

We are

**COOKE  
CHURCH**

Reaching Out | Engaging | Growing

SUMMER 2024

# Cooke Church Connect Magazine



HELLO  
S SUMMER!

Growing in faith and love together

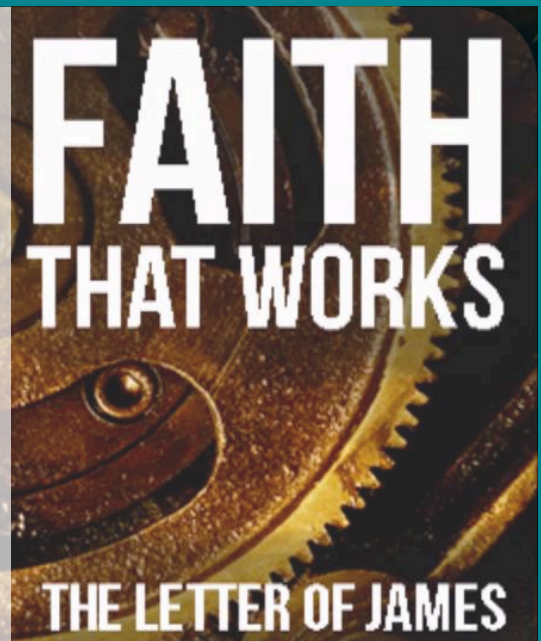
“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me- watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew’s gospel chapter 11:28-30

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

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

Over the spring we have been spending time with James- the half brother of Jesus. James was most likely there at pentecost when the Holy Spirit came in a dramatic way and the church was born. Growing up in Nazareth with Jesus, James would have seen his older brother's life up close and personal in a way that few others would have. He would have witnessed the consistency of what Jesus said with his attitudes and actions, how he listened to others and treated them. In the Gospels we see Jesus asking many more questions than he answers. To be precise, Jesus asks 307 questions. He is asked 183 of which he only answers 3. There is no doubt that Jesus was a great listener and had complete control of what and when he spoke- he was wisdom personified, with a big heart for the poor people and those on the edge of society.



When James became a leader in the church, he needed to pull on this profound understanding of what life lived 'to the full' could look like in a church community. As he wrote his letter to followers of his brother- it isn't surprising that he tackles issues that make it possible to live well together with faith that is demonstrated in radical hospitality, grace in speech and attention, humility and courageous prayer- even (maybe especially) in seasons of suffering.... faith that works.

This short book is worth investing an hour or two of study to shape our view of ourselves, our hopes, our vision and our Lord. Its a fun perspective to imagine James witnessing what he writes about as he viewed Jesus in their home as a young businessman supporting his family through crafting furniture for the people of Nazareth.

As coverage of the expediency and self serving of many of our political leaders ramps up over the next few weeks in preparation for the 4th July general election- we so desire to identify lives where there is character and consistency. There are only a few where it is easy to identify this quality of person in public life- thankfully they do exist! It was heartening to read the coverage of Jurgen Klopp's legacy as manager of Liverpool FC!



As a committed follower of Christ, Klopp has lived in the Premier League spotlight for the past 9 years. I love many of his quotes... but this one really resonated as we've been studying James- *'Its not so important what people think when you come in. Its much more important what people think when you leave'*.

His life has been scrutinised like few- yet he has been assessed as a person of integrity and character.

As he leaves Liverpool , people near and far think well of Jurgen Klopp.

I think the hope that James has for the impact of his letter is to generate this very impact for the people of the church.... that all who encounter them experience the

character and person of Jesus in their faith and action. That's James same intention for us in Cooke.... as we read, and ask, and lean into the power of the Spirit- that the experience of our faith that works would be authenticating and powerful in its witness of Jesus for everyone who comes among us. And even more so that our church community life would be a delight to the audience of its founder- Jesus. Have a wonderful summer and big blessings on you.

