

September 2026

From drought to rain

**But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength.
They will fly as high as eagles.
They will run and not get tired.
They will walk and not grow weak.**

Isaiah 40:3 (NirV)

It is perhaps an overused trope to describe the British, but those of us who live on this island do tend to discuss the weather an awful lot. And who can blame us, particularly at the moment, after having experienced the hottest summer since records began (according to the BBC)!

It has been a summer of heatwaves, one after another, and I certainly sighed in relief when I saw those first few raindrops falling not too long ago. I personally do not enjoy the heat and humidity that seem to accompany summer every year now, and neither do my plants. Despite my best efforts, my garden is looking very brown and withered- except for the pesky weeds!



I do think that perhaps sometimes our spiritual lives can also end up looking like our gardens at the end of a hot summer. Life's challenges, distractions, and sins can hinder our connection with God and leave us feeling like we're in a spiritual drought.

Let's take a good look at the way we're living. Let's return to the Lord.

Lamentations 3:40 (NirV)

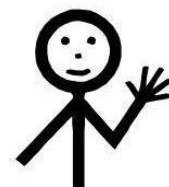
I view September as a sort of 'New Year': the children are back at school and we transition from summer into autumn. Could this also be the time for a transition in your spiritual life? Wherever we are in our walk with God, let us turn to Him in prayer and thanksgiving.

I pray that you will have spiritual renewal in your lives, whatever that looks like, and that you would know and trust God more fully and deeply.

Every blessing,

Becca

Welcome to any new readers who have joined us recently. Thank you for your interest, support, and prayer. 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!



Community News

On a wet and windy Tuesday in Minehead, I met Mim. Mim had joined the CEI Celebration at Spring Harvest, but the new environment, new people, and all the loud noises were overwhelming. Mim sat on the floor in the back of the room. The next day, Mim came back and this time she sat on the floor next to one of the CEI team members and she began to join in with the signing. This was the start of Mim's journey of learning how to communicate through signing. Mim shared with me later that learning to sign at Spring Harvest allowed her to worship Jesus for the first time in years.

This month, we want to celebrate the incredible story of how Jesus has used Makaton to make Himself known to Mim, and to so many others. Mim wrote a poem that beautifully illustrates the power of signing.

A poem by Mim Gibbons

Came home and cried
It's hard when you can't communicate
Trying desperately to explain what you need
But not being understood

Frustration sets in
Not because you're angry at them
But because you wish you could say what you needed
Just for today

Came home and cried
Was trying to tell you my shoes felt different
And that I was upset
But you said you don't understand what I'm saying
So I gave up and left

Tears running down my face
I can't communicate
I really wish I could

Come home in tears
Wishing I could talk
Wishing people could be in my shoes
If only for a little walk

Get more and more angry
Take it out on yourself at home
Wanting desperately to be understood
But I can't talk
Not even a tone

Being totally stressed out
By everything that's going on
I can't cope

Tears rushing down my face
Come home and hurt myself
Feeling like a disgrace

But I'm hopeful today
That one day someone will understand
When I can't talk
And I use my hands
They'll understand exactly what I need
What I'm trying to say

My face will light up
Because they know what I need
By me using my hands
Hoping that will happen one day

But for now I'll hope
People are learning and trying their best
Hoping one day I can be understood and rest
Knowing that people around me know what I'm trying to say
So I'll hold onto that hope just for that to happen some day

Friends Scheme Relaunch

On **15th September 2026** we will be relaunching our Friends Scheme with some exciting new updates!

If you or your church/group are a Friend with Count Everyone In, look out for our email which will give more information, including ways to connect, receive support and to access resources that will be **exclusively** for Friends.

If you have not already signed up to be a Friend (or you're not sure), this is a great time to do so! Please contact us at info@counteveryonein.org.uk. We will send you an information and application form telling you about the scheme in more detail.

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



Art still wanted!

We are working on our next CEI resource and we would like to include some artwork from our friends with learning disabilities. If you are an artist or just like drawing, please could you send some artwork in? We're looking for some art on the below Bible characters and stories:

- Hagar (Genesis 16:1-15)
- The fall of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-27)
- Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego in the fire (Daniel 3:16-30)
- Jesus walking on water (Mark 6:45-56)
- Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)
- Mary/lady with alabaster jar (John 12:1-8)
- Peter - breakfast on the beach (John 21:1-19)



Please email us a picture of your art: info@counteveryonein.org.uk, or alternatively you can send it by post. Thank you!

