

April 2025

Memories, hopes and dreams.



Dear Friends,

“Find your delight in the Lord.

Then he will give you everything your heart really wants.”

Psalm 37:4 (NirV)



Pete and I were drinking coffee at a beachside café in Shanklin, Isle of Wight. Waves were thundering against the breakwaters, spraying unsuspecting passersby, while we sheltered inside and reminisced. We were just a few hundred yards from what had been Summerhill Christian Guesthouse where we had celebrated our engagement in November 1975. “I wonder if the bench is still up there, overlooking the sea at the end of Culver Road?” It was at that bench, as we returned from a cliff walk, that another hotel guest had asked Pete a searching question, “Where do you see God leading you in your life?”

As we look back over the years, we do indeed see that God has gently nudged us to take steps that fulfil His plans and purposes but also give us joy and delight. No, life hasn’t always been easy or decisions clear, but we have so much for which we are thankful: our family, friends, church, Count Everyone In, health, home and much more.

That afternoon we attended the thanksgiving service for a woman who had lived a full and varied life, with a wide circle of friends and a deep faith in Jesus. She had a learning disability but that didn’t stop her from cycling, swimming and enjoying countless other activities and clubs. Her faith and her desire for others to know her Saviour were evident to those who knew her. Supported by her loving family she went through cancer treatment without complaining and is now with her Saviour in the place that He has prepared for her. One tribute to our friend has stayed in our minds; it referred to her ‘unfulfilled hopes and dreams’. Had she longed for deeper friendships? Did she have dreams of marriage, maybe a family of her own? We can’t know or understand how she felt and we can’t ‘fix’ such

desires, but we can offer acceptance, friendship and the opportunity to live life to the full through knowing Jesus.

Thank you, Lord for enriching our lives through knowing people such as this woman and her family.

God bless,
Christine

Janneke's Challenge – these are the verses she is memorising this month.
Will you join her?

**“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!”** Lamentations 3:22-23 (NirV)

“But God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. So, He gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you.” Ephesians 2:4-5 (NirV)

Thank you

Once again, thank you for praying for Janneke, Bronwen, Pete and me. It means a lot to know that you remember us in this way. Thank you too for financial support, named or anonymous. We are grateful for whatever part you play in Count Everyone In. No contribution is too small.

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

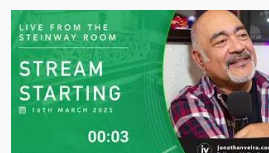
Worship for Everyone

Hot off the press, look out from 28 March for a lovely new resource based on the Lord's Prayer. It's intended for everyone, schools, churches, adults and children. Janneke spent a day filming Makaton signing for this and we all just love the brand new song that Nick and Becky Drake have written. <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/12AwaVaSDKU/>



Pete and Christine interviewed by Jonathan Veira – aka JV

Watch on YouTube as Pete and Christine were interviewed by larger-than-life Christian singer, raconteur and entertainer, Jonathan Veira, who was formerly a world-acclaimed opera singer. Hear their story at about 53 minutes into the Sunday evening show which began as a lifeline during Covid lockdowns for JV and for the hundreds of people who have been tuning in ever since. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu0ScL-kHYo>



Prayer

The next of our monthly **Friends with Count Everyone** In Zoom prayer meetings takes place on Thursday 24th April – meeting for just 30 minutes on Zoom at 12.30pm and 6.30pm. If you are on our list, you will receive the link automatically. We'd love you to join us, whether you pray out loud or silently!



Here are some of the topics for our March meetings but we appreciate your prayers at any time and wherever you are:

1. Pray for protection and good health for CEI teams at Spring Harvest in Skegness and Minehead; Janneke is team leader at both sites but has different volunteers working with her
2. Pray for our Spring Harvest guests to encounter Jesus
3. Pray for Pete and Christine to have good conversations at the CEI exhibition stand at both SH sites and for energy to do so
4. Thank God for Bronwen's contribution to the team and the value of the admin support she provides
5. Pray for groups around the country, some that are **Friends with CEI**, as they teach the significance of Easter. Pray for the new group starting in Telford, Shropshire on 13th April that they will attract people who might otherwise miss out on knowing Jesus and living their lives for Him
6. Pray for fulfilment of our dream of a welcoming, accessible local church within 5 miles of every

person with a learning disability – and that they will be supported to get there

7. Pray for wise planning as we look to the coming months – what, when and how to use the time available

Turning dreams into reality

You may recall reading last month about our dream of a day when no adult with a learning disability has to travel more than five miles to reach a welcoming and accessible church. The map on our office wall has a pin marking each church or group that is a **Friend with CEI** but there are huge gaps in some parts of the country. Other churches probably meet those criteria, but they are not linked with CEI and that makes it difficult to connect people with churches where we can be sure of a warm and appropriate welcome.

Imagine then our excitement in the last few weeks to have received a couple of enquiries about training and resources from churches in those seemingly barren areas! Will you join us in praying that our dream becomes a reality? CEI offers training (see Workshops, below), resources, inspiration, advice and encouragement.

Email 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.

Workshops

Know & Grow Longing to Belong – an introduction to learning disability, theology, communication and how the church can respond

Know & Grow Life Matters – supporting adults with learning disabilities as they face issues around relationships, healing, mental health and bereavement etc.

Know & Grow Makaton – learn to sign everyday and Christian vocabulary at the only workshop for Christian language that is accredited by The Makaton Charity (TMC). It was developed by Janneke Klos in partnership with TMC.

To book a place or host your own, email: bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk

Have you thought about joining CEI in France?

Don't leave it too long before you book your 2025 Count Everyone In holiday from **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. Bookings should be made directly with <https://springharvestholidays.com/booking> - it's best to phone their Guest 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 for a full list.

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

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 celebrations and exhibition, Skegness

Mon 14 – Fri 18 April - Spring Harvest celebrations and exhibition, Minehead

Thurs 24 April - CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm

Sat 26 April - Know & Grow Makaton, Solent Evangelical Church, Gosport PO12 3HF - in partnership with Through the Roof

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

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

Thurs 22 May - CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm

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

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

Thurs 26 June - CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm

Sat 28 June - Know & Grow Longing to Belong, Queensway Chapel, Melksham SN12 7NB

Sat 12 - 18 July Keswick Convention - exhibition, plus Mon-Fri CEI celebrations

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- **Give as You Live** is one way to donate to CEI at no extra cost to you – <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>

- **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 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 this Easter. Jesus has died, Jesus is risen, Jesus will come again! Hallelujah!

Pete, Christine & Janneke