*Dave*

# SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

# EPIC KIDS CLUB



## SAINT PATRICK'S DAY @ COOKE

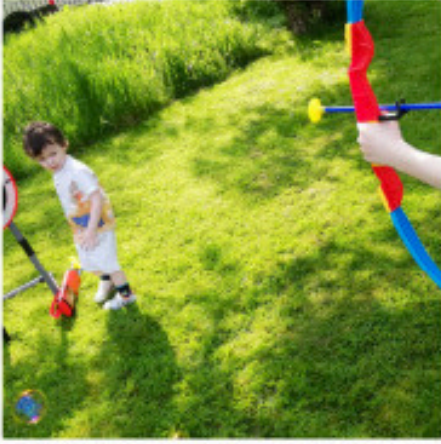


## PW MEAL

## POP-UP PRAISE CHOIR



# Spring Fair 2024

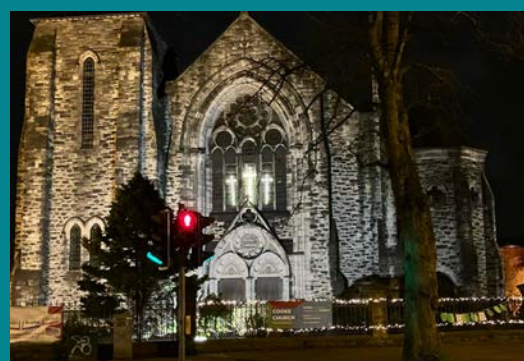
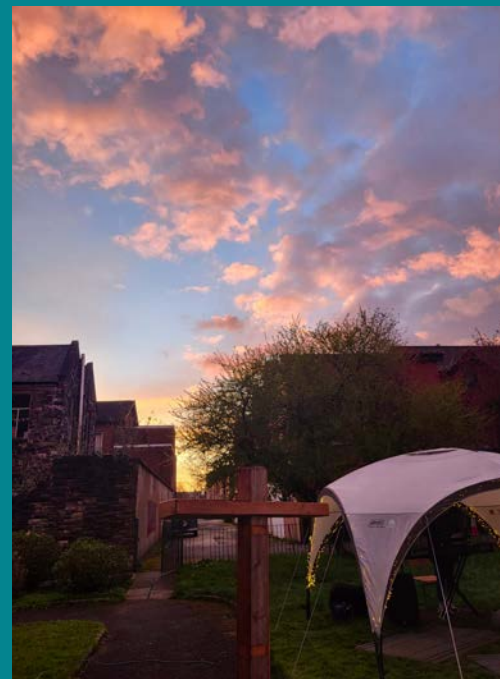


What a wonderful day! The sun shone & we welcomed people from near & far to our Spring Fair. From the car wash to the plants, crafts, cakes, BBQ, refreshments, games & activities, it was a fun-filled day. Heartfelt thanks to all who helped out & to all those who came along to support

us

# EASTER HIGHLIGHTS

## DAWN SERVICE & ILLUMINATIONS



**As the sun rose on a beautiful Easter Sunday morning, the early risers of Cooke, Saint John's and South Kirk gathered to celebrate the risen Jesus.** Following the tradition of many centuries; eight members of South Kirk Church publically declared their new life in Jesus by being baptised... the water may have been chilly- but the celebrations and cooked breakfast were wonderfully warm!



**Massive congratulations to Sarah and Laim- the new Mr & Mrs Boyle!!**

**Laim and Sarah** were married in Cooke on Friday 5th April... a lovely day in a wet Easter week. We pray a blessing on them and their son Alex as they begin this new chapter of their lives together.





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...** going to the park and climbing high! Eating pizza. Playing Roblox. All forms of transport and especially enjoys getting the purple bus (Glider). Favourite animals are cats and dogs. Favourite thing to watch is Krew but also likes Marvel cartoons.

**20 points**

**IS...** in P2 at Nettlefield Primary School. Would like to be a pilot or football player. Just started coming to Cooke this year and especially loves the girls here.

**5 points**

**IN COOKE....** goes to Little Cookes.

**FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY** the one about Daniel in the Lion's Den.

**5 Points**

**FAVOURITES SONG...** 'I'm counting on God'

**2 points**

**LIKE ABOUT COOKE...** Amelie, Kate, Zoe and Emma.

**1 point**

### Person 2

**LIKES...** climbing trees. The colour blue. Horror movies, their favourite is 'The Conjuring'. Football- supports 'The Glens'. Their favourite animal is a dog and especially likes Staffies. Favourite band is 'The Doors'. Is a bit of a thrill seeker and enjoys going to themes parks especially Alton Towers.

