

April 2024

Prayer and power



Dear Friends,

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)



It's Easter and Christians around the world are celebrating the resurrection of God's Son, Jesus, our Saviour. Let's remind ourselves that the same power that raised Jesus from death to life is available to you and to me, today! Do we really believe it? If so, is it making a difference to the way we pray?

We believe that God answers prayer but, I wonder, do I really believe that He will answer my prayers? We, in Count Everyone In, feel it is time to give prayer more prominence. This isn't just a newsletter; it is news **and prayer** letter. Our first step is to move the prayer points from the end of the letter to the beginning and we would love you to pray with us.

- Thank God for recent Know & Grow workshops in Cambridge, Shrewsbury, Dorking and Telford; pray that delegates will use what they have learnt in their churches and groups
- Thank God for Makaton tutors who have completed training with Janneke to deliver Know & Grow Makaton
- Pray for the appointment of an administrator (local to Newbury)
- Pray that we are able to recruit a team of trainers who God is calling to work with us
- Pray for CEI at Spring Harvest Skegness (1 – 5 April), our small team (Janneke, Pete, Christine, Madeline and Karen W) and an unknown number of guests
- Pray for CEI at Spring Harvest Minehead (8 – 12 April), our team (Janneke, Chrissy, Mike, Martyn, Marie, Karen K, Sarah and Helen) and guests, also for good contacts at the exhibition (Pete & Christine)
- Pray for Janneke, Pete and Christine for health, safe travel, energy and inspiration



Encouragement

Recent Know and Grow workshops have been so encouraging. We've met amazing people who are as passionate as we are for their church to be a welcoming place where adults with learning disabilities can get to know Jesus, grow in faith and use their gifts. Just last weekend we heard that lessons learnt on the Saturday were being put into practice on Sunday morning! It's been good to meet people who may wish to explore working more closely with us.

Know & Grow workshops

We have already delivered more workshops this year than we did in the whole of 2023! So much training has gone online since the COVID pandemic but, so far, we are sticking with onsite training because we find it to be more effective and personal. We can tailor our training for your situation and needs, but we recommend our flagship **Know & Grow** training, which comprises three standalone workshops:



Know & Grow Longing to Belong – an introduction to learning disability, helpful tips to make churches more accessible for people with learning disabilities (and therefore everyone!), how to run a ministry group – and more!

Know & Grow Life Matters – facilitating conversations about the big questions that affect adults with learning disabilities, just as they do everyone else: relationships, healing, mental health, loss and bereavement. We end the day with a fun-packed creative activity.

Know & Grow Makaton – a practical, fun day of learning signs and symbols for everyday communication as well as for Christian worship. This is the only workshop accredited by The Makaton Charity to teach signs and symbols for Christian vocabulary and has been developed through our partnership.

Email bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk for a place at one of the workshops listed in the **Looking Ahead** section below or to enquire about hosting one in your own church.

Holidays and festivals 2024

Here again are the links to the festivals where CEI will be running programmes for adults with learning disabilities:



1 – 5 April SH Skegness <https://www.butlins.com/breaks/special-events/spring-harvest>

8 – 12 April SH Minehead <https://www.butlins.com/breaks/special-events/spring-harvest>

3 – 10 June SHH France <https://booking.springharvestholidays.com/>

13 – 19 July Keswick <https://keswickministries.org/convention-2024/>

22 – 26 August Commission, Shepton Mallet <https://www.commission.global/events/cf24>

Please let us know if you book for any of these events, especially if you have anyone with a learning disability in your group as it helps us with planning.

Ice cream, cheese, wine – we’re going to LPO!

Pete, Christine, Rick and Sharon are looking forward to the CEI week at LPO in June. It’s going to be a bumper year with more guests booked in than ever before (at the latest count it’s 16 plus families and carers), yet few enough for it to be a special, intimate week where friendships are made or renewed, faith is built and there is lots of fun. It’s a great opportunity for families and

carers to relax together and be refreshed, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Spring Harvest Holidays is quite unlike the Easter events held at Skegness and Minehead – this is a holiday and the weather is (usually!) warm and sunny. Spring Harvest has a 4–star holiday park in the Vendee region of western France, just a few miles from the pretty coastal town of St Gilles–Croix–de–Vie.

