



We Are

# COOKE CHURCH

Reaching Out | Engaging | Growing

**Glory to God in the  
highest heaven,  
and peace on earth  
to those with whom  
he is pleased!**

Luke 2:14

Winter 2022

[www.cooke.church](http://www.cooke.church)

# COOKE FOOD STORE

Our Foodstore ministry continues, providing help to Women's Aid, asylum Seekers and local people in our community. Since January 2022, we have distributed over 370 food hampers with the very generous support of our fellow churches at St John's Newtownbreda, Ballynaveigh Methodist and Good Shepherd/Holy Rosary.

We have expanded our food mission to assist a church plant in North Belfast and hope to bring a little festive cheer to all our customers with our Christmas Food Hampers, helped very generously by our own 'Little Cookes'.

Demand has grown considerably in the last year and we expect this to continue. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this work in the last year.

## A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

It is miraculous how our earth tilts on its axis to flip the seasons. As we approach the winter solstice the Ormeau Road is positioned farthest from the sun, from its heat and light. That's why advent is so incredible. It is the anticipation of the coming of the Son (Jesus) in all his radiance but also his immediacy. The word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one of a kind glory, like Father, like Son. (John 1:14)

Warmth and intimacy have characterised the past months at Cooke, despite the chill and gloom. In November we launched our Cosy Hubs in partnership with the churches and community groups of Ballynaveigh. It has been brilliant to welcome and chat over soup and coffee many friends and neighbours of all ages and backgrounds. I warmly invite you to come join the many wonderful people including the 'crafty ladies' of the knitting group and get it in your diary for coming Tuesdays. The illumination of the church with lights inside and out is beautiful, mirroring the illumination of Sunday nights' Alpha Course - a joyful journey towards a deeper experience of God in our lives for all who came along, with fabulous desserts and growing friendships. I have loved the life around the halls as Tots' Café has restarted, and the on-going ministry of Carol and her team in the FoodStore, but I have even more loved the stories of lives touched and hope rekindled that go hand in hand with this ministry.

There is joy every Sunday morning in the Manse at 10 with the amazing teens of Bible Class. It is so encouraging to see them arrive in church and fill the side pews and then to join the Little Cookes team in ministering to our younger kids.

Over Advent I'm looking forward to celebrating together. We are journeying towards Christmas with a series called great expectations....great expectations of fun and community, but also great expectations of God at work in us and through us. Despite the narrative of crises and darkness there is so much to be thankful for as Immanuel comes among us and remains with us.

I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and can't wait to continue in the Cooke adventures ahead together in 2023.

*Dave*



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CHURCH**  
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# CHRISTMAS AT COOKE

**FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER - 7PM**

Santa's Party

**SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER - 11AM**

Toy Sunday

**SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER - 2-5PM**

Children's Christmas Fun Day

**SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER - 11AM**

All Age Service

**SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER - 7PM**

Carols by Candlelight

**SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER - 10:30AM**

Christmas Morning Service



SCAN ME

**COOKE  
CHURCH**  
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JOIN US FOR A

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FUN DAY

**10  
DECEMBER  
2-5PM**

PRIMARY SCHOOL  
AGED CHILDREN

£10 FOR FIRST CHILD  
£5 FOR EVERY SIBLING THEREAFTER

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[WWW.COOKE.CHURCH](http://WWW.COOKE.CHURCH)





COOKE CENTENARY CHURCH

PRESENTS

ANTONY

AND

CLEOPATRA

THE PANTOMIME

FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2023

7:30PM

SATURDAY 21ST JANUARY 2023

2:30PM & 7:30PM

ADULTS: £10 | CHILDREN: £5

TICKETS ON SALE SOON!

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CHURCH**

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COOKE CENTENARY CHURCH HALL

11 PARK ROAD

BELFAST

BT7 2FW

## A Thank You

My family and I would like to pass on our sincerest thanks to everyone in Cooke for their thoughts, prayers, kindness and condolences to us during the past months. It has been, and continues to be, a great source of strength and comfort to be part of such a caring church family.

From Jennifer and all the family members, near and far.

May God bless each and every one of you.

## Calling all volunteers

A number of new activities have been launched and more are planned in early 2023. We would love to widen our pool of volunteers so that we have teams to help with some of these new activities, as well as to support those already in place.

If you can help in any way, please fill in one of the Volunteer sheets and return it to the box in the Reception Area.

Please speak to Dave or Elaine if you would like more information.

## Griefshare - Surviving the Holidays

Surviving the Holidays is an afternoon event to help those who have been bereaved to get through this Christmas holiday season. It will be held in Cooke on Saturday 17th December at 1pm. Contact Dave if you are interested or have any questions.



## Guess Who?!

See how many points you can guess our mystery members in. Or if you are new to Cooke just get to know some familiar faces better- they would love to chat to you. Names and photos are revealed later in the magazine - good luck!

