November 2024

Stay Excited

Dear Friends,

Stay excited about your faith as you serve the Lord. When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful.
Romans 12:11-12 NIrV

In February 2002 I very nervously started working for the charity called Prospects. I had no background in learning disability, yet had an overwhelming sense that God was calling me to commit myself to sharing the good news of Jesus with those who so often the church, as well as society, tried to ignore, and to equip churches to do the same. With the wise and gentle guidance of Tony Phelps-Jones and the Holy Spirit I learnt not just what to do but also to love what God had given me to do.

Then, on 1st May 2017 Christine and I, having once again heard the call of God, started a new charity 'Count Everyone In' and not long afterwards (by the end of 2018) we were joined by Janneke Klos. New chapters have opened along the way but still with a sense of real excitement.

New resources have been created, new training created, including Know & Grow Makaton (developed by Janneke in conjunction with and approved by The Makaton Charity) new challenges as we built new teams of volunteers and were invited over time to be involved in Spring Harvest, Spring Harvest Holidays, Keswick, Word Alive, Creation Fest, Commission (New Frontiers) and Catalyst (New Frontiers). As I look back there have also been many challenges, COVID, YouTube, filming, editing (thank you for those who helped) and things not always working out. The ups and the downs have come and gone. Following my treatment for Prostate Cancer my energy levels are still low. Yet ….. I'm still excited about my faith as I serve the Lord. I'm hopeful and joyful. I'm learning to be patient and faithful.

'But be sure to have respect for the Lord. Serve him faithfully. Do it with all your heart. Think about the great things he has done for you.' 1 Samuel 12:24 NIrV

I love what God has given me to do but would still love others to share the excitement and challenge. Could it be you? Let's talk!

Bless you in whatever God has called you to do.

Pete

A Christmas Celebration

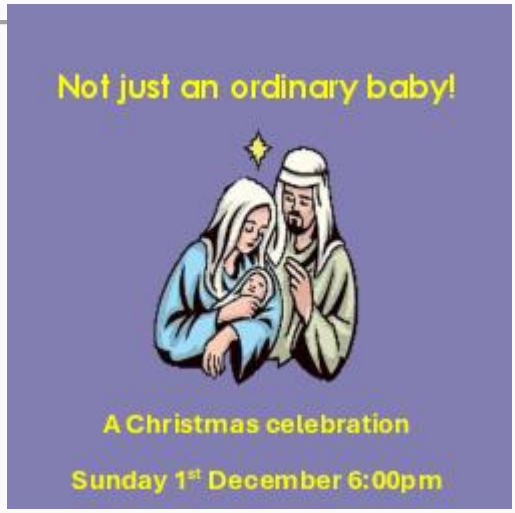
Everyone welcome, especially people with learning disabilities.

St Nicolas' Church, West Mills, Newbury RG14 5HG

Sunday 1 December at 6:00pm (followed by refreshments)

Livestreamed via St Nic's YouTube channel (details later)

Parking at the Kennet Centre RG14 5BN



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** 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. Perhaps you will be Friend no.40!

Celebrations

One of the best things about working for Count Everyone In is the opportunity to come along and be part of Regional Celebrations. At the end of September, I joined Chrissy Cole and a number of groups in the Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire area for their Harvest Celebration. Then a couple of weeks later, I joined Martyn Green and the Surrey groups in Chessington for their annual Alive Together conference and celebration event.

Both events were so full of joy and celebration for all the things that God has done in our lives, whilst also giving us an opportunity to learn more about what it means to be a friend of Jesus and live our lives as Christians.

In Cambridge, we looked at the story of Ruth and Naomi. Through worship, prayer, drama, signing and craft we learned about friendship. Just like Ruth was a good friend to Naomi, and Boaz was a good friend to both Naomi and Ruth, Jesus is our good friend. He is the friend who will never let us down, the friend we can always turn to, and the friend who will always help us.

At Alive Together we looked at the story of Joseph – the different groups all acted out parts of Joseph's story which helped us to learn more about forgiveness: God's forgiveness to us for all the things we have done wrong, but also about how we can forgive other people.

Bringing ministry groups for adults with learning disabilities together for regional celebrations is not just a great way for our friends with learning disabilities to get together and make new friends; it also provides a fantastic opportunity for group leaders to connect and support each other. I came home from the Cambridge Harvest Celebration and Alive Together feeling inspired, refreshed and full of joy! Thank you so much Chrissy and Martyn for having me!

Janneke

Prayer

Our next monthly **Friends with Count Everyone In** Zoom prayer meetings are on **Thursday 28th November** – at 12.30pm and 6.30pm, each lasting just half an hour. Do let us know if you'd like to come to either of these meetings so we can send you the Zoom link.

There's lots to pray for, not least the **Christmas Celebration on 1 December**. You can pray silently or out loud – we'd love you to join us.