**20 points**

**IS...** an Arborist (tree surgeon). Studied 'Arboriculture' in Preston and stayed on to work there after graduating. Just returned back to N.Ireland at Christmas but is now moving back to England, Liverpool at the end of May to start a new job (plus has a Scouser girlfriend).

**15 points**

**IN COOKE....** has been coming to Cooke for 23 years since they were a baby. Went to Genesis Youth Group, went on the Ulster Project to Arlington Texas and has participated in Cooke Pantos and even starred as Robin Hood!

**10 points**

**FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE ...** John 3v16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

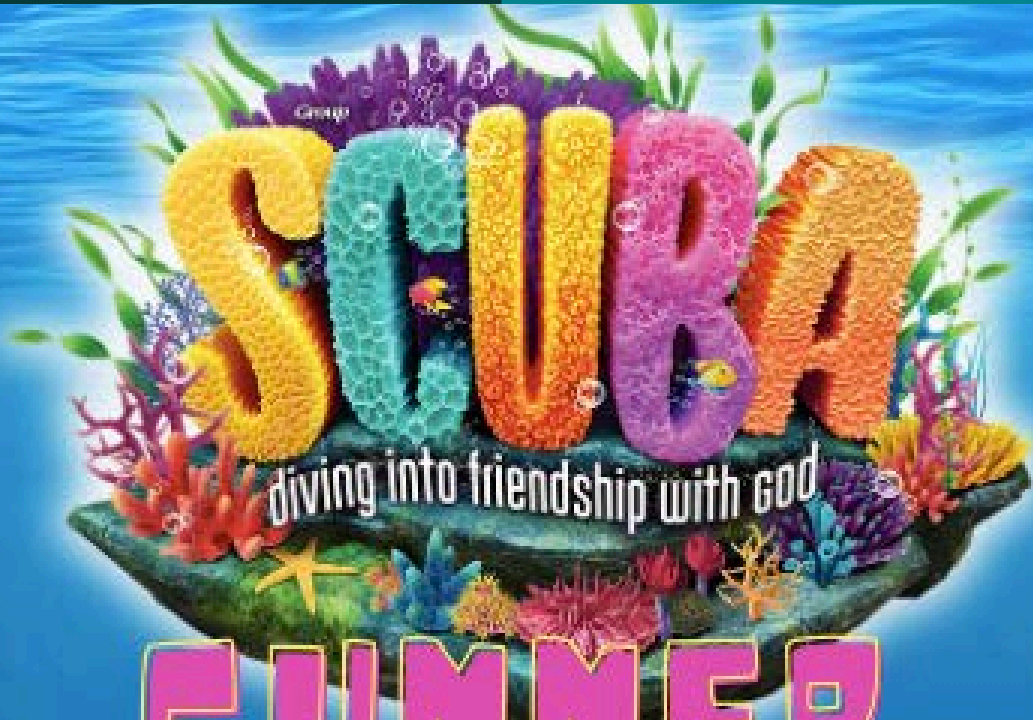
**5 points**

**FAVOURITES SONG...** Like the Rend Collective 'Build your kingdom here'.

**2 points**

**LIKE ABOUT COOKE...** The monumental organ at the front and the great community

**1 point**



# SUMMER MISSION

**P1-P7**  
**12-16 August 2024**  
**10am - 1pm**

SCAN HERE  
TO REGISTER



[WWW.COOKE.CHURCH](http://WWW.COOKE.CHURCH)

We may have the Euros and the Olympics- but the most exciting event of the summer is happening right here on the Ormeau- Its **SCUBA summer mission @ Cooke**. From Sunday 11th of August the church and Halls will be transformed into a marine wonderland where 100 plus kids will be '**diving into friendship with God**'. The kids and team of leaders will be having a 'whale of a time'; drama, games, snacks, stories, imagination station crafts, songs and challenges. Spread the word and keep an eye on FaceBook and the church website- pray, volunteer, support and encourage- be part of Scuba 2024. Come and experience the joy on 18th August- Sunday Funday @ Cooke.

