

We Are

COOKE CHURCH

Reaching Out | Engaging | Growing

He said to them,
“Go into all the
world and preach
the gospel to all
creation”

Mark 16:15

COOKE FOOD STORE

Thank you for all your contributions to Foodstore and also the generous financial donations that enable us to supply fresh basic goods in our food packs such as bread, milk, eggs, cheese and fruit.

Our client list continues to grow with new referrals on a regular basis. We are so blessed to be in a position to help both local people in need at this time, as well as those in the wider area.

In January we distributed around 25 food packs but the impact of the cost of living crisis saw this rise to 46 food packs in May.

Demand had been rising each month and on average we are now providing food for around 30- 40 people each week - some families and a number of single adults. The gratitude of those receiving help in this way is often very moving, with one lady describing Foodstore as 'a lifeline'.

Our working relationships with our partner churches in Ballynafeigh and, with other charities continue to grow and ensure we provide what is needed and minimise waste. It is hoped to develop our outreach further in the summer months to provide snacks for children living in temporary accommodation. These children are provided with basic meals but have little or no access to snacks. Hopefully this will be established before the new school term begins so that fewer children go to school without something for breaktime.

We are so grateful for all your support in this work.

HELLO

Hello, and thank you for inviting me to join the Cooke family. You certainly can throw a great party, the installation service and hospitality were wonderful!

In some ways it is a daunting task to step into a role of ministering and leading in such an historic congregation as Cooke. Entering the foyer and having the austere and dignified eyes of Henry Cooke's bust gazing down is sobering; I've started reading his biography- there's a lot to live up to! At the same time I'm old enough to have negotiated the toxic sin of comparison- I love the life verse of Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.... It is the amazing truth that we are all gifted by our good Father to complete everything that he has imagined for our lives so that we are a blessing; to each other and to our neighbours close at hand and far away. None of us are called to be doing somebody else's good works. This is liberating for me as I join the team with Elaine, the elders, committee and everyone else who is 'running the race' and leading at Cooke.



It has been a great joy for me to serve as chaplain of QUB and its colleges. I have had the privilege to work with a small but amazing team at Derryvolgie Hall, and a large partnership team across the campus, as well as an incredible generation of students. BUT it is an equal joy to join the Cooke family, and I am really looking forward to getting to know you, hear your stories, and journeying with you in your resolve to follow the Lord.

You are of course not just getting a minister..... it's a bit of a 'BOGOF', in fact a BOG4F! Team Gray includes Jane my wife, Elliot and Amelie our kids and Tara our very friendly dog. The whole family is looking forward to the summer holidays: GCSE's finished for Elliot, school being out for Jane and Amelie, CSSM and sports camp for the kids, an epic road trip, summer mission at Cooke and moving in to the manse in August.

Dave Gray

LITTLE COOKES

Little Cookes has finished for the summer and will recommence in September. See you then!



SUMMER MISSION

This summer is going to be exciting for many reasons....but probably the most exciting one is that Rocky Railway summer mission steams into the Cooke station on Monday morning 15th August. It's a week of summer fun, incredible stories, craft, games, songs and drama for all Primary School kids (and secondary kids as junior leaders).



We have the incredible gift of a student team from Derryvolgie Hall joining us. It's a big turn-round in a season of post-COVID restart, but this is a golden opportunity for us as church to re-energise ourselves and grow in relationship and outreach to children and young people around Ormeau and beyond.



It's all aboard on Sunday 14th for Sunday Funday with a special service followed by a church BBQ, games and craic on the green. I could never assume the mantle of the 'Fat Controller' (Thomas the Tank Engine ref), but I'll be in the thick of it... and invite every member of Cooke to join in; praying, serving food, registering and welcoming; leading groups, setting up the church and halls, bringing kids and grandkids and their friends, and having fun.

Please fill in an application form from the welcome room so we can add you to the list and involve you.... It's a real FOMO (fear of missing out) risk - don't miss

the train!.....so get inviting, get volunteering, get praying, and get active, and see you on the platform of Cooke Station in August!

