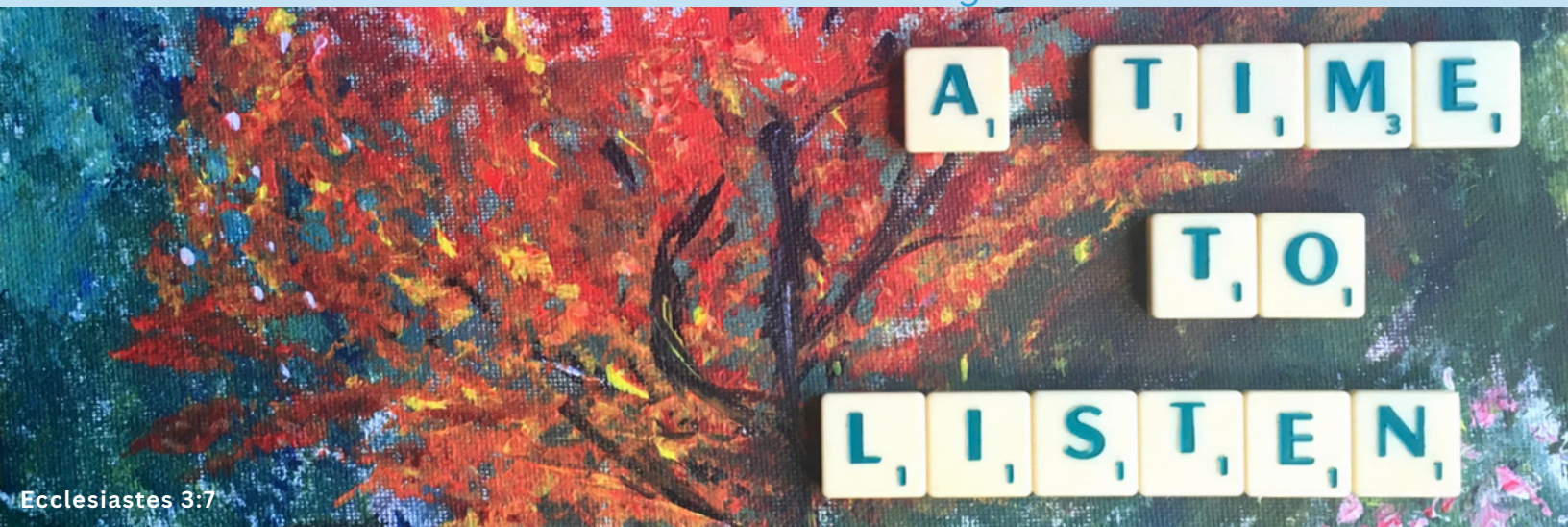


Listen up!

Newsletter for the [niscu](http://www.niscu.org.uk) listening service



Hello and welcome to our Autumn Newsletter!

EXCITING NEWS



Although the 1-2-1 Listening Service is such a great tool for actively demonstrating the love of God, the out-working of the service often seems to be quite a battle and it can feel like, "One step forward and two (or more!) steps backwards!"

I have now been in post for just over a year and it has been pointed out to me that all other NISCU areas and schools workers have a 'Support Group'.

These groups support the local schools workers in discussing strategy and, most importantly, by praying for them and the work they are doing. I believe, along with Nick and the trustees, that if I had this sort of support, many of the frustrations that occur would be more readily overcome with prayer support.

So, I am now in the process of establishing a support group and looking forward to reporting new breakthroughs in the Spring 2023 newsletter.

Comments from the chalkboard

"We take this opportunity to thank you so much for all that you have brought to our school this past term. You have gifted to our children that listening ear to feel seen, heard and valued albeit for a short time but a time that makes a big difference. We, as educators, do not have enough hours in the day to sit and give all our children the attention they deserve but your presence is greatly appreciated by us all."

