

The background of the entire poster is a photograph of autumn foliage, with trees and bushes displaying vibrant yellow, orange, and red leaves. The text and graphics are overlaid on this background.

We Are

COOKE CHURCH

Reaching Out | Engaging | Growing

**As long as the world
exists, there will be a
time for planting and a
time for harvest. There
will always be cold
and heat, summer and
winter, day and night.**

Genesis 8:22



Our Foodstore ministry continues at a steady pace with new referrals on a regular basis. Since January 2022, we have distributed over 295 food hampers with the very generous support of our fellow churches at St John's, Newtownbreda, Ballynaveigh Methodist and Good Shepherd/Holy Rosary.

With our partners, Lisburn & Castlereagh Women's Aid, we have been able to help many families displaced through domestic violence and we continue to support these families until they are appropriately re-settled.

Foodstore has also continued to provide food, toiletries and household cleaning items to the 'International Meeting Point' run by the Presbyterian Church and also to 'Starling Collective', a Charity working with Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Given the restrictions on food available at refugee/asylum seeker accommodation, these groups are particularly grateful for the fresh produce supplied by Foodstore and for the opportunity to engage with local people.

Sometimes, though, it is easy to forget that someone a few streets away may be in need, or that our next-door neighbour of many years has suddenly fallen on hard times. It is often difficult to discuss these struggles with someone you know well. Through Foodstore, we have been able to give more than food, to several individuals who are going through difficult times, either with the cost of living increases or with health problems. Sometimes they just find it comforting to tell a stranger how they feel and what they actually need. We are blessed with a small but dedicated and compassionate team of volunteers at Foodstore.

It has been very humbling to get to know our Foodstore customers and to learn of the trials and dangers faced by those who wish to share. However, we expect to hear such reports from families from other countries but it has been perhaps more alarming to learn of the dangers and struggles of local people in the streets of Ballynaveigh.

Thank you all for your continuing donations.

WHAT A SUMMER!

The sun was shining on the Ormeau Road despite the news of drastic cost of living increases, European heat waves and international conflict.

And there was life and excitement at Cooke.

Sunday 14th August was 'Sunday funday', an all age service and barbeque launching a week of special events that we called summer mission.

Seventeen students from the Presbyterian chaplaincy at Queen's worked alongside our team from Cooke. It was like a post-pandemic miracle as 120 kids from the neighbourhood invaded the whole church complex. Every space was alive with games, stories, videos, crafts and singing. The church was redesigned as the Rocky Railway, centering around the theme that "Jesus' power pulls us through".



There were so many encouragements for everyone who joined in; our teenagers grew in number as they served together (we now have 12 of them at Bible class on Sunday mornings!), our seniors loved being hosted and entertained for afternoon tea (what a joy to reconnect with old friends!), our fantastic catering team cooked up a storm (kept the team going), our neighbourhood was blessed (the name of Jesus made more famous in many homes) and the church family was energised with renewed joy.

If you're around church this autumn I hope you will feel the hope of a new season of fruitfulness in our life and service together.

Let me encourage you all to return with confidence and engage in; serving together (this is where the joy is found), praying together on Tuesdays and Thursdays (this is where the power is released), witnessing together - perhaps at Alpha (this is where new life is discovered), and meeting together (this is where fellowship and encouragement is shared).

As I settle in to Cooke, my family and I are loving getting to know you and discovering your stories. As we write a new chapter together in the life of our church every one of us is a significant character in the book. Let me encourage you to step in and play your vital part with the words of Ephesians 2:10; "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do".

Big blessings on you.

Dave Gray



CLOTHING BAG APPEAL

We hope after reading the last edition of Talking Point that everyone will have made an start on an Autumn Clear out for the Clothing Bag Appeal.

All good quality items are accepted. Eg: clothes, shoes, handbags (no bric a brac, duvets, or quilts please).

Please contact Joan on 028 90640395 if you need a bag collected.

In the event you didn't get a bag you can pick up a bag or extra bags for yourself for friends/ family in reception area of church.

Bags are to be returned on:

Saturday 29th October 2022
11am - 12pm

Sunday 30th October 2022
10.30am to 1pm

We have always had a great response from you all to the Clothing Bag Appeal

Thank you for all your support

FLOWER TEAM

September
Joan Hamilton

October
Eleanor Brennan

November
Jean Wilson

December
Pamela McWilliams

January
Ruby Rankin

February
Cecil Hetherington

PRAYER MEETINGS

An in-person prayer meeting takes place on Thursday at 9:30am in the reception area of church.

Online prayer meetings take place on Tuesdays at 9pm on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 946 8713 0025 **Passcode:** prayer

GUESS WHO?