Dave

FLOWER TEAM

July

Cecil Hetherington

August

Ruby Rankin

September

Joan Hamilton

October

TBC

November

Jean Wilson

December

Pamela McWilliams



Summer Mission

Monday 15th – Friday 19th August 2022

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

youth@cooke.church



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

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.

Person 1: 'A LOT'

LIKES...the colour green, dogs (once had one called Raf), crafts, coffee and most importantly- Cliff Richard! **20 points**

IS...retired and has lived in Ormeau and belonged to Cooke for more than 70 years. Infact even attended the 'Ormeau Park Elementary School' known as Cooke School, which was held in the old church halls next to the church. The sign is now hidden by the MacMillan Hall sign. **15 points**

WENT TO...all the organisations in Cooke through the years- Sunday School, Brownies, Guides, The TA Axillary, Badminton and bowling. Was also involved in The Gateway Club (Special Needs Youth Club) & Special Olympics. **10 points**

CURRENTLY GOES TO....Cooke PW (2nd Tuesday of the month in the afternoon), Cooke Craft & Crochet Club-who are also known to go on wee outings(Tuesdays), a walking club and bowling at Ballynafeigh Methodist. **5 points**

RESPONSIBILITIES IN COOKE INCLUDE...Committee member, Fund raising committee, Secretary of the Cradle Roll, Flower Team and also helps on Catering and Clean Team. **3 points**

FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE...Psalm 121 - 'I to the hills will lift mine eyes...' makes this person think of the Mournes.

FAVOURITES SONGS...'It is well' which reminds this person of Becky Dudley's leaving service. Also likes 'Take my life and let it be' which seems to be a good representation of this person's wonderful life of service! **2 points**

LIKE ABOUT COOKE...the friendship and camaraderie and we always have a good laugh. **1 point**

Person 2: 'A LITTLE'

LIKES...the colour pink, animals especially pigs. Has a lot of M&S Percy Pig merchandise including all accessories for sleeping- sleep mask, socks, PJs, blanket, slippers & onsie! **20 points**

IS...currently a student in Primary school and has been a member of Cooke since birth 7, almost 8 years ago. **15 points**

CURRENTLY GOES TO....Swimming on Saturdays and 'Little Cookes' on Sundays. **10 points**

FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY...The Creation Story especially Adam & Eve. **5 points**

FAVOURITES SONG...'Jesus and me' especially likes the line 'You pick me up & spin me around, turn my whole word upside down'. **2 points**

LIKE ABOUT COOKE...Doing crafts in 'Little Cookes' (once made perfume!) and seeing my cousins. The snacks are good too. **1 point**

MINISTER'S ROOM REVAMP

If you are brave enough to go into the deep dark recesses at the back of Cooke church - you will discover treasure stores of Panto costumes, enormous counting tables, antique bathrooms... and the minister's room.

It's had a 'DIY SOS' style make over. You're all very welcome to call in for a coffee with Dave....just drop him a line on dave.gray@cooke.church.

Tuesday is office day.



A DAY TO REMEMBER



Sunday the 5th June 2022 was a Day to Remember. It was 60 years ago we got married in St Simons Church. We decided we wanted to celebrate our Diamond Anniversary in church, with a blessing / prayer of thanksgiving, if that was possible.

When I spoke to our New Minister the Rev Dave Gray, he said he would be delighted to celebrate our Anniversary in Church. Dave said he had planned that Sunday as a Special Celebration. It was Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee 70 years and also Pentecost Sunday. I asked "do we have to do anything?"

Dave's reply "just you leave it with me." So that's what we did.

We told our family of our plans, a Thanksgiving in Church with a family tea party afterwards and invited them to join us. To our surprise they all turned up - 4 generations.