Learning Mentor, Morecambe School

"It's great that there's someone to talk to and we can read or talk to someone about anything."
Pupil

"It makes me feel good as I get someone to talk to."
Pupil

What's been happening this term ...



- The 1-2-1 Listening Service in Cockermouth (West Cumbria area) and Morecambe (North Lancs area) continues to go well. There has been positive feedback from the staff, the volunteers and the pupils. It is so encouraging when the children come up to you and enthusiastically ask, "When is it my turn to come and talk to you?"
- As seems to be 'par for the course' with the 1-2-1 Listening Service, there were unforeseen delays to the proposed training in South Lakes, mentioned in the Summer newsletter, but Nick, Diana (S. Lakes schools' worker) and I had a great evening at The Lakes Christian Centre, talking about NISCU in general and the 1-2-1 Listening Service specifically. New volunteers have signed up to do the training in the new year - which anyone can join if they are happy to travel to Windermere!
- We have 2 new volunteers looking at doing the 1-2-1 Listening Service in a secondary school in North Lancs.
- Amanda (NISCU Finance Administrator) and I had a very productive meeting with Ivan from the Kendal Foodbank, getting very helpful advice with regard to future funding applications.

Personal News

Some of you may know that my younger brother died suddenly in mid October.

It was a great shock and a huge loss to all my family. I was so thankful to be working for a Christian organisation like NISCU, as knowing my colleagues were praying for my family and me was a huge comfort. But it did mean that I was on Compassionate Leave, which has caused some of the developments of the 1-2-1 Listening Service to be put on hold for a short period.



Other Events and News

South Lakes Training At the time of writing the timing for the training in South Lakes is yet to be confirmed BUT provisionally it will be on the 28th January and the 11th February at The Mission, Park Road, Windermere LA23 2BG . If you would like to take part in these sessions, please contact me at jane.callow@niscu.org.uk or on 07718768548.



It costs £15 for Session 1 and £10 for Session 2, but you will be equipped to listen for life, in any context, not just schools!

To follow all our news, and for up to date information about volunteer events and training visit www.niscu.org.uk/121listening

Prayer Points

Please thank God for:

- The fact that He is with us as we continue to work to establish the 1-2-1 Listening Service.
- The continuing commitment, passion and positivity of our volunteers.
- The continuing positive feedback from schools and their pupils.
- The new volunteers in N. Lancs and S. Lakes.

Please pray for:

- Open doors into schools, especially secondary schools in North and West Cumbria.
- More volunteers to see the need in their area and train as listeners.
- The Heads, staff and pupils of the schools in your area as they work towards the end of term and the Christmas holidays, for health and stamina, and for something of the real meaning of Christmas to penetrate through the all busy activities.
- The new 1-2-1 Support Group to gel quickly and be a driving force behind the 1-2-1 Listening Service.
- I would also personally appreciate your prayers for my family as we face our first Christmas without Ed.



“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”
Matthew 1:23 (NLT)

Get involved - The 1-2-1 Listening Needs You!



You can get involved by:

1. Becoming a prayer partner and praying for the on-going roll out of the Listening Service. (sign up for our newsletter and prayer requests by emailing jane.callow@niscu.org.uk with 'sign me up' as the subject to the email).
2. Get trained as an 'effective listener' and volunteer as a listener to meet the need in a school near you.
3. Promote the 1-2-1 Listening Service in your church and get people to sign up to receive future newsletters about the listening needs across our NISCU areas.
4. By giving financially to the work, either online via the website (Please designate any donations 'Listening Service') or by cheque (payable to NISCU) posted to Jane Callow, 1-2-1 Listening Service, NISCU, 57, Lancaster Road, Carnforth LA5 9LE.

Thank you from all the listening team.

niscu
Northern Inter Schools Christian Union

We believe every child and young person has a right to hear about the good news of Jesus - that there is a God who truly cares for them, as written in John 3:16.



For more information or to join in any of the above, please contact me, either by email to jane.callow@niscu.org.uk or give me a call or a text on 0771 8768548.