

Summer 2025

niscu

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Listen up

NEWSLETTER FOR THE

 Listening
SERVICE





Pruning For Growth

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”

(John 15:1-2 NIV biblegateway.com)

This time last year, to be honest, I had a sense of disappointment and frustration as I had not managed to secure enough funding to maintain the hours of the Listening Service Manager, so the hours were being halved from 16 to 8 per week and the role changed.

Yet, although progress had been slow, I could see the service was bearing fruit and I so wanted that to continue. Now with the ‘wisdom of hindsight,’ I can see that God was putting the above verse into action; as with a pruning of hours the Listening Service has actually expanded further and is currently the most fruitful it has been.

Even when we are sometimes left scratching our heads and wondering what is going on, how good it is to serve a God whose ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:9) and always knows exactly what He is doing!

Training

Listening Training Opportunities in the Autumn Term:

Craven (Ingleton) - Day 1 - Wednesday 24th September

N. Lancs - Day 2 - Saturday 4th October

Craven (Ingleton) - Day 2 - Thursday 8th October (tbc)

S. Lakes - Day 1 (tbc)...let us know if you are interested!

West Cumbria - Day 1 (tbc)...again let us know if you are interested!

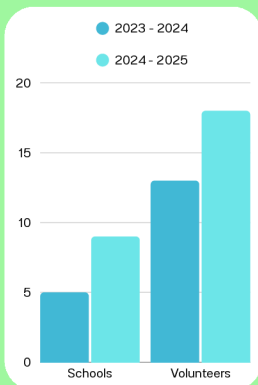
Remember, you can attend training in a different area to where you live, if the date is more convenient

For more information email jane.callow@niscu.org.uk.

Please
continue
to pray for
our training
sessions!

Review

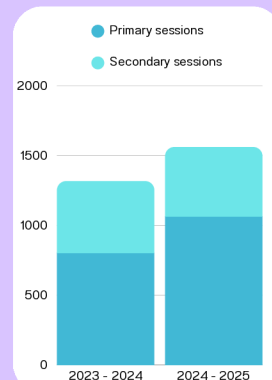
2024-2025



It took 3 years for the Listening Service to be active in 5 schools but this last year, the number of schools we are involved with has almost doubled to 9.

Our active volunteers have increased from 13 to 18.

the number of Listening Sessions completed has increased from 1317 to 1561...



...and this last year we have listened to 209 individual pupils (Sept 24- July25). That is 209 lives that have had a little taste of the love of God through being given an opportunity to feel heard and seen during a listening session.

209

New for September 25

Schools:

In September the service will go live when 4 new volunteers start listening in 2 new schools, one in North Lancs. and one in West Cumbria.

Liaison is also underway with the Heads/Pastoral Leads of 2 other schools, with a view to the service going 'live' in the 1st half of the autumn term 2025. God was definitely "pruning for growth!"

Volunteers:

Rachel is a new volunteer in North Lancs who is about to start her listening in school next week...we asked her **'If you could say in five simple words how do you feel about going in to school next week to listen, what would those words be?'**

Excited
to meet the children

Will I be
prepared?

Some
responsibility
on me to make it work

A little bit
unsure
because I don't know
what will happen

Uncertain
about how the children
will respond to me



Please pray
for the
new volunteers
starting in
schools in
September

Impact

How do we know we have an impact?

The responses from staff and pupils let us know the reality of the impact that the Listening Service has – read the following quotes and rejoice!

Quotes from Schools Staff:



"They [the listeners] are being very well received by the children and I think it will support them through the one-year anniversary in September. We are incredibly grateful for all of the support you have provided us during what has been an incredibly challenging year for us all. Thank you again and we look forward to continuing working with NISCU in the next academic year."
(W. Cumbria Primary School)

"We have the volunteers Barbara and Pam, who the children absolutely love. We have found them dedicated, patient and professional. The children look forward to seeing them and it has been very helpful for the children. The children have benefitted from one-to-one care and support. The volunteers always report any concerns or comments we may need to be aware about. This has been invaluable in providing good pastoral care for our children."
(N. Lancs Primary School)

Quotes from Pupils:

"My mum says she's seen an improvement in my behaviour since I've had the listening service. It's because I get to talk about the things that I'm interested in when often my parents are too busy to listen."
(Y7 pupil)

"It's great that there's someone to talk to and we can read or talk to someone about anything."
(Y4 pupil)

"Nothing's actually changed in that all the things I've talked about are still there, but I feel better that it's all not just in my head anymore, it's out there now, yeah, I feel better for that."
(Y9 pupil)

"I feel better having got that off my chest!"
(Y8 pupil)



Prayer Points

Thanks for:

- God's faithfulness at all times
- Our volunteers in all the schools
- The expansion of the service
- Positive feedback from schools - and supportive school staff
- Nick and NISCU SMT team, who carry so much 'behind the scenes'

Pray for:

- All the volunteers, new and old starting again in schools
- Expansion of the Listening Service into more schools
- How we help Church congregations to see the massive opportunity that Listening Services presents for people to be equipped to help meet needs within their communities - to show their "*treasure in a jar of clay*"
- Wisdom for Nick and Jane in moving things forward



You can get involved by:

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

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.



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 07718768548.