Listening from the Heart is a programme devised by the Parents Circle, an organisation, founded in 1995, which brings together Israelis and Palestinians who have been bereaved in the course of the conflict. Having made their own journey to reconciliation and a commitment to working together for a just peace, they go in pairs to share their stories in schools, colleges, communities and faith groups in order to convince people that another way is possible.

The Listening from the Heart programme gives access to video recordings of 3 such dialogues together with material which challenges us: to examine our own barriers to listening to people who have opposing viewpoints to ourselves; and to gain some understanding of what lies beneath our initial emotional responses.

The programme enables us to have a dialogue about a situation so important to us as Christians and yet which many find difficult to broach. Most importantly it brings hope to a situation where there often seems no hope and also provides us with the tools to negotiate potential conflict situations in our own parishes and communities.

The diocese has a licence for 10 parishes/partnerships to access the programme which can potentially be run as in person sessions or online.

If your parish or partnership would like to run the programme apply to: Fr Adrian Tuckwell evcaritas@diocesehn.org.uk.

Pat Devlin & Jonathan Adams, who ran the launch session at the J&P AGM, are happy to offer support to groups who plan to run the programme either in person or electronically, drawing on their training for and experience in the West Bank. They are willing to share the PowerPoint used at the launch session along with summaries of the background to the conflict and the Parents Circle and are happy to provide any other kind of support which may be useful.

For further info contact: patdev48@btinternet.com.