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

1. Give thanks for recent joyful celebrations in Cambridge (with groups from across Herts, Beds & Cambs) and Chessington (with Surrey groups)
2. Thank God for five volunteers trained up as Know & Grow Trainers
3. Prayer of thanks for Pete's health. His radiotherapy treatment for prostate cancer has worked well. Pete will continue to have treatment and will be monitored but we are grateful for his positive journey to recovery.
4. Prayer for wisdom as we explore ways in which we can grow the CEI team and the appointment of an administrator

5. Prayer for training events and speaking engagements this autumn
6. Prayer for the CEI trustees who make sure the charity runs smoothly and doesn't break any laws or regulations!
7. Prayer for Pete, Christine and Janneke as they travel to the different events this month.

Know & Grow workshops

Why not host a Know and Grow Workshop in 2025? Whether you have been running a group for adults with learning disabilities for years, or you are just beginning to think about small ways in which you can make your church a little bit more accessible, our Know and Grow workshops can help to inspire, equip and resource you. If you are interested in hosting one of our Know and Grow workshops, please get in touch! We can send you an outline of the training programme and an information sheet for host churches. These workshops are for everyone: welcomers, teamakers, worship leaders, singers, musicians and preachers as well as team members.

Email bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk

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.

It's the most wonderful time of the year – and it's coming soon!

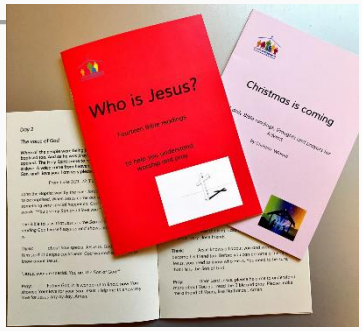
Christmas cards – Why not buy your Christmas cards from CEI this year? Your purchase will benefit the charity and give joy to the recipients of this delightful card which is unique to Count Everyone In with its artwork by Maryanne Stanley who is one of our trustees.

Packs of 10 cards including envelopes cost just £6, plus £3 postage and packing for up to 3 packs.

Count Everyone In Calendar 2025 – Maryanne has also created the artwork for our very first CEI Calendar, featuring twelve paintings depicting key moments in the life of Jesus. The calendar costs £9 including p+p.

Email your order to **info@counteveryonein.org.uk** and make your payment ideally by BACS to our Metro Bank (business) account, using the reference **'cards'** or **'calendar'**
Count Everyone In –
Sort code: 23-05-80 – Account no: 33248601

Resources



Normal price: Christmas is coming £4:50 +pp Who is Jesus? £2:50 +pp

Special offer price – buy the two together £6:00 post free.

Email your order to **info@counteveryonein.org.uk** and make your payment ideally by BACS to our Metro Bank (business) account, using the reference **'Christmas offer'**
Count Everyone In –
Sort code: 23-05-80 – Account no: 33248601

New colours for CEI t shirts – Sunshine Yellow and Fuchsia Pink will brighten your day! We also stock t-shirts (£10.50), polos (£16) and full-zip hoodies (£25) in our original colours of sapphire blue, burgundy red and charcoal grey. They come in unisex sizes Small through to 2XL (also 3XL for t-shirts).

To purchase any of our resources just drop an email to info@counteveryonein.org.uk. We add £3 for postage and packing and ask for payment by BACS transfer or cheque – details to be sent. If your order is outside of our normal weight/size we reserve the right to pass on actual delivery costs. Apart from clothing we have undated Bible notes, based on the 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)

Looking ahead – please note that Janneke, Pete & Christine meet on Thursdays

2024 – correct on 28 October

Thurs 14 Nov – Trustees' meeting
Sat 16 Nov – Carols by Makaton with Janneke (Zoom)
Sun 17 Nov – Morning service, High Street Baptist Church, Tring HP23 4AB
Wed 20 Nov – Spring Harvest Planning Day, Watford
Thurs 21 Nov – Carols by Makaton with Janneke (Zoom)
Sat 23 Nov – Know & Grow Makaton, Thornhill Church, Cardiff CF14 9GA
Thurs 28 Nov – CEI prayer (Zoom)12:30 and 18:30
Sun 1 Dec – 6:00pm Christmas Celebration, St Nic's Newbury and livestreamed
Tues 10 Dec – Attending Reading Groups Christmas Celebration, Wycliffe Baptist Church

2025

Sat 18 January – Know & Grow Longing to Belong, Stanley Rd Baptist Church, Morecambe
Sun 19 January – Morning service at Stanley Rd Baptist Church, Morecambe
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)
Sat 15 February – Know & Grow Makaton, Queens Hall, Halstead CO9 2BY **Places for this workshop cost £40*
Sat 15 March – Know & Grow Longing to Belong, St Catharine's Church, Gloucester GL2 0RR
Mon 7 – Fri 11 April – Spring Harvest, Skegness
Mon 14 – Fri 18 April – Spring Harvest, Minehead
Sat 10 May – Know & Grow Makaton, Aigburth Community Church, Parish Hall, Dundonald Road, Liverpool, L17 0AE
Mon 2 – Mon 9 June – Spring Harvest Holidays, France

*****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

- **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

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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