

May 2023

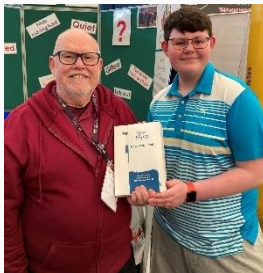
## Smiles, disappointments and laughter

How can they believe in Him unless they hear about Him? How can they hear about Him unless someone preaches to them? Romans 10:14 (NirV)



Dear Friends,

So much has happened in the last few weeks that it's hard to know where to start but here goes:



"I've met the man who wrote that Bible!" exclaimed a young teenager at Spring Harvest. Pete hastened to explain that he had identified features to make a Bible more accessible and the result was the NirV accessible edition, as we now know it. The young man took a selfie with Pete and told him how his brother who has Down's Syndrome was given a copy of the NirV accessible edition and reads it every day. He is thrilled to see how this Bible has helped and encouraged his brother. What great news!



### Smiles – when

- a university student with autism found the CEI meetings welcoming and helpful – her favourite place at Word Alive
  - at Word Alive service users and day centre staff heard the true meaning of Easter
  - 40 people attended Pete's 'Missing People' seminar and stayed to talk about their church and family situations
- 
- four people became Christians in the first celebration at Spring Harvest
  - 123 people attended Janneke's Makaton signing workshop at Spring Harvest
  - Janneke signed at the Worship for Everyone celebrations and many joined in
  - the CEI exhibition stand at Spring Harvest attracted queues of enquirers

- our teams at Spring Harvest and Word Alive worked hard to serve our guests, even when they were exhausted
- our mailing list and Friends groups/churches/individuals are growing incredibly



### Disappointments – when

- so few people with learning disabilities were in the meetings at Word Alive – but a total of 36 attended during the week
- the Skyline building, including the SH exhibition, were closed one evening due to high winds – but no damage was done and we opened early the following morning



### Humour – when

- teams and guests enjoyed fun and laughter together
- the SH team came up with challenging words for Janneke to sign; who would have guessed that a scene-setting conversation on the Beatitudes would have included 'jet-propelled horses'?! (Sorry, you had to have been there....)

Thank you for your prayers for CEI at Word Alive and Spring Harvest. As you can see, blessings don't come without challenges but God is faithful. We did our part in declaring the good news of Jesus in easy-to-understand ways and God was at work as some people came to know Jesus as their Friend and Saviour and others grew in their faith.

### Other events

Janneke delivered another Know and Grow Makaton workshop 'pilot' (please pray that it will soon cross the finishing line and be signed off) at Christ Church in Guildford, a church that is Friends with CEI. As a result of days like these, many people are signing, which makes the beautiful but complicated Christian language more accessible to more people. That's good!

At the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the No Limits group in Southwick, Trowbridge, all 100 seats in the village hall were taken. This group is also Friends with CEI and Jacky Newman, the leader, is an active member of the Wiltshire Area Prayer and Encouragement Group. The theme was 'God loves everyone' and the afternoon concluded with a monologue from 'Commander Marcus Octavius' (aka Pete, complete with helmet and spear) and a challenging talk by Christine based on the healing of the centurion's servant. We sang and signed 'God loves you just the way you are' by Tony Phelps-Jones, who was there with his wife Tua.

Has your group or church got any significant anniversaries coming up? We may be able to help.



## Legal stuff

You will see Rosey's name appearing more and more as the year goes by. She has been busy behind the scenes, applying for registration of our logo and 'brand names'. This has become increasingly important and we are thankful this has had Rosey's attention.

Being a registered charity involves many tasks that our trustees carry out, such as submitting accounts and an annual report to the Charities Commission. We are pleased to have recruited a new treasurer and we look forward to introducing him in a subsequent newsletter. Trustees also help us with matters such as Safeguarding, Strategy and Pastoral Care. Please pray for them as they carry these responsibilities.

## Training

**"People are still talking about our training day with you. It has certainly left an impression on people."**

Count Everyone In can tailor training for your particular needs, but our flagship training is the suite of **Know and Grow workshops**. They are for everyone, whatever their involvement with adults with learning disabilities, for those who 'only' make the tea but also church leaders.

**Know & Grow 1** comprises what churches need to know about learning disability and how to be more welcoming and accessible, including how to set up a small group and plan meetings.

In **Know and Grow 2** we move on to consider sensitive but important topics in relation to learning disability, including:

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

**Know and Grow Makaton** (pilot) continues to thrill, inspire and equip people. The day is fun and informative, equipping people to communicate and worship using simple key word signing.

Email [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.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 runs accessible parallel programmes. Do come and say hello!

