

Update from the Project Team 30th October 2023

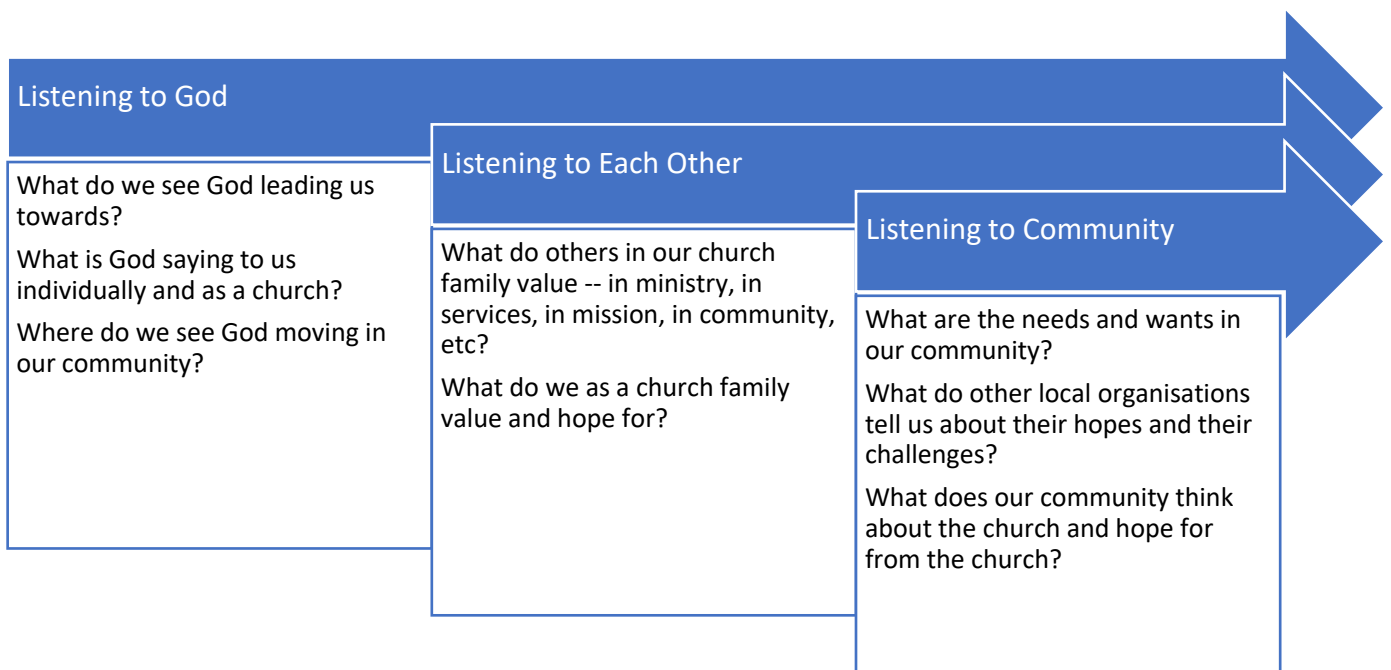
The project team has met several times over the last few months and members of the team have met with diocesan officers and advisors on topics such as faculties, projects, funding, and heating.

The most recent meeting was with the diocesan heating advisor. The key takeaway from that meeting was to start with how you use and want to use the building and the advisor will help with formulating a heating strategy based on the need. Jeff then conducted two site visits – Christ Church Cockermouth and Keswick Methodist Church – to explore how different churches have dealt with heating costs and reordering, which he presented to the team in our last meeting.

There was a wide discussion during the meeting and a decision to bring to the PCC a proposal for how to proceed with the project.

Long term: We are proposing to begin with listening in 3 phases (2 & 3 in parallel).

1. From now until Easter, a focused time of exploration through prayer, listening to what God might be saying about where he is leading us. We would expect this to include a special prayer during services and perhaps questions, thoughts, or reflections that people might take home and use during the week.



2. From Easter until September, a period of listening to each other (2) and the broader community (3). We propose creating two teams, one to consult with the community and one to help us hear from each other well. We want to encourage people that no idea is a bad one and we want people to feel free to express their opinions. This may involve surveys and consultations that will help us to understand needs and hopes while also providing data for use in grant applications going forward.

From September, work with the appropriate specialists to develop potential options that will take into account our needs and hopes in a way that is faithful to what we believe God is drawing us towards.

Unfortunately, this timeline indicates we may need a short (this winter) and, potentially, a medium term (1-3 year) solution to cost of heating in winter. We had some discussion about options seen in other churches such as tenting or use of church halls, but felt that this needs to be a PCC discussion and would become more clear as the winter heating costs and church giving changes are seen.