

We are

**COOKE
CHURCH**

Reaching Out | Engaging | Growing



SPRING 2024

Cooke Church Connect Magazine

Growing in faith and love together

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has
come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our
land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12

www.cooke.church

hello@cooke.church

Pantomime Season at Cooke



For two January evenings and one chilly winter afternoon, the colours and sounds of the Wild West of America descended on the Cooke stage. The genius of Mr Cecil Hetherington, writer and creator of Calamity Dame, produced yet another wonderful singing and dancing extravaganza. The Panto was a complete celebration of community joy and participation. If you missed it.... The Deadwood stage did come up over the plain, the bad guys got their comeuppance, the boy got the girl and they all lived happily ever after....



COOKE FOOD STORE

Big Blessings Tuesdays

Over the winter the amazing foodstore team have been active in constructing a new larder in the Greer Room in the Church Halls. The shelving is integrated into the perimeter wall of the room and gives easy access and efficient organisation of provisions for the incredible ministry that they do.

Food donations are welcome anytime... but Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings are the times when the team is fully in action and able to receive and process any items.

The 'Big Blessings Tuesdays' free food table continues to operate with a very warm reception from all the passers-by and locals. Food on this table is donated free from local supermarkets through the Fareshare Go scheme. While the food may be at, or after the Best Before date, it is still in good condition. Jennifer Henderson is a wonderful point of contact at the table and



is doing a brilliant job of encouraging, signposting to church and the Cosy Hub and generally being an incredibly Big Blessing to everyone who passes by. The work of the Foodstore team is making the name of Jesus famous on our road... and proclaiming the life and love of our church in the most practical way! Items that are currently in short supply are particularly welcome, these include: 80's teabags, sugar, small coffee jars, tinned fruit, tinned ham, tinned vegetables, dilutable juice, biscuits, and cornflakes.

As usual, thanks go to all the contributing church congregations on the Ormeau Road who make this work possible.

Big Blessings on you, Carol and the foodstore lovelies x

Student Focus

Meeting Emma Magowan studying at QUB



My name is Emma Magowan, and I am in my first year studying International Relations at Queen's! I've been really enjoying my course – we have covered a broad range of topics so far from the EU to refugee crises so I'm glad I have picked a course that is so interesting and relevant! I've been lucky to make some great friends on my course as well.

I've been lucky enough to be living in Derryvolgie halls, which is the Presbyterian Chaplaincy halls at Queen's. While it was an adjustment living with 9 others students at first.... I now love my flatmates and have loved having late night chats, and flat meals with them! I have also been blessed with finding many other friends in other events like Christian Union and Home Fellowship that meets in May Street Church (now Central).

Another 'new' in my life has been working for Young life, an international Christian youth work organisation. I run the youth club for Holywood, and while it has been very busy alongside university life, it has also been very rewarding! We have upwards of 50 kids come every week which has been amazing to see!

Thank you to Cooke for supporting and praying for me in my first year!



Emma lives in Derryvolgie Hall with 88 students and the resident Chaplain and his wife (Nigel and Antonia Craig). The significant work that is carried out by the chaplaincy at QUB is supported by the United Appeal Fund which is part of our church annual giving.

Watch out for Emma leading the music at Cooke on Sundays when Alison is taking a well earned break... take time to chat to her and encourage her!

Save the date..... summer mission at Cooke 12 - 16 August



Brownies and Guides are growing at Cooke and would love to welcome new members aged 7 - 14

girl power



girlguiding @ cooke
Wednesdays 7-8.30
Contact Jennifer at hello@cooke.church

Cooke Church
SPRING
Fun Day
10AM - 2PM
Saturday 11th May 2024

- Plant Sale
- Games
- Barbecue
- Crafts
- Car Wash
- Tea & Coffee
- Bake Sale
- Face Painting

216 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 2FY
www.cooke.church

Model Railway & Vehicle show

Cooke Model Railway Club



Saturday 16th March 2024
10am - 3pm

Come and treat yourself to a pre-loved carriage or engine. If you have some old model railway items, die cast cars or trucks, Meccano or Scalextric we would be happy to add them to the Cooke items for sale and any money raised would be put towards supporting church funds. Contact Roger MacNeill or Harvey Glenn for more information.