- **Spring Harvest Holidays, France** 5 – 12 June. Details and booking at [Spring Harvest Holidays | Count Everyone In](#) – *it's not too late to book*
- **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/>

- **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 include:

- A range of accessible undated Bible reading notes
- 'Prospects' worship albums on CD, DVD, MP3 and MP4
- Holy Communion service booklet
- Two teaching series – more will follow
- T-shirts, polos and full-zip hoodies available in Sapphire Blue, Burgundy Red and Charcoal Grey, all with the CEI embroidered logo and a range of sizes

Enquire or order at [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk). Payment, to include a charge for postage and packing, can be made by BACS transfer or cheque (details will be supplied).

The **New International Readers Version (NirV Accessible Edition – New Testament only)** has large, clear print, plenty of 'white' space (actually light grey) and simple line drawings. Available from Bible Society at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/search/NirV%20accessible%20edition%20softback/>



### Friends with CEI

Never before have we sent out so many application forms in just a week or two!

Churches/groups, individuals, couples and families can sign up free of charge although a commitment to annual or monthly donations is appreciated. Ask for an application form at [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk).

**Welcome** to each one of our new subscribers this month – there are a lot of you! We hope you find items of interest and are prompted to pray for CEI. Perhaps we can help you and your church or group – do get in touch at [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk). See also <https://www.counteveryonein.org.uk/>

**Thank you** for supporting CEI. Your prayers, messages and financial gifts mean a lot to us. We have recently received a number of gifts from anonymous donors whom we can't thank personally. You know who you are and we are very grateful.

- Don't forget to include 'Prospects' songs in your Church Copyright Licence (CCLI) reporting

- You can support CEI by buying greetings cards from Tua Phelps-Jones at <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

### Looking ahead (RJ = Rosey, JK = Janneke, CW = Christine, PW = Pete)

Thurs 11 May – Core team meeting & Strategy discussion with trustees (core team)

Sat 13 May – Know & Grow Makaton (pilot), Diocese of Blackburn

Fri 19 May – Additional Needs Alliance team day, Birmingham (CW,PW)

Weds 24 May – Highway, King's Church, Chessington (RJ)

Thurs 25 May – Core team meeting, Newbury

Mons 5 – 12 June – Spring Harvest Holidays CEI week (CW,PW)

Sat 1 July – Know & Grow 1, St Barnabas Church, Cheltenham (PW,CW)

Sun 2 July – Cornerstone Church, St Albans morning service & CEI Group (pm)

Sats 15 – 22 July – Keswick Convention wk 1 (CEI programme and exhibition)

Thur 24 – Sun 27 Aug – Connect Festival, Shepton Mallet (CW,PW)

Fri 25 – Mon 28 Aug – Awaken Festival, Lincoln (RJ,JK)

Sat 30 Sept – Know & Grow 1, Upton Vale Baptist Church, Torquay (CW,PW)

Sun 1 Oct – All-age & all-ability service, Upton Vale, Torquay (CW,PW)

Sat 7 Oct – Know & Grow 1, Countess Free Church, Ely (CW,PW)

Sun 8 Oct – Doorway group, Stevenage 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (CW,PW)

Wed 8 – Thur 9 Nov – Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE), Birmingham

Sat 18 Nov – Know & Grow 1, St Thomas' Church Hall, Cambridge

Sun 3 Dec – CEI Christmas Celebration, St Nic's Newbury and livestream

### Prayer and praise

1. Thank God for recent training in Guildford and pray that the enthusiasm generated will lead to effective mission and ministry.
2. Thank God for the four people who became Christians at Spring Harvest.
3. Pray for our trustees, Rick, Keith, Janet, Jonathan, Maryanne and Val, soon to be joined by a new treasurer (tbc).
4. Pray that Know & Grow Makaton will be signed off by the Makaton Charity.
5. Pray for more workers to join Rosey, Janneke, Pete and Christine.
6. Pray for churches and groups as they share the good news of Jesus with adults with learning disabilities, supporting them in their faith journey.
7. Pray for preparations for the holiday week in France, also Keswick, Connect and Awaken.
8. Pray for the amazing volunteers who join our teams; we need more musicians.

### And finally ....

Here is what we can be sure of when we come to God in prayer. If we ask anything in keeping with what he wants, he hears us. [1 John 5:14 NIRV](#)



If you are thinking of supporting financially, thank you.

Donate to Count Everyone In at [www.give.net/20280624](http://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](http://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 the main office is Tuesday to Friday 9:30 – 5:30pm**

Every blessing,

*Pete & Christine, Janneke and Rosey*