

January 2025

Another New Year



Dear Friends,

**The Lord loves us very much. So we haven't been completely destroyed.**

**His loving concern never fails.**

**His great love is new every morning. Lord, how faithful you are!**

**I say to myself, "The Lord is everything I will ever need.**

**So I will put my hope in**

**him."**

Lamentations 3:22-24 (NirV)



How do you celebrate New Year? How many of these traditions have you heard of:

- Bellringing – many countries including Japan
- Firework displays – worldwide
- First Footing, being the first person through the front door, bearing gifts of coal or shortbread - Scotland
- Plate throwing - Denmark
- Eating Olliebollen – Netherlands (ask Janneke for the recipe!)
- Jumping over seven waves - Brazil
- Painting doors red - China
- Throwing out old furniture - South Africa
- Spending the night in cemeteries - Chile

- Banging walls with bread - Ireland
- Running with an empty suitcase - Ecuador
- Dressing up as bears - Romania

In the Jewish calendar, generally in September, Rosh Hashanah is marked with the lighting of candles, shofar blowing and eating of special meals. It is a time to reflect, asking God's forgiveness for the past before celebrating the New Year. As Christians, because of Jesus and his death for us, we have the assurance of forgiveness, not just once a year but every day. Forgiveness should lead to repentance and change but, if we're honest, good resolutions without God's help rarely survive beyond the first week of January. Only the Holy Spirit can change us from the inside.

As Pete, Janneke and I reflect over 2024, it has certainly been a challenging, surprising, difficult but also strangely satisfying year. Things have happened that we would not have chosen and other things we might have done differently but we now look forward to the opportunities of the New Year. We choose to stay close to God and to walk with integrity. We shall continue to support, equip and serve individuals, churches and organisations so that adults with learning disabilities don't miss out on Jesus. There will be changes and we are often told that with change, the one certainty is uncertainty – except of course that Jesus is 100% reliable and he never changes.

One change that we are thrilled to announce is that God has answered our prayers for a part-time administrator. We look forward to Bronwen joining the team for a few hours each week starting in January.



Will you still be awake at midnight on New Year's Eve? Does it matter? Isn't it how we live on 1 January that really counts? **“The Lord is everything I will ever need. So I will put my hope in him.”** Please pray with us and for us as we step into 2025.

May God bless you too.

Christine

## Thank you

**Count Everyone In – so that no one misses out on Jesus** but without you, your prayers, interest, time and financial support it would be hard for us to do what God has called us to do. Thank you for whatever part you play in supporting Count Everyone In. No contribution is too small. **Thank you.**

\* **Email** [pete@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:pete@counteveryonein.org.uk) if your group and/or church is interested in becoming **Friends with Count Everyone In**. Pete will send you an information and application form telling you about the scheme.

### Prayer

We're starting up the monthly **Friends with Count Everyone In** Zoom prayer meetings again. The next one is Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – meeting on Zoom at 12.30pm and 6.30pm. If you are registered as a Friend, you will receive the link automatically. We'd love you to join us.

We appreciate your prayers at any time and here are some starters:

1. Give thanks for God's grace and faithfulness throughout 2024, for our wonderful teams of volunteers, for all the delegates who attended Know & Grow training, for people with learning disabilities in our celebrations and churches
2. Thank God for the Christmas Celebration, all who took part and all who attended or viewed it online



3. Thank God for the appointment, at last, of a part-time administrator
4. Pray for a good break over the Christmas and New Year, with plenty of rest as well as celebrating the birth of our Saviour
5. Pray for good health for Pete, Christine and Janneke and for trainers
6. Pray for safe travel, especially in wintry weather
7. Pray for wisdom in growing the CEI team and our reach across England and Wales
8. Prayer for engagements already booked for 2025 – see Diary Dates

We have some wonderful feedback from our CEI Christmas celebration. Thank you!

Missed it and would still like to see it? Please go to this link on the St Nic's YouTube channel

(<https://youtube.com/live/HK7yT91qils>)



### **Last chance!**

The final few copies of our beautiful 2025 calendar are available for just £3 each – yes, that's right, **£3.00**, with free postage and packing within the UK! That's a whopping reduction from the original price of £9 so don't miss out.

Order today at [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk) – or leave a message on **07751 431277** with your name, address and phone number. Payment details will follow when we confirm that your order is



successful.

Please note that we won't be processing orders until the second week of January.

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**Diary dates** – please note that Janneke, Pete and Christine meet on Thursdays

**2025**

Sat 18 Jan - Know & Grow Longing to Belong, Stanley Rd Baptist Church, Morecambe

Sun 19 Jan Morning service at Stanley Rd Baptist Church, Morecambe

Sat 1 Feb - Know and Grow Makaton, Fishponds Baptist Church Bristol BS16 5AS

Sat 8 Feb - Know & Grow Longing to Belong, Letchworth Free Church SG6 1NX (hosting for Christchurch, Baldock)

Sat 15 Feb - Know & Grow Makaton, Queens Hall, Halstead CO9 2BY *\*Places for this workshop cost £40*

Sat 15 Mar - Know & Grow Longing to Belong, St Catharine's Church, Gloucester GL2 0RR

Mon 7 – Fri 11 Apr - Spring Harvest, Skegness

Mon 14 – Fri 18 Apr - Spring Harvest, Minehead

Sat 10 May - Know and Grow Makaton, Aigburth Community Church, Liverpool L17 0AE

Sat 31 May - Know & Grow Makaton, Whitley Bay Baptist Church

Mon 2 – Mon 9 June - Spring Harvest Holidays, France

Sat 11 – Fri 18 July - Keswick Convention (CEI programme Mon - Fri)

\*Please note that the best times to contact the main office is Tuesday to Friday 9:30 – 5:30pm but the office will be closed until Tuesday 7 January 2025



**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

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- **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

**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.

**May God bless you and all whom you love and care for this Christmas,**

*Pete, Christine & Janneke*