Cooke P.W. St Patrick's day event happens on Tuesday 12th March at 2.30 in our Church Hall with stew and quiz. We look forward to our trip to Kirkpatrick Memorial P.W. on the 19th. All ladies are invited to come..... fun, friendship and faith all on the menu and we especially welcome any new members.

Jean Wilson



Borderlands - a monthly Corrymeela-led evening of music, activism, community and faith in the Pavilion Bar, Ormeau Rd, second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, no pre--booking required. Details of upcoming events on the Borderlands Events Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Borderlands.Ireland>

Lawns of Love

Check out the 'Lawns of Love ' at the side of the church... as spring arrives and new life emerges, there is a host of seasonal loveliness coming into bloom. Its a joyful sight! In its creation it is a celebration of many people who were, and are, bringers of joy to our church family. We hope to add to this lawn in the autumn.



New 'kid' on the block

A big Ormeau welcome to the Lutton family. Paul was installed as minister of our sister church: St John's at the start of February. Emma and Paul along with Esther and Daniel are already bringing blessing to the Ballynafeigh community. We look forward to continuing to foster a strong link with Newtownbreda Presby.



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! (ans page 11)

Person 1

LIKES... the colour petrol blue, loves fashion, accessories and shopping. Favourite thing on TV is Eurovision also likes Poirot, Bake Off and travel and house programmes. Loves walking and likes Salsa dancing. 20 points

IS...a twin and mum of 2 beautiful children. Works in the city centre at Belfast EA, ,but would prefer to be a personal shopper. Also does Spanish tutoring. 15 points

HAS... lived around Ormeau for 24 years since they came to study in Belfast and loves visiting all the coffee and charity shops there. Prefers the weather in Belfast than her hometown of Seville (honestly!) Has been attending Cooke since she married a Cooke member 16 years ago. 10 points

FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY...The Resurrection and the joy and hope it brings. 5 Points

FAVOURITES SONG... How Great thou art. 2 points

LIKE ABOUT COOKE...I like the integration and dynamics of different ages and people in Cooke. There's such a range of activities- kid things, the railway club, the panto, community lunches, breakfasts...there's a real community feel. 1 point

Person 2

LIKES... the colour blue. Favourite animal: horse. Likes history and current events. Favourite film: 'High Noon'. Previously enjoyed Clay Pigeon shooting. Likes holidays and travel. Most memorable was a return flight from Paris which involved an emergency landing and evacuation due to a suspected bomb. 20 points

IS...retired family man. Has been married for 62 years and has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. He and his wife live for their family, "if they are ok- we are ok!" Originally from Tobermore but moved up to Annadale Flats with his family in the 1950's. He has attended Cooke since he was 10years old and came every week with his dad. 15 points

HAS.... a hand injury which caused him to leave school at 13. His hand was saved by an RAF doctor who had learnt then new technique called 'skin grafting' during the war. Began his working life at 14 in The Coop – "there were many ups and downs" (he was a lift operator!) but this is where he met his future wife. He spent a lot of time in Hyde Bank, Long Kesh and various police stations (working). Has medals for police service which he wears on Remembrance Day. He has also been known to wear a red suit at Cooke Christmas events. 10 points

FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSES ... Luke 6 v31 'Do unto others as you would have them do to you' 5 points

FAVOURITES SONGS... 'Amazing Grace' . Thinks the singers at the front of church are great.... especially one of them! :) 2 points

LIKE ABOUT COOKE... enjoys the company and friendship, especially in the Reception area. 1 point



**Starting Wednesday
21st February @7pm**

in the church welcome area
desserts and coffee
followed by the course
sign up in the welcome area on
www.cooke.church
or email dave.gray@cooke.church

**Alpha is a
10 session
course that
can be
joined even
up to week 4**

**Got questions about
faith? Ask at Alpha.**

Alpha is a place to ask the big questions of life. Get together - online or in person - and watch a series of episodes that explore the basics of the Christian faith.