See how many points get by guessing our mystery members. 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 green, baking, 80ies music, going for walks (has two dogs). Favourite TV programmes are 'The Great British Bake Off' and 'Strictly Come Dancing'. Favourite film is 'Sense and Sensibility'. Also enjoys reading, nothing too heavy mostly Chick Flicks! **20 points**

IS...originally from Clonnis, Co. Monaghan and grew up in the Church of Ireland. Has lived locally (Ravenhill) since marriage 24 years ago. Joined Cooke on recommendation of her Autie Marion Ferguson 22 years ago in 2000 when pregnant with her first child. **15 points**

WENT TO... University of Ulster Coleraine and studied Computing, then worked for Kainos Computer company in Belfast. **10 points**

CURRENTLY GOES TO.... the gym twice a week. Has recently taken up Crocheting to make blankets for family members who have started disappearing off to University -2 so far! Just one left at home now. **5 points**

RESPONSIBILITIES IN COOKE INCLUDE... Committee member, member of the Catering Committee, helps out with FoodStore and is one of the Leaders at 'Little Cookes'. Will also be helping at Cooke Tots Cafe which is starting up again on Tuesday mornings. **3 points**

FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE... John 13 v 34' A new commandment I give to you. Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples if you love one another.'

FAVOURITES SONGS... does like traditional hymns, favourite being -'Blessed assurance Jesus is mine, Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine', but modern favourite would be The Rend Collective '10,000 Reasons'. **2 points**

LIKE ABOUT COOKE... the community feel. The people - all age groups mix together and get on genuinely well. Also enjoy the craic in the kitchen when events are on. Even though it's hard work everyone gets stuck in and gets the job done and has good fun and plenty of laughs. **1 point**

Person 2

LIKES... the colours purple and lilac, hanging out with friends, playing with Lego, roller skating and holidays in Spain. **20 points**

IS...currently a student in Primary school and lives in Annadale. Has been a member of Cooke since birth roughly 10 years ago. **15 points**

CURRENTLY GOES TO.... Acrodance on Thursdays, swimming on Saturdays and 'Little Cookes' on Sundays. **10 points**

FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY...The Story of Noah's Ark, as they love rainbows and can remember this story from a very early age. **5 points**

FAVOURITES SONG... 'Shine' especially the line -'Shine from the inside out and the world will see you live in me...'. **2 points**

LIKE ABOUT COOKE... It's fun. I like playing with everyone after church and the pantomimes are great. I was once one of the seven dwarfs in 'Snowwhite' and am looking forward to the Pantomime this year 'Cleopatra'. **1 point**

THANK YOU

Jim and Pat Wilson wish to thank all our friends who phoned, called and prayed for us over the last few months.

It all helped us through a very difficult time for us both.

With grateful thanks,
Jim and Pat

AU REVOIR ALAN & NATHALIE

Whilst we return to wearing winter woollies, Alan & Nathalie Wilson are looking forward to warmer weather as they travel to Nathalie's home area, around the Loire valley in France where they will be living for at least the next year.

I asked "Google" What is the climate in the Loire Valley?" and the reply was "The Loire Valley's title as "The Garden of France" gives testament to its beautiful mild climate, never too hot, never too cold" I think we are all a little bit envious of that!

Sunday 2nd October will be the last Sunday, for a while, that they will be attending worship in Cooke.

We will miss them from our regular church family gatherings, but we know that they will keep in contact and we are looking forward news of their new adventures.

Until we see each other again we will surround them with our love and prayers as they move into this next exciting chapter of their lives.

PANTOMIME - ADVANCED NOTICE

Getting ready for panto advanced notice of dates for your diary ... 20th & 21st January 2023

Preparations have already started for this year's pantomime, "Antony & Cleopatra".

The script is written, casting is complete, first rehearsals are being planned, props are being gathered together and the scenery is being designed.

If you have any leftover emulsion paint that you could donate to help paint Egyptian themed scenery we would be very grateful.

SANTA'S PARTY

Santa's Party will be held on Friday 2nd December 2022 in the Mc Williams Hall from 7pm - 9pm

We will be having a visit from Santa also we will be having a sale of pre-loved children's toys and almost new clothes.

If you would like to take a table for this event please contact Joan on 028 90640395 or Stephanie at stephanie.bennis@cooke.church

Jump Jiggle and Jive will be with us again and we will also have face painting and crafts for the children while waiting to see Santa in his Grotto.

This will be great fun for the children and also a chance to do some Christmas shopping or just to come and have a Cup of Tea or Coffee.

Please tell all your family and Friends about this event.

EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to receive occasional emails from us containing announcements and information about activities and events happening at Cooke, please sign up to our mailing list. You can unsubscribe from the mailing list at any time.

We will only store and use your details for the purposes of sending information on activities and events.

We are asking everyone to sign up again, regardless of whether you think we have your email address.

To sign up please visit www.cooke.church/signup

FLOWER FUND

2nd October - Alan and Nathalie Wilson (arranged by Nathalie)

9th October - Joan Clarke IMO John Jamison & Stewart Clarke

16th October - Harvest

23rd October - Hetherington Family

30th October - Joan Clarke IMO Margaret and Nell Averil

WELCOME TEAM FOR OCTOBER

Reception

Patricia Emerson // Karen Heatherington // Jackie Heasley // Clive Morrow // Debbie Herd

WELCOME TEAM FOR NOVEMBER

Reception

Karen Curran // Lorraine Beatty // Jonathan McWilliams

WELCOME TEAM FOR DECEMBER

Reception

Stephanie Bennis // Hilary Brunt // Stephen Campbell // Clive Morrow // Colin Riddel

CRAFT FAIR

We are delighted to be hosting a Craft Fair in the McWilliams Hall on Friday 4th November from 7pm - 9:30pm. There will be a host of crafters selling their wares, some familiar faces and some who are making their first visit to Cooke.

