

July 2025



On the road

Dear Friends,

Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NirV)



As loyal readers of this newsletter are aware, I spend quite a bit of my time in the car. Usually I'll have an audiobook or some excellent car-tunes to keep me company, and generally as long as I keep moving forward, I don't mind driving at all. But... the British roads are not always clear and for the last year or so the roads around Portsmouth in particular have resembled a car park more than they have a road. On a recent car journey back home, I decided that simply standing still on a motorway was not something I was in the mood for, and so a detour through the countryside seemed like a great idea. I had an even greater idea when I reached a junction - both the Satnav and the signposts told me to go one way, but I - in my wisdom - decided that I knew a quicker way to get home. Ignoring the 'turn around!' messages from my Satnav, I turned off the planned route and made my way along a little B-road. Several miles, a few turns and two interesting encounters with tractors and a cyclist later, and the B-roads fizzled out into little tracks. You guessed it - I had gone the wrong way! Unfortunately, I had gone so badly wrong that my Satnav had lost where I actually was... it simply showed that I was in the middle of a field!

I don't believe I am the only one who has ever fallen into thinking that we know best, and the 'safety' of the internet and social media has turned many of us into 'arm-chair experts'. Of course, some critical thinking and common sense are healthy, but not when they blind us to the fact that sometimes we simply do not know best.

When it comes to our walk with the Lord, we can fall into the same patterns of thinking and sometimes believe that we know better than God. God's ways don't always look like the most exciting ways, or the most satisfying ways, or even the most fun ways. But, God's ways are always the better ways. Sadly, I usually realise that when I find myself in the middle of the messy consequences of having gone my way. Thankfully though, God is gracious and full of mercy. He will find us and meet us in our mess - even if we have wandered and even if the road we have taken is filthy and dangerous.

As I sat in my car at the end of a muddy track, I remembered the words of King Solomon: "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.*" (Prov. 2:5-6 NirV). My own understanding had failed me and quite literally sent me to a dead-end. But God's ways lead to life - even if that means I sometimes have to sit in traffic!

God Bless,

Janneke

Welcome to any new readers who have joined us recently. We are so glad to know of your interest and support. If at any time you wish to unsubscribe from our mailing list, please drop us a line - no hard feelings because we know how quickly our email Inboxes fill up!

Being Friends

Count Everyone In – so that no one misses out on Jesus

* Email pete@counteveryonein.org.uk if you, your group and/or church are interested in becoming Friends with Count Everyone In. Pete will send you an information and application form telling you about the scheme.

Thank you

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.

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



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

Psalm 73:28 (Nlrv) - But I am close to you. And that's good. LORD and King, I have made you my place of safety. I will talk about everything you have done.

John 1:1-3 (Nlrv) - In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him.

Count Everyone In at Spring Harvest Holidays at Le Pas Opton, France 2025



Another great year for CEI at LPO and huge thanks are due to all who made this possible. Once again, our guests and their families have designated this the best year yet!
Here are some KPIs – our Kingdom Presence Indicators

- 1 lady gave her life to Christ
- 16 people with learning disabilities attended CEI sessions consistently through the week
- 18 people with learning disabilities were guests for the CEI week
- 30-35 guests attended the 'How to Count Everyone In' afternoon session
- 51 guests were directly related to the CEI week, plus others who choose the CEI week
- Appreciation – lots - was expressed by parents, carers and other guests
- Joy featured highly through the week – e.g. karaoke
- Kindness (our theme) was demonstrated by guests, staff and animateurs

NB 2026 will mark 20 years since the first such holiday for adults with learning disabilities, their families and carers. Will you join us?!

Prayer

The next of our monthly **Friends with Count Everyone In** Zoom prayer meetings takes place on **Thursday 24th July** for just 30 minutes at 12.30pm and/ or 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 to keep you going in the meantime!

1. Pray for Janneke and the CEI team as they prepare for the Keswick Convention, 12 – 18 July. Writing accessible, relevant, easy-to-understand teaching is always a challenge and this year's theme is the Epistle of James. Pray for good conversations for Pete and Christine at the exhibition stand.
2. Pray for those churches and individuals considering becoming 'Friends' with CEI
3. Pray for Janneke as she settles into a new rhythm of working
4. Praise for the fruitful CEI holiday week at LPO - Spring Harvest Holidays in France. Next year will be the 20th year since the first one. Can you join us?
5. Praise for the opportunity given to speak on a recent Rural Ministries podcast



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 such as relationships, healing, mental health and bereavement

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

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

Sat 5 July - Trustees' meeting

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

Sun 13 July – 10:30am – Pete preaching at Keswick Methodist Church

Thurs 17 July – 9:30am - Keswick Seminar

Mon 21 July – 12:30pm - Keswick Seminar

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

Mon 22 & Tue 23 Sep - K&G Makaton Tutor training course

Thurs 25 Sept - CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm

Sat 4 Oct - Know and Grow Makaton, Bethany Hall, 14 Westham Road, Weymouth

Sat 11 Oct - Alive Together, The King's Centre, Coppard Gardens, Chessington

Wed 15 & Thu 16 Oct - Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Racecourse, Esher, Surrey

Thurs 23 Oct - CEI Friends Zoom Prayer 12:30-1:00pm & 6:30-7:00pm

Sat 25 Oct - Know and Grow Longing to Belong - Elim, Halifax

Fri 14 Nov - Know and Grow Makaton for the Chester Diocese

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

Sun 7 December - CEI Christmas Celebration at St Nic's Church, Newbury and livestreamed to you wherever you are!

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.

- **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

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.

Every blessing,

Pete, Christine & Janneke

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www.youtube.com/c/counteveryonein

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