

December 2025

Translators of Light



“A people who are now walking in darkness will see a great light. They are now living in a very dark land, but a light with shine on them.” - Isaiah 9:2

Dear Friends,

*Nu daagt het in het oosten
Het licht schijnt overal
Hij komt de volken troosten
Die eeuwig heersen zal*

*De duisternis gaat wijken
Van de eeuwenlange nacht
Een nieuwe dag gaat prijken
Met ongekende pracht*



It has been many years since I last spent Christmas in the Netherlands as I tend to go home for New Year's Eve. But this year, I'll be joining my family on Christmas Day and that means I'll be at my home church on Christmas morning. It'll be great to see family and friends but, honestly, one of the things I'm looking forward to most is singing Christmas carols in Dutch. The Dutch carols bring me such a sense of familiarity and home and often they also bring additional meaning to the Christmas story. Some of the carols share an almost literal translation between the Dutch and English version while others have completely different lyrics and meaning. But of course, to be able to understand the meaning of both the Dutch and English carols, you have to be able to understand both languages.

In some ways, I think something similar is true when we think about Christmas in general. The world tells us that Christmas is all about glittery and sparkly lights – in our Christmas trees, in our shiny wrapping paper, in the decorations we put on our houses. The Bible tells us Christmas is about a little baby; a little light that shines in the darkness; a little light that is the Light of the world. But to be able to recognise and understand the Light of the world, you need to know where to look.

At Christmastime we, as followers of Jesus, have the privilege of being translators of Light. Amid the glitter and the sparkle, we can point people to Jesus; the One who doesn't just illuminate the darkness, but who has overcome it. The One whose light doesn't go out in January when we take our decorations down, but who shines forever.

So, before I finish, let me translate the words of the Dutch carol I started with:

*The sun rises in the east
The light shines all around
He has come to comfort the people
He will reign forever*

*The darkness will flee
From the everlasting night
A new day will dawn
With unparalleled beauty*

Merry Christmas!
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!

Christmas Celebration – Sunday 7th December 6:00 – 7:00pm

Come and join the celebration! If you can, please join us at St Nicolas Church, West Mills, Newbury RG14 5HG. We'd love you to tell us if you're coming.

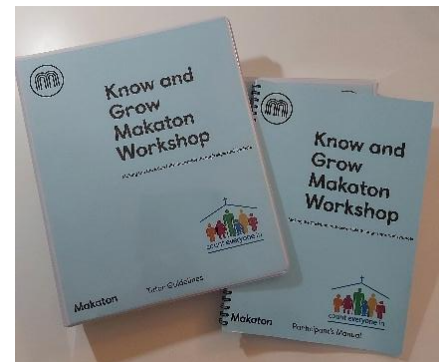
If you can't be with us in person, please log in to St Nic's, Newbury YouTube channel – https://youtube.com/live/u9MR1_egrJY



NEW: Online Know and Grow Makaton workshop

In 2026, Janneke will be taking the Know and Grow Makaton workshop online! We pray that online workshops will enable those who have not been able to travel to face-to-face workshops, or who haven't been able to commit to a full day's training, to be equipped and inspired to use Makaton in their worship.

The first online workshop will be delivered across two Saturday mornings in January, with others to follow later in the year.



January 2026 – **Sat 24th and Sat 31st January – 9.30-1pm.**

Price - £40 per person (which includes a workbook and certificate which will be posted to you).

Click here to book your place: [**Know and Grow Makaton - Online \(24-Jan-2026\)**](#) · [**CharitySuite Events**](#) or email us – Bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk

Remembering a friend

This month we have been incredibly sad to hear of the death of Amy Starling. Amy was a young lady who had been part of the CEI family for many years. Her sense of humour and wonderful awareness of the love of Jesus will be greatly missed by all of us. Our prayers are with Amy's family and friends.

Janneke's Challenge – here are the final two verses to memorise in 2025:

Isaiah 9:2 - A people who are now walking in darkness will see a great light. They are now living in a very dark land, but a light will shine on them.

Luke 2:7 - She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

Being Friends

Count Everyone In – so that no one misses out on Jesus and we need each other!

* 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.

Open to individuals, churches/groups. Further info from
pete@counteveryonein.org.uk
07711 869810



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 <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: 33248



Prayer

We will be taking a break from our monthly **Friends with Count Everyone In** Zoom prayer meeting in December. We will however be back in January 2026. But of course, that does not mean that you can't pray! Here are some prayer points for December:

1. Prayer for the CEI Christmas celebration on 7th December.
2. Prayer for Janneke as she prepares for the online Know and Grow Makaton workshop in January. Prayer that the workshop is well attended and well received.
3. Prayer for safety for Pete, Christine and Janneke as they travel to see family and friends over the Christmas period.
4. Prayer for our partners, especially The Makaton Charity, Through the Roof, Worship for Everyone, and Biblica



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.

Would you and your church be interested in hosting a workshop.
email: bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk

Spring Harvest Holidays

2026 is the 20th year since the first holiday in France for adults with learning disabilities. Will you join us for an amazing week?

Where? Le Pas Opton, Le Fenouiller in the beautiful Vendée region of western France.