Products range from garden furniture to keyrings and include art, ceramics, cards, dog treats, candles, jewellery, jams and much more.

Do come along to support their event and bring family and friends with you.

Entry is free and tea and coffee will be available.

Hope to see you there.

LITTLE COOKES

Little Cookes has restarted with a new programme. We meet during Sunday Worship and all primary school aged children are most welcome.



art & craft fair

Entry
Free Admission
Donations
Welcome

Friday 4th November
7pm - 9:30pm

COOKE CENTENARY CHURCH HALL
11 Park Road, Belfast, BT7 2FW

Hand crafted
gifts for the
whole family

FEATURING A UNIQUE COLLECTION
OF GREAT PRODUCTS BY LOCAL
CRAFTERS IT'S A PERFECT PLACE
TO PICK UP SOME HANDMADE
GIFTS FOR EVERY OCCASION

HARVEST

We will be celebrating our annual Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday 16th October 2022.

We have been unable to decorate the church with fruit and flowers over the past 2 years due to Covid restrictions and we have missed the beautiful displays of flowers and foliage, the wonderful scents that greeted us as we entered the church, and the sight of the children bringing their gifts of fruit and flowers to the front of the church.

We are looking forward to returning to that this year whilst also supporting the work of Foodstore through the donation of normal Foodstore items, and these will also be part of our display.

The church will be open from 9.30 – 10.30 am on Saturday 15th October to receive gifts of fruit, flowers and Foodstore items to decorate the Sanctuary and after the service of Sunday these will be divided up and distributed to housebound and elderly members of our church family as well as being used to make up the hampers that are distributed through Foodstore.

The donations raised through the Harvest envelopes supports the Mission work of the Presbyterian Church and we encourage your support for that.

“All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above”

ALPHA

We are starting an Alpha Course on Sunday 9th October at 7pm in the church reception area.

Alpha is an 11-week course that creates a space, online or in person, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about faith, life and God.

You are most welcome to come. We will have tea, coffee and desserts available.

Sign up sheets are available in the reception area or at www.cooke.church

CONGRATULATIONS

A big congratulations to Ruth Campbell on receiving her B.E.M medal for services to cancer patients and their families in Northern Ireland.



MODEL RAILWAY & MODEL VEHICLE FAIR

Cooke MRC will be holding a Model Railway & Model Vehicle Fair in the Church Hall on Saturday 19th November from 10am to 4:30pm. There will be a wide range of model railway items, model vehicles, and memorabilia on sale.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

To book a table, (or tables), please contact Roger MacNeill by email; roger.macneill@cooke.church.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FUN DAY

We will be hosting a Christmas Fun Day for children aged 4-11 (primary school age) on Saturday 10th December from 2-5pm. Drop your children off and head to meet friends, go Christmas shopping...the choice is yours!

Registration will be required closer to the time and there is a charge of £10 for the first child and £5 for each additional child. Children will enjoy a film, crafts, games, juice and nibbles.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the Manse family as they settle into life in a new home and a new community around the Ormeau Road.
- Pray that they would feel surrounded by the warmth of our love and would find in us a welcoming church family
- Pray for our new Minister Rev Dave Gray as he leads us into a new season of church life.
- Give thanks for his energy, creativity and positivity, his love of scripture and his passion for sharing his love for the Lord.
- Pray for those on our church leadership team that they would be blessed with wisdom, vision and insight as new and exciting opportunities for outreach are explored.
- Pray for situations around the world where there are tensions, violence and war, particularly the situation in the Ukraine, that hostilities would de-escalate and lives, livelihoods, property and economies would be protected.
- Pray for people and countries most impacted by climate change and rising temperatures and the devastation of natural disasters, that world leaders would respond to protect our beautiful world.
- Pray for those most impacted by rising interest rates, soaring utility costs and increased food bills that government leaders would act wisely and prudently to protect the economy and that all of us would respond with compassion to help those who are most in need.
- Pray for those recently bereaved and for those who are ill at home, in hospital or who are anxiously waiting for results of tests that they would find comfort, peace and reassurance in God's promise of unfailing and everlasting love.
- Pray that God would bless each of us and all the situations that we have prayed for.

Amen

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Worship in October and November

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 2nd October	11:00am	Communion - Dave Gray
Sunday 9th October	11:00am	Moore Casement
Sunday 16th October	11:00am	Harvest - Dave Gray
Sunday 23rd October	11:00am	Dave Gray
Sunday 30th October	11:00am	Dave Gray
Sunday 6th November	11:00am	TBC
Sunday 13th November	11:00am	Remembrance - Dave Gray
Sunday 20th November	11:00am	Dave Gray

Guess Who Answers



Person 1: Karen Hetherington **Person 2:** Lucia Roda Campbell

POINTS OF CONTACT

DAVE GRAY
Minister



ELAINE MACNEILL
Clerk of Session



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