

July 2024

Everything?



Dear Friends,

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)



If we believe that God knows everything and is capable of all things or, to use the words that I was taught as a new Christian, God is omniscient and omnipotent (as well as being omnipresent), then why should we tell God what he already knows?

Think of it this way. Just suppose you have something on your mind. It could be a worry or concern, or it might be good news. Do you keep it to yourself? Probably not. You find a friend.

It helps to share your thoughts with a good listener. Do you pick up the phone or message them with just the briefest of messages? No, I don't think so. You find a good time to sit down with your friend, or you facetime them, so that you can talk together. Rather than being a one-way message with you doing all the talking, it's a conversation where you not only recount the smallest details but you listen and watch for your friend's reactions. You enjoy the company of a person who knows you well and whom you trust with your most personal thoughts, your joys and your sorrows.

Good Listening is Ministry

"The first service one owes to others in fellowship consists in listening to them.

Just as love of God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for our brothers, sisters and children is learning to listen to them."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Pete and I have been blessed over the years with some dear friends, including a couple with whom we spent many an hour putting to rights the troubles of the world as well as the church. If they knew we were going through difficult times or were feeling down in the dumps they would arrive on our doorstep. What did it take? Care, commitment, time, a listening ear and probably a mug of coffee too!

We hope you have good friends or relatives like that but, even if you don't, there is One who is closer than a brother and He is waiting for us. Nothing is too hard for Him but, remember, the joy of friendship is not simply in communicating messages but in spending time together. Let's make time to talk with God about everything, to ask, to listen and also to give thanks for the answers: to pray and to praise.

The opening words of our Bible verse tell us not to worry. That can be easier said than done. It's not simply saying 'Hakuna Matata' (no worries), as in Lion King. Pete is about to begin radiotherapy treatment for prostate cancer and it has affected our plans for July. What it hasn't done is to shake our faith in our all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful God but please pray for us at this time.

Welcome to POSSABILITY at Wakefield Baptist Church, the newest Friend with CEI. We look forward to getting to know you and to supporting your ministry. That brings our total of Friends churches/groups to 39!

Prayer

Thank you for your prayers for Count Everyone In and for your support in other ways such as financial giving, volunteering, or cheering us on. We feel blessed and encouraged to know that we are not alone.

Our monthly Zoom prayer times for Friends with Count Everyone In continue. These are open to individuals, group leaders/teams and their church leaders to come together online for just half an hour, either in the middle of the day and/or early evening. If you are already a Friend with CEI you should have received email invitations but, if you've slipped through the net, please let us know and we'll be sure to invite you next time. Perhaps you, your group and/or your church haven't yet signed up to be Friends. Why not email pete@counteveryonein.org.uk today? Will your church/group be no. 40?



Here are this month's points for prayer:

- Thank God for the amazing partnership with Worship for Everyone and brilliant Makaton resources – the feedback has been encouraging – to find out more see the link below
- Pray for the upcoming Keswick Convention, CEI celebrations and exhibition, team and guests
- Pray for the appointment of an administrator local to Newbury (there has been some interest) and a team of trainers across the country
- Pray for Janneke, Pete and Christine for health, safe travel, energy and inspiration
- Pete's health – Pete will start radiotherapy for Prostate Cancer on 8th July

Last month's headline news was the launch of nine Worship for Everyone songs with Makaton signing by Janneke Klos. The number of views, the 'likes' and positive comments tell us that this resource will be used far and wide. The songs are contemporary, catchy and they point people to God. If you haven't already done so, take a look and listen, free of charge, via the Count Everyone In or Worship for Everyone websites, or simply click here: [Count Everyone In with Worship for everyone with Makaton signing](#) Please subscribe, like and share.



Spring Harvest Holidays, France

Thank you for your prayers for the holiday week in France. We had the largest group ever, numbering 55 in total, including 18 adults with learning disabilities.

By unanimous acclaim this was the best year ever. We enjoyed wall-to-wall sunshine, warm comfortable temperatures and not a drop of rain. Our CEI-only evening in the outdoor heated pool was sheer joy with hoots of joy and laughter from our guests as they played ball games in the water. It is a sombre thought that the majority of these people are considered to be of no value to society.

