

February 2025

**An army of ordinary people**



Dear Friends,

**One person could be overpowered.  
But two people can stand up for themselves.  
And a rope made out of three cords isn't easily broken.**



Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NirV)

Here's a song by Dave Bilborough (©1983 Kingsway's Thankyou Music) that was popular in many churches and perhaps you know it:

**An army of ordinary people,  
A Kingdom where love is the key,  
A city, a light to the nations,  
Heirs to the promise are we.  
A people whose life is in Jesus,  
A nation together we stand.  
Only through grace are we worthy,  
Inheritors of the land.**

It was mentioned (and sung!) in a recent CEI Friends prayer meeting and it made us think about being stronger together. There are those who assume Count Everyone In is a large charity with a spacious office, many staff and different departments. Others think it's just Janneke, Pete and me – not forgetting Bronwen, our part-time administrator. **So just what, or who, is Count Everyone In?**

At Spring Harvest and the Keswick Convention we have teams of volunteers leading celebrations and workshops for our friends with learning disabilities. **The volunteers and those who attend are all Count Everyone In.**

We are blessed to have five regional trainers ready to deliver Know & Grow 'Longing to Belong'. Lynn McCann supported Pete and me in Morecambe the other

Saturday and Gordon Watson will do the same in Letchworth in February. Andy Ackroyd, Karen and Tim Horton, Lynn and Gordon **are Count Everyone In.**

When treatment for prostate cancer prevented Pete (and me) from going to the Keswick Convention with the CEI exhibition, Lisa West and others stepped into the gap and covered the whole week for us. Lisa and the team **are Count Everyone In.**

With getting on for 40 CEI 'Friends' ministry groups around the country, some but not all bearing the name of Count Everyone In, they, their leaders, members and churches **are all Count Everyone In.**

Our seven trustees ensure the charity operates smoothly and legally. **They are Count Everyone In.**

In whatever way you support CEI, whether by prayer, financial giving, volunteering or attending, **you are Count Everyone In.**

**Count Everyone In is indeed an army of ordinary people**, motivated by God's love for all people and especially those who are overlooked or ostracised by the world as a whole - a people without recognition (see v.2 of the song). Together, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can stand strong.

Thank you.

Christine

---

## **Being Friends**

**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**

The next of our monthly **Friends with Count Everyone In** Zoom prayer meetings takes place on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February – meeting on Zoom at 12.30pm and 6.30pm**. If you are on that list, you will receive the link automatically. We'd love you to join us.



**Answers to prayer** - It was well worth the long drive to the friendly seaside town of Morecambe where we received a warm welcome from CEI Friends, Stanley Road Baptist Church and their What's What group. It was a joy to co-present the Longing to Belong workshop with Lynn McCann on Saturday. At Sunday breakfast in our hotel we were surprised to bump into a family known to us through the Keswick Convention. Why had they crossed from the Isle of Man that weekend? Because they had read the newsletter and wanted to join us for a CEI style of church service! It was also good to meet up with David, who has been to every CEI holiday week in France, as well as other folk we have met in France over the years! In the Sunday morning service we included drama and there was a good response from those who felt that God had spoken to them.

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

1. Give thanks for Bronwen Davies, our new part-time administrator and pray that her appointment will be a blessing to us all

2. Give thanks for safe travel despite bad weather and delays – we often drive on Friday afternoons, which is a notoriously busy time
3. Pray for Janneke and the teams as they plan for Spring Harvest at Skegness and Minehead
4. Pray for good health for Pete, Christine, Janneke, Bronwen, our trainers and Spring Harvest team members
5. Pray for wisdom in growing the CEI team and our reach across England and Wales
6. Prayer for engagements already booked for 2025 – see Diary Dates

## **Workshops**

One of the first tasks we set ourselves when starting Count Everyone In was to produce training material that is relevant and accessible for churches wishing to offer ministry to adults with learning disabilities. Over the past seven years or so we have therefore developed, and continue to review, the Know & Grow suite of training. <https://www.counteveryonein.org.uk/events/>

One of the three workshops has come out of a partnership with The Makaton Charity, after several years, much work and growing trust; this is Know & Grow Makaton. This is a unique training package in that it is the only Christian Makaton course that is accredited by The Makaton Charity.

We are privileged to receive positive feedback from all our workshops, many commenting on value for money and a desire for others to have attended even if they are not directly involved in this ministry. There are lessons to be learned for the whole church!

Know & Grow Longing to Belong

Know & Grow Life Matters  
Know & Grow Makaton

To book a place or host your own, email: [bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk)

---

### **How about a holiday in France?**

Bookings are open for the Count Everyone In week **2 – 9 June** with Spring Harvest Holidays at Le Pas Opton, in the beautiful Vendée region. It's for adults with learning disabilities, their families and/or support staff. We stay in luxury self-catering mobile homes and there's a coffee shop, heated outdoor pool, indoor and outdoor games facilities, and a celebration for everyone each evening. CEI runs daily accessible celebrations and leisure activities whilst families and staff enjoy the optional morning Bible studies, the LPO programme or simply relax in the lovely surroundings. In the evenings there's even more to enjoy!



To find out more, contact Christine at [christine@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:christine@counteveryonein.org.uk). Bookings should be made directly with <https://springharvestholidays.com/booking> - it's best to phone their Customer Service Team on 01825 748318 to obtain 15% discount for groups that include adults with learning disabilities who book a mobile home.

---

### **Resources**

If you are interested in purchasing CEI branded t-shirts or full-zip hoodies, accessible Bible notes, teaching plans based on Joseph or Ruth, CEI badges, notebooks or Prospects worship albums, please email [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk) for a full list.

---

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

## 2025

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

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

Weds 12 February - Trustees' meeting

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

Thurs 27 February - CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm

Sat 8 March - Lichfield Diocese Readers' Day

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

Thurs 27 March - CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm

Tues 1 April - Reading groups' Easter celebration, Greyfriars Church, Reading RG11EH

Sun 6 April - Cornerstone Church, St Albans

Mon 7 - Fri 11 April - Spring Harvest, Skegness

Mon 14 - Fri 18 April - Spring Harvest, Minehead

Sat 26 April - Know and Grow Makaton, Solent Evangelical Church, Gosport PO12 3HF

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

Sun 11 May - Fenland Community Church, Mill View, March

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

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

Sat 12 – Fri 18 July Keswick Convention - CEI programme Monday to Friday



**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

- 
- **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, X & 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,**

*Pete, Christine & Janneke*

