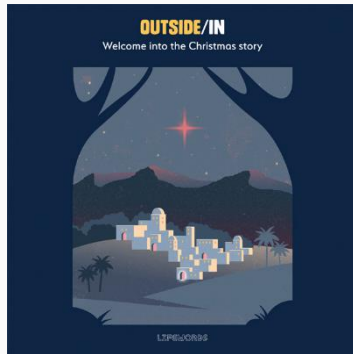
Other November highlights

Janneke returned from a leaders' preparation day for **Spring Harvest 2023** buzzing with excitement at the plans for next year's event, especially those that will be helpful for adults with learning disabilities. Good news for Spring Harvest but not for us is that all on-site accommodation is sold out. However, plenty of day tickets are available so our advice is to book your accommodation nearby as soon as you can and purchase day tickets. Don't miss out!

Pete and Christine received a warm welcome at St Peter's Church in Yateley, Hampshire and

Littlehampton Baptist Church, West Sussex. They spoke about CEI and, through drama and preaching, encouraged everyone to go out and share the good news of Jesus with people near and far. As Pete said, "Which part of Go don't you understand?"! Pete and Christine also spoke to a very receptive group at Kennet Valley Filling

Station <https://thefillingstation.org.uk/station/kennet-valley/>



A new Christmas resource from Lifewords

We are looking forward to using this with the Newbury group next week. It's a publication entitled 'Outside In' which is available in booklet format or, from the Lifewords website, as a short video with Makaton signing by Janneke.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpCeRov25RA>

2023 festival dates – where CEI will run accessible parallel programmes

- **Word Alive** 1 – 6 April at Prestatyn, North Wales. Book at <https://wordaliveevent.org/>
- **Spring Harvest** 10 – 14 April at Minehead, Somerset. Day tickets only now available
- **Spring Harvest Holidays, France** 5 – 12 June. Details and booking at <https://springharvestholidays.com/>
- **Keswick Convention (wk 1)** 15 – 21 July at The Pencil Factory, Keswick, Cumbria
- **Creation Fest** 4 – 7 August at the Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge (*to be confirmed*)
- **Connect** (New Frontiers) 24 – 28 August at Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet
- **Awaken** (formerly The ONE Event) 25 – 28 August at Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln

Resources available by post

Here's a selection from our list of resources:

- Accessible undated Bible reading notes:
 - Who is Jesus? £2.50

- Easter £2.50
- Jesus returns to heaven and what happened next £2.50
- The Holy Spirit £2.50
- Christmas is Coming £4.50
- Prayer £4.50
- Psalms £4.50
- ‘Prospects’ worship albums on CD (£5), DVD (£8), MP3 (£8) and MP4 (£10)
 - Jesus the start of it all
 - No god is greater
 - Say the Word (CD and MP3 only)
- Holy Communion service booklet £2
- Two teaching series available: The life of **Joseph** (7 sessions – £8) and **‘Ruth’** (4 sessions – £4).
- T-shirts, polos and full-zip hoodies all with the CEI logo and available in 3 colours and a range of sizes. Prices on request.

Not from us but from Bible Society, the **New International Readers Version (NirV) – Accessible Edition** is ideal for people who appreciate large, clear print, plenty of ‘white’ space (actually light grey) and simple line drawings. At present only the New Testament (hardback at £9.99 or softback at £7.99) and Mark’s Gospel (£2) are in print and we await the publication of Psalms in the same format.

Growing the CEI family

The family has grown to 31 churches/groups. Is yours a Friend with CEI? The scheme is available for individuals. Couples and families too. There is no fee but we appreciate annual or monthly donations. Simply ask for an application form at info@counteveryonein.org.uk.

Ways to help CEI

- Don’t forget that any of the ‘Prospects’ songs used by your church or group should be included in your Church Copyright Licence (CCLI) reporting. Last year royalties raised over £300 which was generously donated to Count Everyone In.
- It’s not too late to order Christmas cards and wrapping paper, as well as other greetings cards, from CEI friend Tua Phelps-Jones at
CEI: <https://www.flamingopaperie.co.uk/web/tuaphelps-jones>
- **Give as You Live** and **Amazon Smile** links for your online shopping are at the foot of this letter.

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Looking ahead (details correct at time of publication)

Thurs 8 Dec – Core team Christmas lunch
Tues 13 Dec 7:30pm – Reading Area Celebration, Wycliffe Baptist Church RG1 4LS
Thurs 22 Dec – Core team final meeting of 2022
Fri 23 Dec – Tues 3 Jan – Closed for Christmas
Thurs 5 Jan – Core team meeting, Newbury
Tues 10 Jan – 3:00pm European Disability Network meeting
Thurs 19 Jan – Core team meeting, Newbury
Sat 21 Jan – Know & Grow 1 workshop Derby City Church
Tues 24 – Thurs 26 – Church of England Evangelical Council residential – Pete & Christine
Sat 28 Jan – Know & Grow Makaton (pilot) NW England – venue tba
Sat 4 Feb – Know & Grow 1, Gas Street St Luke's, Birmingham
Sat 18 Feb – Know & Grow Makaton (pilot), Weymouth Family Church
Sat 18 Feb – Know & Grow 1, theBarn, Bidford-on-Avon B50 4JN
Sat 25 – Sun 26 – Beechwood Chapel, Birkenhead CH43 9LB including Know & Grow 1

Prayer and praise

1. After a few postponements in November please pray that we reach the 'right' people with Know & Grow workshops in the New Year.
2. Thank God for CEI trustees Rick, Keith, Janet, Jonathan, Maryanne and Val.
3. Pray for Christmas events that many, including people with learning disabilities, will find out that Jesus came to earth for them.
4. Pray that Know & Grow Makaton will be signed off by the Makaton Charity so that we can stop calling it a pilot.
5. Pray for the CEI core team and for others to join us.
6. Pray for good rest and family time over Christmas and New Year
7. Janneke continues to struggle with long Covid. Please pray that health and strength return soon.

Welcome to anyone joining us for the first time this month. We hope you find items of interest and are prompted to pray for CEI. See also <https://www.counteveryonein.org.uk/> and we'd love to hear from you at info@counteveryonein.org.uk

Thank you to our many friends and supporters. We feel blessed to know that you are praying and cheering us on. Thank you too to those who support the work financially, whether as a regular giver or with a one-off donation.

And finally, let's remember

At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. [Ephesians 6:18 \(NirV\)](#)



If you are thinking of supporting financially, thank you.

Donate to Count Everyone In at www.give.net/20280624 or directly into Metro Bank (business) account (Gift Aid form available on request) - Sort code: 23 05 80 - Account no: 33248601

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.

***Please note that the best times to contact Pete & Christine are Tuesday to Friday 9:30 – 5:30pm**

Every blessing this
Christmas,

Pete & Christine, Janneke and Rosey