

February 2023

Backwards or forwards?

The Lord says, "Forget the things that happened in the past. Do not keep on thinking about them. I am about to do something new. It is beginning to happen even now. Don't you see it coming? I am going to make a way for you to go through the desert. I will make streams of water in the dry and empty land."

Isaiah 43: 18-19 Nlrv



Dear Friends,

Last week, we (Pete and Christine) were at High Leigh Conference Centre in Hertfordshire. It was our first visit in more than six years and it felt good to be back enjoying the excellent facilities and meals, appreciating features we remembered and noticing changes too. We were reminded of joyous holiday weekends for adults with learning disabilities and we related one particular memory to our fellow delegates:

One guest, a lady with a learning disability, appeared to be rather miserable and she found fault with everything. Traditionally, Saturday evening for our guests at High Leigh was a break in the programme of celebrations and workshops. It was an opportunity to change into party clothes and take part in our very own cabaret, compered by Pete wearing a bow tie, red jacket and bowler hat. There was fun, laughter, applause and appreciation for acts ranging from jokes and juggling to duets and worship dances. Towards the end of the evening I (Christine) was approached by our grumpy guest – we'll call her Daphne. I braced myself for the next complaint but how wrong I was!

Daphne had tears rolling down her cheeks but unlike us, hers weren't tears of laughter but of conviction; she could scarcely get her words out amidst her sobs. During the cabaret the Holy Spirit had shown Daphne that God really did love her. She had begun to grasp the meaning of a song we had sung several times that fitted with our Bible teaching, 'God loves you just the way you are' (by Tony Phelps-Jones ©2002 Daybreak Music).

**God loves you just the way you are
And he knows everything about you
His Holy Spirit is your guide
And he will make you more like Jesus**

That evening I had the joy of praying with Daphne as she said sorry to Jesus for her sins and asked him to be her Saviour and Friend.

It's good to be reminded of incidents like that but it is easy to forget God is still at work now. He has plans and purposes to add more people with and without learning disabilities to his big family, the church. These plans he will fulfil in us and through us, but also through other people. That is what CEI is praying about as we look to expand our team and our reach, not just by any means but by God's means because He knows best. Please pray with us.

Don't be disappointed

We like to plan our holidays well in advance for two important reasons. One is to have something to look forward to during the cold wintry evenings. The second is that we don't want to be disappointed because our chosen holiday is fully booked and we're too late. With that in mind, do take a look at the dates below and if something appeals to you be sure to book your place and not be disappointed. We'd love to see you at any or all of these festivals and events but would especially draw your attention to the Spring Harvest Holidays week in France. This really is a holiday for everyone, with fun and fellowship but it is small and intimate enough for each person to enjoy the week in their own way – see the link for details and please ask if you would like to know more.



Training

Count Everyone In strongly believes that everyone can benefit from training. As a core team we are always on the lookout for courses and conferences that will equip us better. That is why we run **Know and Grow workshops** so that anyone, whatever their involvement with adults with learning disabilities, can gain from the topics we cover, such as:

- what it means to be human
- how churches can be accessible and welcoming for adults with learning disabilities
- how to set up a small group and plan a meeting etc.

That's just [Know & Grow 1](#)! In [Know and Grow 2](#) we cover some sensitive but pertinent topics in relation to learning disability, including:

- relationships
- mental health
- healing
- death, dying and bereavement
- boundaries

There's also [Know and Grow Makaton](#), still a pilot at present, but such a gift to the church as it equips us all to communicate and worship using simple key word signing.

Contact us at info@counteveyonein.org.uk to book a place at one of the workshops in our diary below, or enquire about hosting one in your own church.

2023 festival dates – where CEI will run accessible parallel programmes

- **Word Alive** 1 – 6 April at Prestatyn, North Wales. Booked up onsite but day passes available with 50% reduction for concessions and carers free. See <https://wordaliveevent.org/online-booking/offsite>
- **Spring Harvest** 10 – 14 April at Minehead, Somerset. Booked up onsite but day passes available. Follow the links from <https://www.springharvest.org/>
- **Spring Harvest Holidays, France** 5 – 12 June. Details and booking at <https://springharvestholidays.com/feature-weeks/count-everyone-in>
- **Keswick Convention (week 1 only)** 15 – 21 July at The Pencil Factory, Keswick, Cumbria. Book your own accommodation and just turn up. <https://keswickministries.org/about-keswick-convention/2023-convention/>
- **Creation Fest** 4 – 7 August at the Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge (*to be confirmed*)
- **Connect** (Commission – New Frontiers) 24 – 28 August at Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet. Details and how to book at <https://www.commission.global/festivalhome>
- **Awaken** (formerly The ONE Event) 25 – 28 August at Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln. Details and how to book at <https://awakenevent.uk/>

Resources available by post

Here's a selection from our list of resources which you can order by contacting the office and making payment by BACS transfer or cheque (details will be supplied). Postage and packing costs will be added to prices shown.

- [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 and it is also open to individuals, couples and families. 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.
- You might like to top up your supplies of greetings cards from CEI friend Tua Phelps-Jones at CEI: <https://www.flamingopaperie.co.uk/web/tuaphelps-jones>
- **Give as You Live** is one way to donate to CEI at no extra cost to you – see link for your online shopping at the foot of this letter.
- **Please note that Amazon Smile ceases this month and support for chosen charities from Amazon will no longer be available.** Thank you to all those who have given this way. It has been very much appreciated.

Looking ahead (details correct at time of publication)

Thurs 2 Feb – Core team meeting, Newbury

Sat 4 Feb – Know & Grow 1, Gas Street St Luke’s, Birmingham B15 2AT

Thurs 16 Feb – Core team meeting, Newbury

Sat 18 Feb – Know & Grow Makaton (pilot), Weymouth Family Church

Know & Grow 1, theBarn, Bidford-on-Avon B50 4JN

Sat 25 – Sun 26 – Beechwood Chapel, Birkenhead CH43 9LB including Know & Grow 1

Thurs 2 March – Core team meeting, Newbury

Sat 4 March – Trustees' meeting, Newbury
Fri 10 March – Additional Needs Alliance core team day, Birmingham (P & C)
Sat 11 March – Know & Grow Makaton (pilot), The King's Centre, Chessington KT9 2GZ
Thurs 16 March – Core team meeting, Newbury
Thurs 30 March – Core team meeting, Newbury
Fri 31 March – Travel day for Word Alive, Prestatyn
Sat 1 – Thurs 6 April – Word Alive, Prestatyn
Mon 10 – Fri 14 April – Spring Harvest, Minehead – Celebrations + Exhibition
Sat 22 April – Know & Grow Makaton (pilot), Guildford
Sun 23 April – 25th anniversary celebration for No Limits, Southwick, Trowbridge

Prayer and praise

1. Give thanks for the Know and Grow workshop in Derby and pray for God to bless the group that will be starting there in February, as well as other churches represented.
2. Pray for our trustees: Rick, Keith, Janet, Jonathan, Maryanne and Val, also for the appointment of a new treasurer.
3. Pray that the Know & Grow workshops in February and March will be effective in attracting, inspiring and equipping the 'right' people.
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, Rosey, Janneke, Pete and Christine, and for others to join us.
6. Pray that adults with learning disabilities will be supported in coming to faith in Jesus, becoming His disciples and helping others to follow Him too.
7. Pray that plans for the festivals will come together well – team members, teaching, seminars, accommodation etc.

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

"Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds. He will do this because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood." Philippians 4:6–7



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,

Pete & Christine, Janneke and Rosey