

October 2026

Masterpieces

For we are God's handiwork [masterpiece], created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.



Ephesians 2:10 (NirV)

In January I decided that I wanted 2026 to be a year in which I learnt a new skill, so I signed up for painting classes. I have dabbled in painting and paper craft ever since I was a little girl, but I never felt I was good enough to even take lessons. But at the beginning of the year I gave myself a good talking to, and decided that I'm only going to improve my skills by learning and practising properly. So, nine months later I am knee deep in colour theory, perspective, and learning how to use my paint brush. It's not easy, and there have been many times when I have wanted to throw my sketchbook out of the window. But, I am persevering!

Over the summer I spent a couple of days in London, and I visited the National Gallery. Amazingly, I found myself completely on my own in the room with famous paintings by Constable and Turner. I had the chance to spend time really looking at the paintings and marvel at the brushstrokes and sheer artistry of those painters. When I got back home, I felt inspired to create my own painting. I was a little daunted by a whole landscape painting, so I tried to capture an acorn instead (I know, not quite in the same league as the great masters!). The finished painting is by no means a masterpiece, but I can definitely see that what I've been learning is evident in my painting.



In Ephesians 2:10, Paul writes that we are God's masterpiece (some translations say 'handiwork'). When a painter - whether a beginner like myself, or a famous painter like Turner - creates a masterpiece, there will always be plenty of brushstrokes that are wrong, colours that become muddy, and areas that need to be painted over and started again. And even when a painter finishes their painting, their opinion of the work may not suggest that it's a masterpiece at all. Painters see all of the flaws, all of the mistakes, and all of the ways in which they could have made the painting better - even if no one else sees that.

God is different. When He creates a masterpiece, he doesn't need to practise or take lessons. God doesn't make wrong brushstrokes. God doesn't mix muddy colours. God doesn't make mistakes. We are God's masterpiece. Each one of us. Each one of us created without mistakes, exactly how the Creator intended.

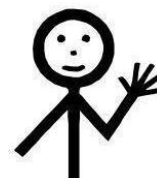
Today, I encourage you to look at yourself in the mirror and say it out loud: "I am God's masterpiece." It might feel uncomfortable. You may not even believe it. But it's the truth. And then I encourage you to look at other people and say the same thing. "You are God's masterpiece." The people that we love are God's masterpiece. And the people whom we struggle to love are His masterpiece, too. That can also be uncomfortable. But it's the truth.

Friends, let's remember, in this age of division and 'othering', that each one of us has been created by God. We are made in His image. We are His masterpiece.

Every blessing,

Janneke

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!



Friends Scheme Relaunch

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

If you or your church/group are a Friend with Count Everyone In, you will have been given more information, including ways to connect, receive support and how to access resources that will be **exclusively** for Friends.

If you have not already signed up to be a Friend, you're not sure or didn't receive that email, 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

Friends with



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. Thank you so much to those of you who have submitted some absolutely wonderful art work! But there is still time, and there still are some stories or Bible characters we need some art for. So, if you are an artist or just like drawing, and would like to send us one of your pictures, please let us know!

- Hagar (Genesis 16:1-15)
- The fall of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-27)
- Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego in the fire (Daniel 3:16-30)
- Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)
- Mary/lady with alabaster jar (John 12:1-8)
- Peter - breakfast on the beach (John 21:1-19)
- Martha (Luke 10:38-42)



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

Christmas Celebration 2026

It's only October but.... we'd hate you to miss out on one of Count Everyone In's most popular events of the year. Why not put it in your diary now?

Christmas Celebration - join in person or by livestream

Sunday 6 December at 6:00 - 7:15pm

St Nicolas' Church, Newbury RG14 5HG

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' online seminar - 9th November

[CEI Online Seminar- How To Count Everyone In \(09-Nov-2026\) · CharitySuite Events](#)

Know and Grow Makaton (online) - 6th, 13th & 20th January 2027

[Know and Grow Makaton - Online \(06-Jan-2027\) · CharitySuite Events](#)

Know and Grow Makaton (online) - 27th Feb & 6th Mar 2027

[Know and Grow Makaton - Online \(27-Feb-2027\) · 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, both online and in-person? She generally runs online workshops across three weekday evenings, and in-person workshops on Saturdays in the Portsmouth area. Workshops are priced at £90 per person.

Saturday 16th January 2026 - In-person Level 1 workshop in Portsmouth.

Contact Janneke at Janneke@counteveryonein.org.uk for more information.

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

- Prayer of thanks for the success of the How to Count Everyone In seminar earlier this month, and prayer that the seeds that were sown during the session will grow
- Prayer for the continual development of CEI training (including new workshops and the development of online training) as well as opportunities to deliver more in-person training days
- Prayer for conversations with partner agencies
- Prayer for Core Team's planning of work for the autumn/winter season

Regional Focus

- Greater London



Resources

Did you know that we have a wide range of resources including a New Testament and Psalms, both Nlrv - Accessible Edition (softback)?

'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.'

'These Bibles are a great resource.'

Please contact info@counteveryonein.org.uk for more information.



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

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
12 Nov	Spring Harvest Prep Day
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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