

We Are

# COOKE CHURCH

Reaching Out | Engaging | Growing

**Then the righteous  
will shine like the sun  
in the kingdom of  
their Father. He who  
has ears, let him  
hear.**

Matthew 13:43

Summer 2023

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





# SUMMER MISSION

Monday 14th – Friday 18th August 2023

10am – 1pm

For Primary School Aged Children

**NEW FRIENDS • AMAZING EXPERIMENTS • CREATIVE GAMES  
SUPER-FUN SNACKS • SURPRISING ADVENTURES • INCREDIBLE MUSIC**



216 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2FY

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

[youth@cooke.church](mailto:youth@cooke.church)

*This is a free event provided by Cooke Centenary Church*



Scan the code above with your phone for more information and to register your child

## PEOPLE ON A MISSION

If you've ever seen a classic movie called the Blues Brothers you may remember the crazy car chases, or fabulous soundtrack, or hilarious dancing and dialogue.... But for me there is a standout line - "we're on a mission from God!" Jake and Elwood's mission was to save the orphanage they grew up in by raising cash through a last stand concert. The standout song they performed was 'Everybody, needs somebody to love'.... it's movie magic!

We have started on a journey in the book of Acts in our Sunday teaching series. It is the sequel of Luke's gospel that tells the story of what happened next in the mission of God once Jesus returned to the Father..... the power of the Holy Spirit growing the church in people and mission. I have just passed the milestone of a year of ministry and living as part of the Cooke Church family, and I am convinced more than ever that we are all on a mission from God.

The reason the church exists, right from our beginning in Acts to the summer of 2023 in Cooke, is to be a blessing to the world we live in. We are blessed to be a blessing. This poses two questions; how are we blessed, and how do we bless others? Well only you can count your blessings....but it begins for all of us with the unshakable, undeniable, limitless, eternal love of God.

Love that focuses on us personally, love that propelled the biggest of all missions - the rescue and restoration mission of Jesus. Out of that blessing of the cross flows; forgiveness, grace, patience, kindness, goodness, purpose, worth, hope, joy, community, rest, and so much more. We are blessed. But we our blessed to be a blessing, so how do we bless?

Again each of us needs to discover how that is going to look and develop in our own lives and our shared life as a church, however it is limitless and extraordinary!! We bless in our vocations as hairdressers, and dentists and bankers and undertakers as we work with honesty and grace and generosity. We bless with our love and patience to kids and grand kids, we bless as teachers, and drivers, servers and lawn cutters, painters and tea makers.

We bless as we serve practically- (it was amazing to see the FoodStore team in action this week with the 'Fair Share' donations from local supermarkets) and creatively. But we also are called to bless by sharing the story at the heart of our mission; people need to know Jesus.





If we are part of the church family this is also a calling that we can't dodge, and if we are counting our blessings we won't want to. Summer mission at Cooke is one of a growing number of opportunities to be a blessing by telling the story of God's love in Jesus.

In order to run it we need; a welcome team, a kitchen team, a set design team, a music team, a prayer team, a creative team..... in other words - no matter what your gifts- we need you! I guarantee you that it will be the most wonderful week of your year, so please sign up, book time off and get ready to be a blessing.

We are all on a mission from God and he is giving us dozens of kids and their families to love.

*Dave*

## Flowers for the Sanctuary

<b>4th June</b>	Mina Graham IMO Alex Graham
<b>11th June</b>	Margaret Allen IMO Roy
<b>18th June</b>	Elaine Mac Neill
<b>25th June</b>	Cathy Dornan IMO Pat Dornan
<b>2nd July</b>	Florence Kinghan
<b>9th July</b>	IMO Thomas and Mary Gilmore
<b>16th July</b>	Jeanette Rowley Wedding Anniversary Memories
<b>23rd July</b>	Joan Clarke IMO Nan Jamison
<b>30th July</b>	Joy Burns
<b>6th August</b>	Joan Hamilton
<b>13th August</b>	Irene Burns
<b>20th August</b>	Janice Glenn
<b>27th August</b>	Available

### Flower Team

June - Pamela McWilliams // July - Cecil Heatherington // August - Ruby Rankin



Well! What a busy time we have had since our last update in March!

Firstly, and most importantly, a huge thank you to the congregations of Ballynafeigh Methodist, St John's Newtownbreda, Good Shepherd/Holy Rosary and our own folk in Cooke Centenary for their faithful support for Foodstore, both in terms of food donations and through financial contributions. We have also received a very welcome financial gift from Ormeau Credit Union. This has helped greatly with the growing expenditure on fresh produce.

