

# Listen up!

Newsletter for the [niscu](#)  Listening service

## SPRING

a time to blossom and grow

## Hello and welcome to our Spring Newsletter!



I'm so pleased to say that the spring term has been a term of growth and breakthroughs for the Listening Service - and so busy that I haven't had time to write the Spring Newsletter until the end of the spring term! Please read on to find out about all that's been happening and to inform your prayers for the 1-2-1 Listening Service, as it's only through prayer that NISCU's Listening Service will be an effective force for good.

Fantastic course, has given me listening skills for other things, too, e.g., youth club, church and work.

Comments from our recent training sessions in South Lakes ...

Thank you, it's been a really helpful training.

Excellent - can't believe how good it was and fun, too!

At the start of the day, I thought how can 'just listening' make a difference, now...seeing how it enables people to make their own solutions and empowers them, I can see 'just listening' is an amazing tool.

Brilliant ideas and skills - the way it was delivered and the role play.

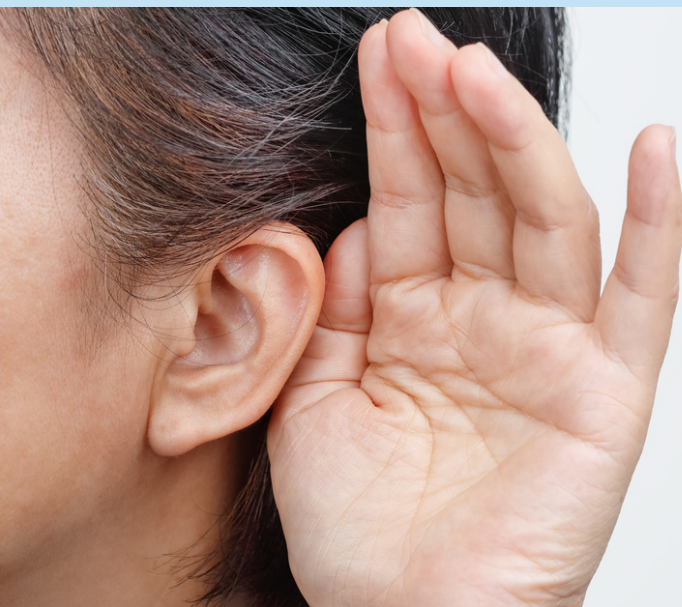
Came not expecting to go further but now def "on" - well done.

# What's been happening this term ...

- I now have a Support Group and it has given me such a boost to know there is group of people, standing with me and supporting me in 'thought and word and deed'. I am certain it is no coincidence that this last term feels like the most fruitful so far.
- We have moved to 'At a Loss' as our 'umbrella organisation' for the 1-2-1 Listening Service and Nick and Pete (from At a Loss) have compiled the new training programme, for which Nick has produced some fantastic training materials - it's now worth coming on the training just to get the participant booklets!
- These new materials were used for the first time at the South Lakes 1-2-1 Listening Service Training, where 23 participants completed Session 1 and 12 went on to complete Session 2. (comments below)
- As a result of attending the training, Ruth (NISCU Schools' worker) is looking to run the training in her church in N. Cumbria.
- Cathy (NISCU volunteer S. Lakes) and I had a very positive visit to a school in Windermere, discussing the establishment of a Listening Service in the summer term, and we have 2 more schools lined up for initial visits.
- I had a productive meeting with Laura Watson (Deputy Director of Education, Carlisle Diocese) and Ruth Houston (NISCU Trustee) regarding the deployment of the Listening Service within the Diocese and I will be speaking at a Headteachers' networking event on 24th May.
- As a result of the above meeting, our 2 patient, as yet unplaced volunteers from West Cumbria may have found a school.
- Training is taking place in N. Lancs early in the summer term (details below)
- I met with the pastoral lead of a secondary school in N. Lancs who are desperately keen to have the Listening Service re-established in their school.



## Other Events and News



### Listening Training -

Come and be trained in 'Listening Skills', and be equipped to listen for life, in any context, not just schools!

Training will be happening at

The Centre, St Thomas' Church, Marton Street, Lancaster LA1 1XX.

Session 1- Saturday 22nd April -10am - 2:30pm - Listening Effectively

Session 2- Saturday 13th May -10am - 2:45pm - Applied Listening in a Schools Context

Registration and coffee from 9:30am on both days. If you would like to take part in these sessions, please contact me at

[jane.callow@niscu.org.uk](mailto:jane.callow@niscu.org.uk) or on 0771 8768548.

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

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# Prayer Points

Thank God for:

- The new 1-2-1 Listening Support Group, the fruitful support it's giving to me and the development of the 1-2-1 Listening Service
- The relationship with 'At a Loss' and the successful production of the new training materials
- The new volunteers as a result of the training sessions in S. Lakes

Please pray for:

- The successful placement of the 1-2-1 volunteers in S. Lakes by Summer half term
- The training in N. Lancs (22nd April and 13th May)
- The successful placement of new volunteers from the N. Lancs training, ideally before the end of the summer term but definitely ready for the new school year in September
- Favour for the 1-2-1 Listening Services grant funding application when applications are considered on 9th May
- My time management as the work grows



Read the devotion here...

[www.niscu.org.uk/devotional](http://www.niscu.org.uk/devotional)

And join us online on Tuesday  
2nd May at 7:30pm to pray  
for the work of listening  
services

Want zoom details???

email [jane.callow@niscu.org.uk](mailto:jane.callow@niscu.org.uk)

## Financial News

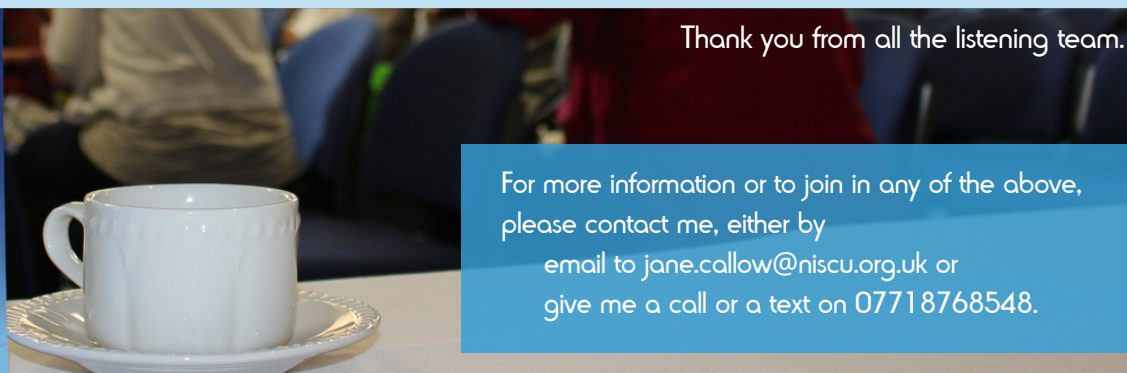


Funding is in place for the 1-2-1 Listening Service for 3 years from when I was appointed in September 2021. We are now half way through that period - time flies! The need for the 1-2-1 Listening Service is definitely growing. In order to maintain and develop our provision across all of the NISCU areas, funding must be found for us to go beyond the initial 3 year period. To this end, Amanda, Nick and I have submitted an application to 'Cumbria Community Foundation' and we will be looking to other funding and grant-making organisations. The Cumbria Community Foundation panel will be making decisions on 9th May - please pray for favour on our application. Thank you.

## 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](mailto: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 schools 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.

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

NORTHERN INTER SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN UNION

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