NEW BOILER

Fundraising



You just might have noticed that it's 'occasionally' a bit nippy in Cooke....
THE TIME HAS COME TO INVEST IN A NEW HEATING SYSTEM!
and that is going to be expensive!

**GET GOING
GET CREATIVE
GET GENEROUS**

We're all in this together



Investing in the future of Cooke

Each boiler system costs £33000 and we need 3 of them!
Amazingly we have had pledges to cover the cost of 1 and a bit.
Between now and the summer we are hoping to ask the congregation to do all we can to match the pledges in order to start next autumn with an efficient and reliable system.



Over the winter in our morning services, we have been working through one of the most incredible books of the Old Testament. It is a snapshot of the life of a young person called Daniel who lives through a devastating war and then is trafficked to the capital city of the aggressor army. He is forced to change his name and quite probably turned into a eunuch before undergoing intensive re-education in the culture and customs of his captors. There is a lot that seems very contemporary in the power plays and imperial ambitions of the 'great kings' of Babylon that feature in the narrative. Their need to have everyone comply with their dictates- or face ghastly extermination definitely is resonant with Putin's Russia!

As we move beyond the 'lions' den' into the second half of the book of Daniel- we enter the prophetic section. Bizarre visions of weird beasts, the rise and fall of great empires, war in the heavens. But through all of this there is the echo of confidence- that the God of the fiery furnace & lions' den can be totally depended on. Its an incredible couple of verses in chapter 7 where 600 years before that first Christmas Daniel is given a glimpse of Jesus in his glory: *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."*

As we meet each other in the challenges of life; illness, broken relationships, disappointments, grief, loss, etc, the hope of Daniel is that his vision of Jesus in his presence and glory is the very same hope that we can also rely on. There is not one minute of our lives- even the hardest seasons- that the Lord does not walk right there beside us. So be encouraged!! Be strong and courageous, keep praying and keep reminding yourself that the God of Daniel has not changed even after almost 3000 years.

Big blessings on you as you seek to love that God and love others with your heart, thinking and practical living.

Love



FLOWER ROTA

MARCH

Flower team: Joan

3rd free

10th Olive & Billy McC

17th IMO Cyril Wilson

24th IMO Josephine Dickson

31st P.W. IMO dear friends

APRIL

Flower team: Eleanor B

7th Eleanor B

14th Florence K IMO Robert & Stuart

21st Jeanette R IMO Tommy

28th Jennifer H IMO Doreen & Duncan McMullan

MAY

Flower team: Jean W

5th IMO

12th IMO Arthur, John & Robin McWilliams

19th IMO William & Ellen Wilson

26th Free



CELEBRATE THE RISEN JESUS
TOGETHER

DAWN SERVICE EASTER SUNDAY MORNING

7am on the church green
followed by breakfast in the halls

We will be joined by early risers from St John's and South Kirk.... a celebration of new life in Jesus, baptisms and breakfast.... an amazing way to celebrate Christ is risen!



Person 1: Eleana Campbell
Person 2: Bobby Wisener (pictured with his fave from the choir!!)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Services & events
Sunday 3rd March Sunday 10th March Sunday 17th March Sunday 24th March Thursday 28th March Sunday 31st March (early!) Sunday 31st March	Church gathers @ 11 Church gathers @ 11 (mothering Sunday) St Patrick celebration service @ 11 Palm Sunday Communion service @ 11 Maundy Thursday meal and quiz 7pm Dawn service on the church lawn & breakfast @ 7am Resurrection Sunday celebration @ 11
Sunday 7th April 7th April afternoon Sunday 14th April Sunday 21st April Sunday 28th April	Church gathers @ 11 Alpha Holy Spirit Sunday Church gathers @ 11 Church gathers @ 11 Church gathers @ 11 (AGM after worship)
Sunday 5th May Sunday 12th May Sunday 19th May Sunday 26th May	Marathon Sunday, service @ 10am & BBQ Church gathers @ 11 Church gathers @ 11 All age service @ 11

POINTS OF CONTACT



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