Due to rising costs of fruit, vegetables and other fresh goods we have had to think creatively about providing these items in more innovative ways. To this end we are really delighted to announce that we have been accepted as members of Fareshare. This organisation collaborates with large supermarkets and food outlets to ensure surplus food is not wasted but distributed to organisations working with those in food poverty. We have had our first donations and these not only provided some extras for our hampers but enabled us to set up our first 'free food' table outside Cooke on Tuesday 7th June. We hope to make this a regular feature of our outreach in the community. Initial feedback has been

## Standing Order Forms

If you would like to make a regular contribution to Cooke you can do so by setting up a Standing Order. Forms are available from the Reception Area.

## 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 red, dogs especially Cocker Spaniels. Gardening and garden programmes also likes watching documentaries or the news on TV. Prefers reading real stories to fiction, especially autobiographies. Also enjoys going out for coffee 'The Secret Garden' is their favourite coffee shop. Loves baking is known for their amazing pavlovas. Also likes to spend time with their family especially their two teenage grandchildren. **20 points**

IS... retired. Was a district nurse. Lived in Africa were they were a midwife and did general nursing. Her two sons were born in Zambia. Joined Cooke not long after Rev Campbell arrived in the mid 80ies. Her boys were school friends with the Campbell kids and joined Cooke BB. **15 points**

IN COOKE.... Is a Committee member and helps with Cooke Clean Team. Is a member of the PWA and was previously treasurer. Previously did Grief Share when Corrina was here. Goes to the Tuesday Crochet club and helps with church flower arranging. **10 points**

FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE...Philippians Chapter 4 v13 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me'. **5 Points**

FAVOURITES SONG... 'In Christ Alone'. **2 points**

LIKE ABOUT COOKE...'I enjoy the friendliness of the people. I can't find words good enough to describe Cooke.' **1 point**

very encouraging and indications are that older members of the community are particularly appreciative.

Demand for Foodstore remains steady and we continue to work closely with Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid to provide emergency food hampers for individuals and families displaced due to domestic violence. Our work continues with those in the local community facing particularly hard times.

The benefits of our Foodstore operation are clear in the feedback received from those we assist. Foodstore provides us with the opportunity to engage with folk who often have few people to talk to and even fewer to turn to for advice or help. While we cannot assume to have the answers to all their challenges, we can provide a signposting service to others who can help.

Demand for food has however meant that our stocks are quite depleted at present and we are particularly short of the items listed below:

- Packets of dried Rice and Instant Noodles (flavoured)
- Tins of: soup/spaghetti and cooked meats;
- Jars of Pasta Sauces and Curry Sauces;
- Fruit Squashes;
- Toothpaste/Shampoo/Shower Gel.

It is very humbling to be in a position to serve our neighbours in this way and we are so grateful for your continued support in doing so.



Foodstore Co-ordinator – June, 2023



## Person 2

LIKES... the colour yellow, all animals except spiders and especially elephants (has an elephant tattoo). Going for walks in Victoria Park. Going out for coffee in places like Starbucks and people watching if I am not revising. Programmes like 'Grey's Anatomy' and 'Modern Family'. Recently enjoyed 'The Secret' a true murder story from Northern Ireland. Likes Ed Sheeran music and enjoys baking, but does not get much time to do it at the minute. **20 points**

IS... Currently a mother of a beautiful 1 year old and part-time student studying 'Social and Behavioural Science'. **15 points**

IN COOKE... As a teenager was involved in Genesis and the pantomimes (was a learner fairy and a bunny). Has only started going to Cooke services regularly in the last couple of years when they moved to Belfast. **10 points**

FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSES ... Matthew Chapter 7 v 1-2 ' Do not judge others and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. ' and also ....Psalms 91 v 11-12 ' For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone'.  
**5 points**

FAVOURITES SONGS... 'All the pretty things' by Tenth Ave North and 'Oh come to the alter'. **2 points**

LIKE ABOUT COOKE... 'It's just like a big extended family'. **1 point**

## EPIC

The EPIC kids club has now finished for a summer break, but what a great way it was to spend a Thursday evening. Games, Tuck shop, Story, Craft activity, Juice, indoor football and Volleyball and more games! There was an indoor Easter egg hunt and summer flowering bulbs planted in the church grounds. Parents joined for the final evening and the leaders served hotdogs and refreshments before a final competitive game of Volleyball between parents & Leaders.

Dave & Jane Grey & Brian Carson led story time and craft each week and an enthusiastic team of energetic young leaders raced up and down the hall playing games each week with the kids. It was a truly EPIC weekly experience of fun, laughter, building relationships and sharing Biblical truths together.

