

February 2026

## Children of God

**Some people did accept him (Jesus) and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.** John 1:12 NlrV



Dear Friends,

One of my favourite television programmes is Long Lost Family, which aims to reunite family members who have been separated from each other, generally since birth or early childhood. With a team of background researchers and social workers, presenters Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell meet people who are crying out to know their own stories and to be reunited with siblings, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters whom they may never have known. There are extraordinary and painful stories of family separation, citing extra-marital childbirth, parental pressure, extreme poverty, homelessness, broken marriages, acrimonious divorces, heart-rending decisions, poor physical or mental health, to mention just some of the causes.

It generally takes the determination - and feeling of lostness - of just one person to set the ball in motion for relatives to be identified, found and ultimately reunited. Not everyone wishes to relive painful memories or to question the motives of parents or grandparents but, where long lost families are brought together there can be inexpressible joy and a sense of belonging that they may have craved for decades. I might even detect a tear or two rolling down my face as I watch an emotional reunion!

Why have I used two paragraphs to tell you what you may already know? It's because I am reminded of the broken relationship between human beings and God that He longs to mend. God, our heavenly Father, has already taken the initiative by sending His Son Jesus to rescue us from the sin that separates us and to welcome us into the family. It is such good news that we should be telling it to everyone we meet. That includes people with learning disabilities. They are as lost as anyone and everyone else. Some of them may have never known their human families and that is sad, very sad. But, they can know their heavenly Father and become His children. That means that we are brothers and sisters, one big family. Let's love, care for and appreciate one another.

God bless you, my brothers and sisters,

Christine

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## Remembering friends

We have been asked by the family of Hazel Norman to let you know the sad news that Hazel passed away on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Hazel was instrumental in starting the group in St Albans in the late 1990s. She had been struck by the celebrations for adults with learning disabilities run by Prospects at Spring Harvest and had returned home determined to see something begin there. Following training and support from Prospects a group began and it has flourished ever since at Cornerstone Church. Hazel was a great encourager and she supported Pete through the early days of his involvement with Prospects and then Count Everyone In. She is now with Jesus but is greatly missed by many.



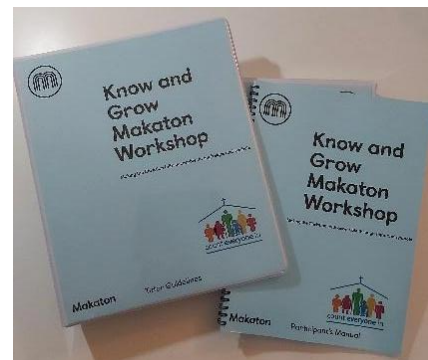
We are grateful to God for Hazel and for the family in setting up this giving page in her memory – see link. <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/RememberingHazelNorman>

**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!



## Training: Online and in-person

By the time you read this, you may be one of those fortunate enough to have participated in Janneke's very first Know and Grow Makaton workshops taking place online. Applications exceeded by far the availability of places so, if you missed out this time, keep an eye open for new dates as they are released. See the Diary Dates below, our social media pages and website: <https://www.counteveryonein.org.uk/events/>



We recognise that online workshops may be helpful for those who are unable to travel to face-to-face events, or who haven't been able to commit to a full day's training. For these reasons, and for others, we are exploring the idea of taking more of our training online. These will include taster sessions for church leaders that will not replace our face-to-face Know & Grow workshops but aim to inspire leaders to be more accessible and inclusive in their churches.

## Here is a reminder of the Know and Grow Workshops that we offer at present:

**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). This workshop was developed by Janneke Klos in partnership with TMC.

Would you and your church be interested in hosting any of these workshops?  
email: [bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk)

### Book here:

**Know and Grow Makaton in Reading - 18th April - [Know and Grow Makaton - Reading \(18-Apr-2026\) · CharitySuite Events](#)**

**Know and Grow Makaton (online) - 3 sessions: Wed 6th May, Wed 13th May & Wed 20th May - 6.30-9pm - [Know and Grow Makaton - Online \(06-May-2026\) · CharitySuite Events](#)**

**Know and Grow Makaton Longing to Belong - 9th May  
[Know and Grow Longing to Belong - Clevedon \(9-May-2026\) Charity Suite Events](#)**

**Know and Grow Makaton in King's Lynn (Terrington St Clement) - 27th June - [Know and Grow Makaton - King's Lynn \(27-Jun-2026\) · CharitySuite Events](#)**

or [bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk)

## Being Friends

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

\* Email [pete@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto: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. [Being a Friend also adds you to our monthly half hour prayer Zoom invitation list.](#)  
**Thank you**

Open to individuals,  
churches/groups.  
Further info from  
[pete@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:pete@counteveryonein.org.uk)  
☎ 07711 869810



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. We don't receive any funding apart from that of individuals and churches, and no contribution is too small. Thank you too, to all our anonymous givers; you know who you are!