Rev Dave put a tremendous amount of thought in preparing for Sunday 5th June. Our dear friend Ruth Campbell was named in the Queen's Honours List just that week. Dave announced we would celebrate; 1) Pentecost Sunday 2) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 3) Ruth's well deserved Honour for her support to Cancer patients and their families and 4) Our 60 years of Marriage.

Through stories and prayers a lot of laughter and joy, Dave successfully managed all of that. Of course he managed to throw in a few surprises! The day went with a bang! Volunteers firing Canons of confetti in the Church! Later strawberries and cream/shortbread/chocolates and Shloer, in the reception area. Bobby and I very much appreciated the Blessing Dave said over us.

We would like to thank Rev Dave for making our day extra special. Comments made to us were it was a perfect service, meaningful and joyful. We would like to thank all our church family and those who watched it online for their kind wishes, cards, gifts etc. Special thanks to Matt (technology is marvellous) Alison for the praise music, the catering team and florist and everyone who contributed to making our day "TRULY A DAY TO REMEMBER"

Thank You

Margaret & Bobby

REFLECTING...

...on a month with Rev Dave Gray

What an amazing month it has been since Dave Gray was installed as our new Minister!

Invitations to Dave and Jane's friends, and special guests, were sent out electronically and as the responses were received, we knew it was going to be a big event and it was!

The church was filled, the singing was powerful, the Charge to the Minister and the Congregation from Rev Ivan Steen was both passionate and personal but, despite everyone being in suits, ties and formal attire, it was also a relaxed and joyful evening when everything went smoothly, guests felt welcomed and the effort made by so many to set up the McWilliams Hall and provide and serve our many visitors was greatly appreciated. Huge thanks to Pamela McWilliams and the whole team for the planning and preparation that went into that evening.

Even before the Installation on Sunday 15th May Dave was planning and thinking ahead and so, despite struggling with a chest infection and on antibiotics, he really "hit the ground running" as he started to get to know people through phone calls and visits, providing pastoral support and encouragement, as well as starting the preparations for our summer Mission "Rocky Railway" and arranging a regular time of Ministry to residents in Arlington Nursing Home.

He updated the furniture in the Ministers Room to create a welcoming space for people to meet with a little privacy and has already used that space to host an early morning Bible Class (with pancakes).

He has chaired meetings of the Kirk Session and Congregational Committee, starting both with Pizza and a time to chat and get to know everyone; he has supported family members following 2 bereavements and shared in 2 funeral services with Dr Jim Campbell and has hosted an end of year party for our young people.

Morning worship on 22nd May started us thinking about new beginnings as we have followed a new series called "Distinctives" asking how we live in our time and place to capture hearts and reveal Jesus. We have watched short video clips telling Bible stories as well as clips from "High School Musical" and "The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe", we have joined in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations with strawberries and cream, shared in a 60th wedding anniversary blessing with confetti canons, watched as Dave and some of our young people erected a tent as a reminder of Abraham's journey in Genesis, celebrated a Cradle Roll and Children's Day service with ice cream from an ice cream van and shared in a family Communion service with pancakes and juice for the younger children and the smell of freshly baked bread from Dave's breadmaker filling the Sanctuary.

His ministry in our first month has been one of encouragement and hospitality. His warm sense of humour, his obvious love and gift of teaching and his joy when sharing scripture and talking of God's love, power, authority, grace and mercy has been inspiring for all of us.

It has been wonderful to have Dave's wife Jane singing with the Praise Group, (she sings beautiful harmonies), his daughter Amelie and her friend Kate taking part in services and playing with our

Little Cookes, and Elliot and Amelie being part of our Genesis youth. We have also been so encouraged by the visitors who have been joining us each week, it is lovely to see these new faces.

A fellow Cooke member shared with me that they left Sunday morning worship feeling uplifted and energised for the week ahead. God's power is truly at work.

If you haven't been with us for a while, we would love to welcome you back. Join us in person, or online, as we go forward on this new journey under Rev Dave's leadership, together, as Team Cooke for Jesus.