Registration for kids in Primary's 3-7 will open again in September





On Sunday 11th June, 10 of our retired Elders were invited to Afternoon Tea in the Cordner Hall to celebrate their years of service as Elders, and their continuing role as much loved and respected members of our congregation. The ladies of the Catering Committee served tea, sandwiches, scones, traybakes and cake in beautiful china tableware with matching teapots.

Rev Gray spoke with respect and admiration, of the service each of them had given to the life of this congregation, and the encouragement he got from listening to their stories and hearing of their love for our membership..

Mr Jim Patterson and Mr Jim Wilson were both Ordained as Elders on 28th May 1972. As a former Clerk of Session, Mr Jim Wilson spoke fondly of the events and activities he had enjoyed throughout his years of active service and thanked Rev Gray for arranging this wonderful afternoon of fellowship and the opportunity to come together with dear friends. It was a very special afternoon and a real blessing to be able to celebrate the ministries of these faithful servants –  
Mr Jim Wilson, Mrs Pat Wilson, Mr Alastair Corscadden, Mrs Judy Corscadden, Mrs Jennifer Henderson, Mrs Ida Carlisle, Mr Jim Patterson, Mr Harold Gilmour, Mrs Florence Kinghan & Mrs Jean Wilson

## IT IS TIME?

**“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven”  
Ecclesiastes 3:1**

Spring time; Summer time; Autumn time; Winter time;  
Months fly passed, seasons change, another year passes.

IS IT TIME? That’s the question we need to ask ourselves?

- Is it Time? To commit to praying for the vision of the future of our congregation and consider the part you will play?
- Is it Time? To consider setting up a Standing Order to contribute regularly to church funds?
- Is it Time? To review the amount you contribute through an existing Standing Order?
- Is it Time? To consider asking for a set of envelopes to remind you to contribute weekly?
- Is it Time? To review the amount you are able to contribute in your weekly envelope if you already have one?

Please take the Time to think about these things now.

Don’t put it off. Don’t let another week, or another month, or another year pass and the question remain unanswered.

**Time flies!** Is it time to think about the activities you can be part of, and the part you can play, as we plan for the future? Is it time to review your financial contribution to the work of our church?

I give to Cooke regularly, why do I need to take the time to think about financial things? We need the finances in place to maintain our buildings for today and tomorrow, meet rising utility costs and pay our bills. The Church Leadership Team have a vision for the future, plans to grow our outreach and develop our congregational life and ministry which includes:

- seeking a youth outreach worker,
- providing an accessible toilet in the church building,
- upgrading the existing committee room to be a comfortable, usable, welcoming space,
- increasing opportunities for prayer fellowship, Bible study and pastoral support for all

Church finances need to be budgeted sensibly to meet these demands and achieve new possibilities. We have so much to be thankful for at Cooke including our new, enthusiastic minister who has a pastoral heart and a passion for people, so let’s count our many blessings and smile. Let’s not worry about the future, God knows the plans He has for us. Let’s all play our part in His plan for our future.

We can achieve our vision by working together.

- Will you pray, asking God to do “exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or think”?
- Will you give a welcoming smile and friendly word to any visitors in our midst?
- Will you be an encourager, always looking for opportunities to support and strengthen others along the way?

If it is possible, will you review your regular giving to the work of our church by Sunday 16th July 2023 so that by the end of the summer we will have a clearer understanding of how we can achieve our vision for the future.

**IT IS TIME** to do all this, and go forward together! If you would like more information, please speak to Rev Dave Gray, Roger or Elaine MacNeill or Mr Keith Savage.

## Guess Who Answers



Person 1 - Ruby Rankin



Person 2 - Sophie Campbell



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Service
18th June 25th June	Kids and Youth Sunday (Oxygen) Baptism of Eden Campbell and Communion
2nd July 9th July 16th July 23rd July 30th July	Summer - Acts 4A Summer - Acts 4B Summer - Acts 6 Christine Craig Rev Patton Taylor
6th August 13th August 14th - 18th August 20th August 27th August	Rev Marlene Taylor Sunday Funday (Stellar Launch) Summer Mission Week @ Cooke Rev Dave Gray Rev Dave Gray
3rd September	Back to School Sunday

## POINTS OF CONTACT



**Dave Gray**  
Minister

07812 915428  
dave.gray@cooke.church



**Elaine MacNeill**  
Clerk of Session

07801 883591  
elaine.macneill@cooke.church