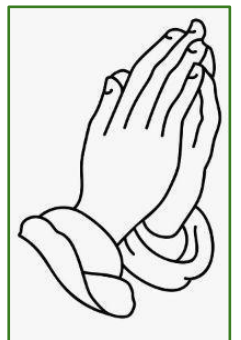
Donations to Count Everyone, regular or one-off, In may be made at <http://www.give.net/20280624> or directly into Metro Bank (business) account (Gift Aid form available on request)  
Sort code: 23 05 80 - Account no: 33248601



## Prayer

**Friends with Count Everyone In** Zoom prayer meetings continue on Thursday 26th February and we will send out the Zoom Links in due course. Here are some prayer points in the meantime:

1. Thank God for the publication of Psalms and reprint of the New Testament, both in the New International Readers Version (NIRV) accessible edition. Pray that they will enrich people in their faith and love for Jesus.
2. Pray for Spring Harvest, Spring Harvest Holidays (France) and the Keswick Convention as CEI teams are selected, and programmes and teaching are prepared
3. Pray for the development of new resources, including teaching plans for group use, online training sessions and a carers' pack
4. Pray for solutions to issues around health, finance, housing, employment and transport that affect many adults with learning disabilities



## Spring Harvest Holidays in partnership with CEI

### We've booked - how about you?

2026 is the 20<sup>th</sup> year since the first holiday in France for adults with learning disabilities. We offer a programme that runs alongside the main programme, with accessible worship, Bible teaching, art and craft, fun and friendship. Will you join us?

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

When? 1-8 June 2026

If your group/ family includes an adult with a learning disability you can obtain a 15% discount by quoting **EVERYONE** when you phone **01825 748318** to make your booking. See also [www.springharvestholidays.com/everyone](http://www.springharvestholidays.com/everyone)

Contact [info@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto: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.



## Resources

**At last! We now have copies of the newly reprinted New Testament and also Psalms, both NIV - Accessible Edition (softback).** We also have the CEI Psalms Devotions which was commissioned by Biblica some years ago to be published at the same time as Psalms itself. It consists of 20 sessions, each focusing on one psalm and using illustrations from the Psalms publication. Now, at long last, we can offer you both.



Here are comments received so far about Psalms:

**"Only £4 - that's a good price!"**

**"Requests from other church members who simply find Bible poetry difficult!"**

Contact us today for your copies.

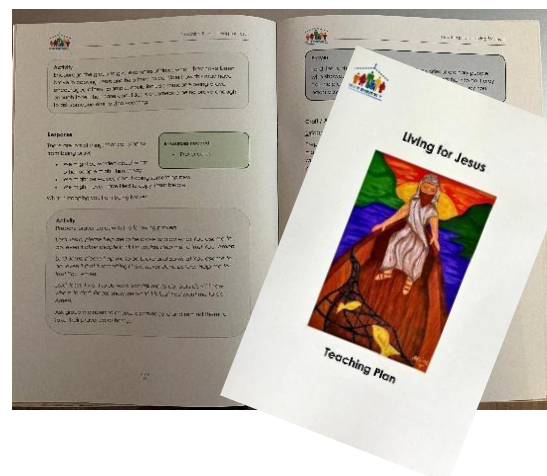
New Testament (soft back) - **£7.99 + p&p**

Psalms (soft back) - **£4.00 + p&p**

Psalms Devotions - **£4.50 + p&p**

**New resources:** Our latest teaching plan, 'Living for Jesus' is proving popular. It 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**

We are working on yet another teaching plan so watch out for that. Very soon we shall also have a Carers' Pack, to which many of you will have contributed. More on that next time!



**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](mailto:info@counteveryonein.org.uk) for a full list.

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

<b>Multiple dates</b>	<b>Know and Grow Makaton taster sessions with Through the Roof</b>
9 Feb	Surrey Prayer & Encouragement meeting
10 Feb	Yateley Causeway group
12 Feb	CEI Trustees' Meeting
24 Feb	Online Prayer & Encouragement group
26 Feb	CEI Friends Prayer Zoom
28 Feb	Ely Diocese Chaplaincy Training pt 2
1 Mar	Cornerstone Church, St Albans and CEI group
1 Mar	Open Praise, Crossways Community Church, Dorking
4 Mar	Filming (Makaton) with Worship for Everyone
14 Mar	Ely Diocese Chaplaincy Training pt 3
24 Mar	Reading groups Easter Celebration
26 Mar	CEI Friends Prayer Zoom
30 Mar – 3 Apr	Spring Harvest Skegness
6-10 Apr	Spring Harvest Minehead
18 Apr	Know and Grow Makaton - Wycliffe Baptist Church, Reading
19 Apr	St Mary's, Eversley
23 Apr	CEI Friends Prayer Zoom
6 May	Know and Grow Makaton pt 1 - Online
9 May	Know and Grow Longing to Belong – Kenn Road Methodist Church, Clevedon
13 May	Know and Grow Makaton pt 2 - Online
16 May	Know and Grow Makaton workshop – Midsomer Norton (no spaces available)
20 May	Know and Grow Makaton pt 3 - Online
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
27 Jun	Know and Grow Makaton – Terrington St Clement, King's Lynn
4 Jul	CEI Trustees' Meeting
12 Jul	Christ Church, Guildford
20 - 24 Jul	Keswick Convention week 1- CEI Celebration programme
18 Jul-1 Aug	Keswick Convention weeks 1 & 2 - exhibition and Seminars

**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' and 'Worship for Everyone' songs in your Church Copyright Licence (CCLI) reporting

**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, comment and share so that more people find out what is happening.**

**Every blessing,**

*Pete, Christine, Janneke and Bronwen*

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Janneke: [janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk](mailto:janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk)

[www.youtube.com/c/counteveryonein](http://www.youtube.com/c/counteveryonein)

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