If you would like to ensure more space for social distancing, please consider using the balcony as a safe place to share in worship, hand sanitiser is available on arrival.

As Dave says at the end of every email – "Big blessing on you all"

Elaine MacNeill

WELCOME TEAM FOR JULY

Reception

Joan Hamilton // Hilary Brunt // Carol Reynolds // Ruby Rankin // Stephanie Bennis.

WELCOME TEAM FOR AUGUST

Reception

Janice Glenn // Harvey Glenn // Margaret Wisoner // Heather Stacey

WELCOME TEAM FOR SEPTEMBER

Reception

Barbara Taylor // Pamela McWilliams // David McWilliams // Lisa Gaylor

PASTORAL COVER OVER THE SUMMER

18th - 24th July - Rev Marlene Taylor

24th July - 7th August - Rev Dr Jim Campbell

FLOWER FUND

**FLOWER FUND BOOK (JULY to DECEMBER)
IS NOW OPEN IN THE VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH**

As we have a team to arrange the flowers in the Sanctuary every Sunday and to keep the logistics of the Flower Team going, I am asking for the donations in advance please.

There are envelopes beside the Flower Book. Please take one and fill in the relevant details and return it to me ASAP.

Flower donations are given: In Memory of, Special Anniversaries, Birthdays and the flowers are then given to members of the Congregation who are ill, have been in hospital, or are housebound and unable to come to church just to let them know we are thinking about them.

Thank You
Joan Hamilton

- Flower Team:**
Joan Hamilton
Cecil Hetherington
Pamela McWilliams
Ruby Rankin
Jean Wilson

SPRING FUN DAY - THANK YOU!

The fundraising committee would like to thank everyone who donated plants, cakes, traybakes, helped at the stalls, car wash, games, crafters and barbequers.

Also a big thanks to everyone who came very early to set up the tables and to everyone who came to support the sale or helped in any way.

We had a great day with lovely weather and plenty of buzz at Cooke.

To date we raised £1711 which is going to church funds.

Well done everyone!



ROCKY RAILWAY WORD SEARCH

A	R	C	E	U	U	I	Y	K	C	O	R	S	G
G	A	R	I	R	I	Y	T	N	S	E	A	O	E
K	P	Y	R	C	O	N	D	U	C	T	O	R	R
A	R	U	O	U	S	O	N	G	S	O	T	A	R
G	S	T	J	E	I	N	E	O	A	A	E	A	A
E	R	D	C	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	U	E	R
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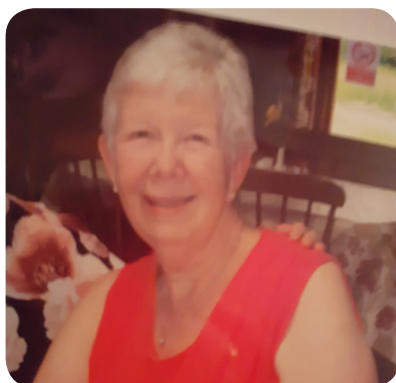
- RAILWAYPOWERGAMESADVENTURE
- CONDUCTORJESUSCARRIAGEHOPE
- SONGSTACKSTATIONROCKY
- TRAINSNACKSBIBLE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Worship in July and August

Date	Time	Service
Sunday 3rd July	11:00am	Dave Gray
Sunday 10th July	11:00am	Dave Gray
Sunday 17th July	11:00am	Dave Gray
Sunday 24th July	11:00am	Neville Cobb
Sunday 31st July	11:00am	Marlene Taylor
Sunday 7th August	11:00am	Nigel Craig
Sunday 14th August	11:00am	Summer Mission - Sunday Funday
15th - 19th August	10am - 1pm	Summer Mission
Sunday 21st August	11:00am	Dave Gray
Sunday 28th August	11:00am	Dave Gray

Guess Who Answers



Person 1: Joan Hamilton



Person 2: Cara Curran

POINTS OF CONTACT

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