Our sessions through the week followed the theme of Meals with Jesus, reminding us that spending time with Jesus helps us grow strong in our faith. We had fun acting out the Feeding of the 5,000, the Great Banquet, the Emmaus Meal and Breakfast on the Beach. These were followed up by Ruth Morgans in the all-age celebrations each evening, which helped to build a sense of family across the holiday park.

Once again, the holiday provided a safe place for parents and carers to unwind and relax together. These are special friendships born out of shared life experience.



Holidays and festivals 2024

Now that the week in France is over there are just two more festivals where we are running programmes for adults with learning disabilities this summer:

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 either of these events, especially if you have anyone with a learning disability in your group as it helps us with planning.

Keswick

Janneke will be leading the team at Keswick once again. The theme of Resurrection has been a tough one to grapple with! For the first time there is to be a reception for parents and carers of our guests so that they can take time out for themselves while the afternoon workshop is going on.

Pete and Christine are no longer available for the exhibition. Instead, we have an amazing team of volunteers, some of whom are also on the celebration team but others are travelling to Keswick specifically to fulfil this role. We thank God for them and pray for good conversations and great blessing.

Know & Grow workshops

Here we are in the middle of summer and our training calendar for the rest of the year is already almost full. Please let us know if your church would like to host one of our workshops and we will try to find a date either towards the end of 2024 or early 2025. They are for everyone, the welcomers, teamakers, worship leaders, singers, musicians and preachers as well as team members.



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 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.

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

Our latest publication is A Guide to Holy Communion, based on Common Worship 2000 and intended especially for Anglican churches to use with adults with learning disabilities. Our original Communion Service outline entitled Remembering God's Love is still available. Both are priced at £2.00.

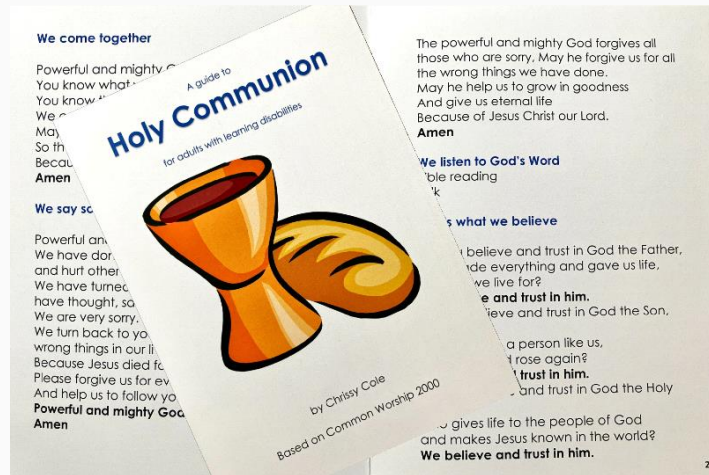
We have produced two teaching plans, one on Joseph (7 sessions – £8) and the other on Ruth (4 sessions – £4), both of which we have used at festivals and in our own groups. Details on request.

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 are excited to be introducing some new colours to our t-shirt range – Fuchsia Pink, Sunshine Yellow and Bottle Green.**

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. Alternatively, and especially if you wish to purchase multiple copies, please order from Bible Society at <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/product-search/NirV%20accessible/>

- **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 Janneke, Pete & Christine meet on Thursdays

2024 – correct as at 28 June

Sat 6 July – CEI trustees' meeting

Sun 7 July – Cornerstone Church, St Albans & CEI group (P&C)

Sat 13 – Fri 19 July – Keswick Convention, Keswick

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

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

Sun 8 September – Morning Service, Helston

Sat 28 September – Beds, Cambs & Herts Regional Celebration, Cambridge

Tues 8 – Weds 9 October – Christian Resources Exhibition, Milton Keynes

Sat 19 October – K&G Makaton Taster Session with Through the Roof, Gosport

Sat 26 October – Oswestry Deanery Mission Day

Sat 26 October – Know & Grow Makaton, Skipton Baptist Church BD23 1ET

Sun 17 November – Morning service, High Street Baptist Church, Tring HP23 4AB

Sun 1 December – Christmas Celebration, St Nic's Newbury and livestreamed

***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

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,

Pete, Christine & Janneke