It's not too late to book and there's a special discount for the CEI week if your group includes an adult with a learning disability. Many guests return year after year, which is great, but we are keen to attract new people too.

If the CEI week doesn't suit you, why not go to <https://springharvestholidays.com/> and find dates that suit you better. The holiday park is open from mid–May to mid–September. Hire a mobile home, a villa or a tent, or take your own tent or caravan, there's something everyone.

The website says: "Our vision is for our guests to enjoy superb holidays in an excellent environment. We want our guests to be refreshed and renewed: spiritually, mentally and physically. We welcome guests from different backgrounds, nations, ages and abilities."

Making Friends!

We long for the day when every adult with a learning disability, regardless of where they live in England or Wales, has less than 5 miles to travel to a church that is intentionally accessible and welcoming so that no one misses out on Jesus!

The latest addition to our Friends network is Emmanuel Church, Aylsham in Norfolk. We welcome them warmly.

If you, your group and/or church, or any other one want to know more, please email pete@counteveryonein.org.uk – just specify personal or group/church – and Pete will whizz a form over to you.

Yes, the forms do mention money – not a set subscription fee because money is never the criteria for friendship, but as a charity we rely on donations.

Resources

If you would like to purchase any of our resources just drop an email to info@counteveryonein.org.uk. We add the cost of postage and packing and ask for payment by BACS transfer or cheque.

Undated Bible notes, using New International Readers Version – number of readings in brackets)



What is the Gospel? (31) £4.50
Prayer (30) £4.50
Psalms (20) £4.50
Christmas is coming (25) £4.50
Easter (9) £2.50
Jesus returned to Heaven & what happened next (14) £2.50
Who is Jesus? (14) £2.50
The Holy Spirit (7) £2.50
Hope (5) £2.00

We have produced two teaching plans, one on Joseph (7 sessions – £8) and the other on Ruth (4 sessions – £4), both of which we have used at festivals and in our own groups. Details on request.

We hold some of the ‘Prospects’ albums of easy to sing worship songs, available on CD (£5) or MP3 (£8): Jesus the Start of it All, No god is greater and Say the Word.

There are CEI branded t-shirts (£10.50), polos (£16) and hoodies (£25) in sapphire blue, burgundy red and charcoal grey.

We stock New Testaments in the New International Readers Version (NIRV Accessible Edition), with large, clear print, plenty of ‘white’ space (actually, light grey) and line drawings. Hardback costs £9.99 and softback is £7.99.

- **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.
- **CCLI** Don’t forget to include ‘Prospects’ songs in your Church Copyright Licence (CCLI) reporting.

Looking ahead – please note that the core team meets on Thursdays

2024 – correct as at 27 March

Mon 1 – Fri 5 April – Spring Harvest, Skegness

Mon 8 – Fri 12 April – Spring Harvest, Minehead

Weds 17 April – CEEC Evangelism Day, London

Mon 22 April – Surrey groups Prayer & Share

Sat 27 April – Know & Grow Life Matters, Holy Trinity Church, Platt, Manchester

Sun 12 May – Crossroads Group’s 20th birthday celebration, Warwick

Sat 18 May – Know & Grow Makaton, The Trinity Centre, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury

Mon 3 – Mon 10 June – Spring Harvest Holidays (LPO), France

Tue 25 – Wed 26 June – Churches for All residential, High Leigh Conference Centre

Sun 30 June – 10am service at Christ Church, Waterden Rd, Guildford

Sat 6 July – CEI trustees’ meeting

Sun 7 July – Cornerstone Church, St Albans & CEI group

Sat 13 – Fri 19 July – Keswick Convention, Keswick

Thur 22 – Mon 26 Aug – Commission Festival, Shepton Mallet

Sat 7 Sept – Know & Grow Longing to Belong, St Austell, Cornwall

Sun 8 Sept – Morning Service, Helston
Tues 8 – Weds 9 Oct – Christian Resources Exhibition, Milton Keynes
Sat 26 October – Oswestry Deanery Mission Day
Sun 1 December – Christmas Celebration, St Nic’s Newbury and livestreamed

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 workshops. If you have any questions about this, or you wish to be removed from lists etc, please let us know.

***Please note that the best times to contact the main office is Tuesday to Friday 9:30 – 5:30pm**



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

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Social media – See www.couneveryonein.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,

Pete, Christine & Janneke