### Person 1

LIKES - the colour blue, dogs (have just one now). Love sports - especially rugby, football and badminton previously playing now more watching. Is a Spurs supporter. Likes watching War films and Cowboy films, although the other half always turns them off when the grand kids are about. Loves the sun and going on holiday to sunny places. Enjoys a laugh (there were many jokes during this interview all of which cannot be included!) **20 points**

IS - (although looks very young and handsome) currently retired- if only there was such a thing! Generally very busy running round after the family and obeying the wife. Although brought up Methodist, joined Cooke 45 years ago when they married a Cooke member. **15 points**

ROLES IN COOKE HAVE INCLUDED - many things over the years, mostly manual labour! In years past did a lot with young people. Helped run Cooke Junior Badminton Club, was a Leader in the Friday Night Youth Club and Youth Fellowship for many years. Currently help with Food Store at Cooke. **10 points**

FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY - the Christmas Story for the joy and hope it brings. **5 points**

FAVOURITES SONG - 'How Great thou Art'. Reminds them of their dad. **2 points**

LIKE ABOUT COOKE - the people, the craic, chatting in the reception area after church. It feels like home. **1 point**

### Person 2

LIKES - the colour black, dogs (have one), Golden Time in school, going to Granny and Granda's house on Monday and Tuesdays after school. Rock music - favourite band is 'Skillit' and favourite song is 'The Resistance'. Likes watching Netflix especially 'Bread Barber Shop.' **20 points**

IS - currently a student in Primary school. Has been a member of Cooke since birth 6 or so years ago. **15 points**

CURRENTLY GOES TO - Irish Dancing (loves it), Mixed Martial Arts (loves it) and 'Little Cookes' on Sundays (loves it too!). Are also in the Cooke Pantomime 'Cleopatra' and are enjoying learning all the dances for it. **10 points**

FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY - The one when Jesus is born at Christmas. Is currently looking forward to their school Nativity 'The Midwife Crisis' where they have the important job of Narrator. **5 points**

FAVOURITES SONG - 'Noah built the most enormous boat' (All through History) likes the actions! **2 points**

LIKE ABOUT COOKE - going to 'Little Cookes' - it's fun! And I like seeing all my family at church. **1 point**

## Local Hosts for International Students



DO YOU HAVE A PLACE AT YOUR TABLE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT THIS CHRISTMAS?

An opportunity for individuals, couples, and families to host international students to help them feel at home and experience local culture.



GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE OR REGISTER AS A HOST:



[WWW.FRIENDSINTERNATIONAL.UK/BECOME-A-HOST/](http://WWW.FRIENDSINTERNATIONAL.UK/BECOME-A-HOST/)



[BELFAST@FRIENDSINTERNATIONAL.UK](mailto:BELFAST@FRIENDSINTERNATIONAL.UK)



## Flowers for the Sanctuary

<b>4th December</b>	IMO Frank Milliken
<b>11th December</b>	Patricia Emerson
<b>18th December</b>	IMO William (Billy) & Francis Brown
<b>25th December</b>	Margaret Wisoner IMO Nanna Bell
<b>1st January</b>	Pamela McWilliams
<b>8th January</b>	Joan Clarke IMO Anne Jamison
<b>15th January</b>	Cathy Smith IMO Brian (dad of Jordan, Brian Jr & Jade)
<b>22nd January</b>	Eddie & Herbie McWilliams
<b>29th January</b>	Free

### Flower Team

December - Pamela McWilliams

January - Ruby Rankin

February - Cecil Hetherington

**The flower book for 2023 is now open.**

## PW News

PW meet on Tuesday 10th January in the Campbell Reception area. This will be a fun day when we hope to have games and a quiz. This will be followed by refreshments. Hope to see you there!

## CosyHubs

CosyHubs at Cooke continues on Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm.

A warm place and an unconditional welcome

## RSPB South Belfast

RSPB Belfast Local Group has been meeting in Cooke's Cordner Hall, monthly September - April, for 21 years. In the year before Lockdown we changed from 1st Saturday to 1st Monday night, which did halt a decline in attendances. Sadly, no one from Cooke has yet found us! Prior to meeting in Cooke the group met in QUB. We would welcome any of you who are interested in the environment, - who want to learn more about nature and wildlife, who want to help to stop the decline of many common species, - to join us at any indoor or outdoor meeting.

Next year 2023, we are celebrating our 50th birthday with a special event. On Monday March 6, in Stranmillis College Theatre, we will have a guest presenter, Colin Stafford-Johnson, a multi award-winning wildlife photographer, presenter and producer. Colin's recent appearances on television have been in his series, 'The Wild Gardener' and on Countryfile. Tickets are now on sale. Please join us in celebration of 50 years of RSPB Belfast Local Group.

For more information about us and to buy your tickets for our birthday event, please see our website:

**<https://group.rspb.org.uk/belfast>**

or go directly to 'Wild by Design' An evening with Colin Stafford-Johnson

## Guess Who Answers



**Person 1: Frankie Reynolds**



**Person 2: Amelia Bennis**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Service
4th December	11am - Toy Sunday
11th December	11am - Dave Gray
18th December	11am - All Age Service 7pm - Carols by Candlelight
25th December	10:30am - Christmas Morning Service
1st January	11am - Dave Gray
8th January	11am - Communion
15th January	11am - Dave Gray
22nd January	11am - Dave Gray
29th January	11am - Dave Gray

## POINTS OF CONTACT



**Dave Gray**  
Minister

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**Elaine MacNeill**  
Clerk of Session

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