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

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

Know & Grow Life Matters (in-person) – supporting adults with learning disabilities as they face issues such as relationships, healing, mental health and bereavement

Know & Grow Makaton (in-person and online) – 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.

'How to Count Everyone In' (online) - an hour-long online session aimed specifically at people who are interested in finding out more about what an accessible church might look like.

Would you and your church be interested in hosting any of these workshops?

email: bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk

Click on the links below to book your place:

'How to Count Everyone In' – 14 September - online

[CEI Online Seminar- How To Count Everyone In \(14-Sep-2026\) · CharitySuite Events](#)

Know and Grow Longing to Belong – 19 September – Cramlington – (North East England)

[Know and Grow Longing to Belong - Cramlington \(19-Dec-2026\) · CharitySuite Events](#)

Know and Grow Makaton (online) - workshop delivered on Zoom across three sessions (6.30-9pm) on 21st Sep, 28th Sep, and 5th Oct.

[Know and Grow Makaton - Online \(21-Sep-2026\) · CharitySuite Events](#)

Know and Grow Life Matters in Melksham – 3rd October

[Know and Grow Life Matters - Melksham \(03-Oct-2026\) · CharitySuite Events](#)

or email bookings@counteveryonein.org.uk

More Makaton training? Have you ever thought about it?

Did you know that Janneke also runs Generic Makaton workshops? She generally runs workshops across three weekday evenings. Workshops are priced at £85 per person. Keep an eye on the newsletter for workshop dates in the autumn/winter 2026.

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. We do not 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 In, regular or one-off, 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 points

1. Give thanks for holidays, rest, relaxation, fun and laughter
2. A new term and a fresh start for many groups: pray for good beginnings and steady growth, numerically and spiritually
3. Pray for new leaders and team members to emerge and to develop into their new roles (CEI can support with training)
4. Pray for the Holy Spirit's help in planning of programmes and teaching materials
5. Pray for guidance, inspiration, energy and safety for the CEI team as we plan and work our way through the next few months



Regional Focus

A few months ago, we prayed for development in the North of England. We now have a Know and Grow Longing to Belong workshop booked for 19th September in Cramlington, in the far North East of England! Please pray and share.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources including a New Testament and Psalms, both NlrV - Accessible Edition (softback). Please contact info@counteveryonein.org.uk for more information.

'Just wanted to say what a blessing the NlrV accessible edition Psalms & New Testaments are.

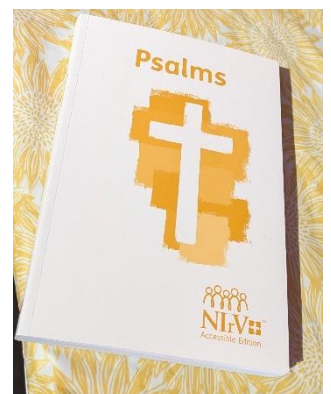
We've been using them every day since Keswick convention (unless the reading in our devotional is from the OT) and Ben is loving that he can read the Bible himself.

I've attached a couple of photos of him enjoying the sunshine while we have some devotional time.

These Bibles are a great resource!

God bless

Debbie (and Ben)'



Diary dates – please note that the CEI team normally meets on Thursdays

27 Aug	Prayer Zoom meeting
14 Sep	How to Count Everyone In online Seminar
19 Sep	Know & Grow Longing to Belong, Cramlington (North East)
21, 28 Sep & 5 Oct	Know & Grow Makaton online
3 Oct	Know & Grow Life Matters, Queensway Chapel, Melksham
10 Oct	Alive Together, Chessington
11 Oct	Fenland Community Church, March
14-15 Oct	Christian Resources Exhibition – Sandown Park, Esher
17 Oct	CEI Trustee Meeting
22 Oct	Prayer Zoom Meeting
7 Nov	CEI Vision and Leadership Conference
9 Nov	How to Count Everyone In online Seminar
15 Nov	Fenland Community Church, March
26 Nov	Prayer Zoom Meeting
6 Dec	CEI – Christmas Celebration, St Nics, Newbury and online

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 and you can also keep up with us on Facebook, X, & Instagram. **Please Follow, Like, Comment, and Share so that more people find out about CEI.**

Every blessing,

Pete, Christine, Janneke, and Becca

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