1-8 June 2026 – to get 15% off your holiday, just quote **EVERYONE** when you book if your group/family includes an adult with a learning disability. www.springharvestholidays.com/everyone

Contact info@counteveryonein.org.uk or **07751 431277** to let us know you've booked so that we can write to you ahead of your holiday.

Le Pas Opton
Le Pas Opton is our four-star holiday park in Western France. With fantastic facilities including a swimming pool, bar, coffee shop and more there are plenty of ways to relax.

There's something for everyone at Le Pas Opton. Everything from the daily bible study and worship celebrations to evening entertainment is totally optional! It's your holiday, it's your choice. Why not enjoy a coffee and croissant, ice cream or milkshake in the coffee shop? Or hire canoes and take a trip down the river?

Choose your accommodation from luxury tents, mobile homes and villas. With plenty of discounts and savings available, everyone can join in 2026.

www.springharvestholidays.com/everyone

SPRING HARVEST HOLIDAYS
Count Everyone In
1-8 June 2026
A holiday for adults with learning disabilities
God's Family Together

20 YEARS OF HOLIDAYS
1986-2026

From 1-8 June 2026, Le Pas Opton offers a special welcome to adults with learning disabilities.

Set in a secure and friendly environment with loads to get involved with, this week is ideal for families, groups and individuals with careers.

Alongside the optional spiritual programme, Pete and Christine Wemli and the Count Everyone In team will be leading special activities for adults with learning disabilities. This interactive programme offers spiritual content as well as art, craft, leisure and other fun activities.

Le Pas Opton has easily accessible facilities including a coffee shop, bar, shop, outdoor heated pool and marquee. With bible teaching, uplifting worship and leisure activities, everyone can enjoy a great holiday regardless of age or ability.

If you have a family member or friend with a learning disability, why not consider booking the Count Everyone In week at Le Pas Opton? There is accessible accommodation available, including luxury tents, mobile homes and villas, all accessible through Spring Harvest Holidays.

Contact Pete and Christine Wemli at info@counteveryonein.org.uk or 07751 431277 to let them know you've booked so that they can write to you ahead of your holiday.

15% off your holiday
If you quote a 15% discount of mobile homes, the price will be reduced by 15% and the price of the tent will be reduced by 15%.

www.springharvestholidays.com/everyone

Resources

Bible Update (NIRv - accessible edition) We are excited to tell you that the reprint of the New Testament has been done, and we are expecting copies (soft back only) to reach the CEI office in the middle of December. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that the Book of Psalms will also be available. The prices are as follows:

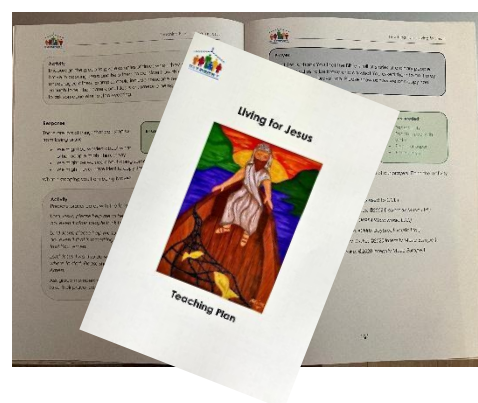
New Testament - **£7.99 +p&p**

Psalms - **£4.00 +p&p**



New resource! We have published a new teaching plan. It is called 'Living for Jesus' and consists of five teaching sessions that explore what it's like to be a friend of Jesus, based on the life and experiences of Peter. Price: **£7.00 +p&p**

Other resources: If you are interested in purchasing CEI branded t-shirts or full-zip hoodies, accessible Bible notes, our other teaching plans based on Joseph or Ruth, CEI badges, notebooks, pens, keyrings, ceramic mugs or travel mugs, please email info@counteveryonein.org.uk for a full list.



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

Sun 7 Dec	CEI Christmas Celebration at St Nic's Church, Newbury and livestreamed to you wherever you are! https://youtube.com/live/u9MR1_egrJY
20 Dec – 2 Jan	CEI office closed for Christmas break
19-20 Jan	Know and Grow Makaton Tutor Training
22 Jan	CEI Friends Prayer Zoom
24 & 31 Jan	Online Know and Grow Makaton workshop
Multiple dates	Through the Roof Makaton taster sessions
7 Feb	Know and Grow Makaton taster session – Bristol
12 Feb	CEI Trustees Meeting
26 Feb	CEI Friends Prayer Zoom
26 Mar	CEI Friends Prayer Zoom
30 Mar – 3 Apr	Spring Harvest Skegness
6-10 Apr	Spring Harvest Minehead
23 Apr	CEI Friends Prayer Zoom
16 May	Know and Grow Makaton workshop – Midsomer Norton
23 May	Created to Belong Conference – Scotland
28 May	CEI Friends Prayer Zoom
1-8 Jun	Spring Harvest Holidays – France (travel dates 30/31 May)
25 Jun	CEI Friends Prayer Zoom
18 -24 July	Keswick Convention week 1 (CEI 20-24 July)

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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Christine: 07751 431277 christine@counteveryonein.org.uk
Janneke: janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk

www.youtube.com/c/counteveryonein

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