

# Listen up!

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

SPRING -  
A time to look for new growth!

## Hello and welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

We remain in challenging times in the life of the 1-2-1 Listening Service, as we have still not had any successful funding bids and our options, concerning pots to apply to, are decreasing. This means, as things currently stand, the Listening Service will have to operate differently from September 2024. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair." (2 Cor 4:7-8 NIV) The Listening Service is a great way for us to take this "treasure in [our] jars of clay" into schools but, God knows what He is doing and the Listening Service is His so, we may be perplexed but we still, and always will, have hope!

## Spring Update

- The service continues being a valued part of school life in All Saints CE Primary School, W. Cumbria; West End Primary and Bay Leadership Academy in N. Lancs; and St Martin and St Mary's CE Primary and The Lakes School in S. Lakes.
- Since June 2022 volunteers have provided over 1800 listening sessions!
- We had a most encouraging turn out (38) for Day 1 of the Listening Training at Holy Trinity Bolton-le-Sands in March - and some attendees have already signed up for Day 2 in June. This means we should have more listeners ready to go into more schools in September.
- To date, 9 funding applications have been submitted, of which 7 have been rejected and 2 are still awaiting a response.



# A GP's Perspective on The Power of Listening

*Have you ever been truly listened to?*

It can be a powerful experience for someone to really see you and give you space to share what is on your heart. Listening has been described as giving someone psychological oxygen; it gives space to breathe and it can bring healing.

I work as a GP in the North West of England. Around 8 years ago I became aware that many patients were struggling with issues such as bereavement, relationship issues and stress at work. I felt that if I could spend more time with them listening to them it would help them but unfortunately with the pressures of the NHS, I often didn't have the time I felt they needed. I decided to contact a local Church Minister and asked him to set up a Listening Service in the practice which has been transformational as we see our clinicians working with the Listeners to provide whole person care.



Listening brings blessing in several ways. At its heart it is about saying "I'm here for you". I like to call this then Ministry of Presence. To give your time to be with someone, to see them and to listen to them is therapeutic and it ministers God's love and healing to them. I once had a patient who was struggling with the after effects of a stroke. She came to see me several times in distress but in our brief encounters wasn't able to help her move on. I signposted her to our practice listening service and she spent an hour pouring her heart out to the listener about the Impact the stroke had had on her life. I asked her how it went and she said that something clicked, like a weight being lifted off her shoulders, and she felt able to move on with a sense of peace.

I had another patient who bumped into one of our listeners in the supermarket saying...

*"You listened to me last year and it saved my life!"*

This is the impact listening can have and the great thing is that the therapeutic listening can be learned. NISCU have delivered some brilliant listening training in our church. The course helps people understand how to give people space to speak, how to ask reflective questions that help move them along and draw meaning out of what is spoken.

Listening is a way the Church can bless our communities in GP surgeries, schools and other places of work and NISCU are doing great work in providing volunteer listeners to schools. Christians sometime feel listening isn't active enough to be missional but this couldn't be further from the truth. When a Christian listens to a person, Jesus is also there by His Spirit, working in deeper ways we often cannot see. 1 John 4:7 says "let us love one another for love comes from God". To listen is to minister God's love - what could be more missional than that! I would encourage everyone to consider listening training as a tool for ministering the healing and love of Jesus to those around you.

Dr Paul Wadeson

## WEEK OF VISION AND PRAYER MAY 6TH - MAY 12TH 2024

Join us to pray for the work of NISCU and the 1-2-1 Listening Service:

- Windermere Wednesday 8th May;
- Morecambe Friday am 10th May;
- W. Cumbria TBC

Want to join us?

For more information visit:

[www.niscu.org.uk/prayer](http://www.niscu.org.uk/prayer)  
or email [jane.callow@niscu.org.uk](mailto:jane.callow@niscu.org.uk)

# Prayer Points

Do not be anxious about anything,

but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:6-7 NIV)

Please thank God for:

- Our fantastic volunteers who are doing such a great job listening in our schools.
- The value and success of the 1-2-1 Listening Service in the schools in which it is currently operating.
- The support of my proofreaders when doing funding applications.
- The big turn out at the Day 1 Training at Holy Trinity, Bolton-le-Sands - 38 attendees - and the positive feedback received.
- The on-going encouragement and backing of the 1-2-1 Listening Service Support Group and the way they support me in prayer and developing strategy.

Please pray for:

- **FUNDING!!** As things currently stand, the Listening Service will not continue in its current format beyond August 2024, so please pray for favour in funding for the Listening Service.
- For wisdom for the SMT and Trustees as they consider the way forward for the Listening Service.
- For maintained high level of attendance at Day 2 training at Holy Trinity, Bolton-le-Sands,
- For the new batch of volunteers coming out of Day 2 training to be placed in schools quickly and efficiently, so they are ready to start listening in September.

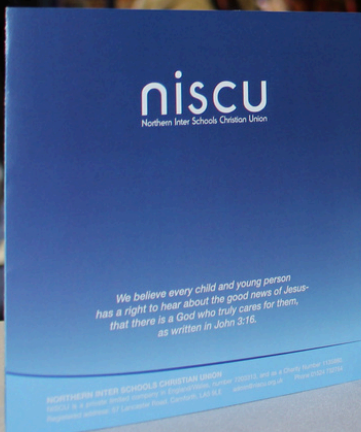
## Get involved - The 1-2-1 Listening Needs You!



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 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.



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 07718768548.