# MISSION IN THE CITY



In May 2019 Crown Jesus ministries celebrated 20 years and pledged to remain faithful to their calling to reach all of Ireland for Christ. This developed into a mandate for the next decade. to go into all 32 counties of Ireland and ensure everyone has the opportunity to receive and respond to the transforming message of Jesus Christ and the hope He brings.

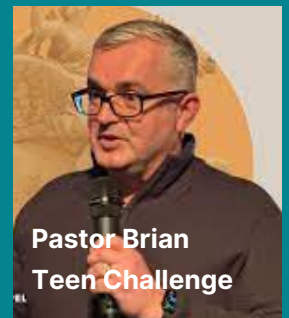
Their ethos is to partner with churches in this adventure, and here in South Belfast Presbytery, we are delighted to have been given the opportunity to join with Crown Jesus and Teen Challenge as new life is breathed into the old Berry Street Presbyterian Church. Situated in the heart of our city, **Hope Chapel Lane** (as it has been renamed) is strategically situated to reach communities of great need with an experience of God's kingdom through prayer, practical help, genuine community, worship, and the prophetic word of God.

I had the joy of participating in this renaissance through bringing a group of students from chaplaincy to Chapel Lane to host a weekly free student lunch. If you've walked down Chapel Lane recently you will know it seems a million miles away from the affluence of Victoria Square, with a large number of people living on the streets, many negotiating addictions and poverty. Yet this neighbourhood is rapidly changing with the construction of multiple new student residences and the opening of the new Ulster University campus. The mission work at **Hope** meets people where they are; with prayer on the streets, a cafe and drop-in for those struggling with addictions run by Teen Challenge, weekly gatherings focused on spiritual revival, prayer for healing and student drop-in.

The work of Teen Challenge is an amazing catalyst for hope and transformation in the lives of many living with addictions.

Kieth Mitchell (**Mitch**) is at the heart of **Hope Chapel Lane**, he is one of the founders of Crown Jesus Ministries and I am delighted he will be joining us at Cooke on Sunday 23rd June.

Mitch has a great passion for people to meet and be transformed by Jesus. He is courageous and creative.... it is a Sunday not to miss!!



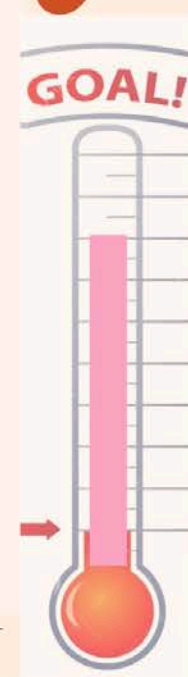
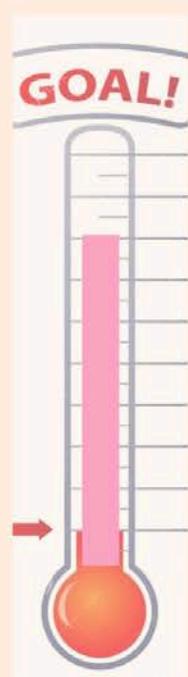
**Mitch with Dan Kitchener- global graffiti artist & creator of a new mural on the wall of Hope Chapel Lane**

As many people stop for selfies..... Mitch says: 'We wanted people to look at it and say, 'Isn't that nice? There's a church or a ministry which doesn't feel it has to Bible bash or force us into Protestant or Catholic traditions, a church which is actually sharing something happy and joyous and bright and colourful. That is the heart behind the artwork.'



# NEW BOILER

## Fundraising



**You are amazing!!**

Thank you to all who have responded since we launched our appeal for funding to replace our ancient heating system. To date we have £63,600 in the bank almost enough to fully fund two of our buildings.... only one to go!!

**KEEP GOING  
BEING CREATIVE  
BEING GENEROUS**

**We're all in this  
together**

**Investing in the  
future of Cooke**

**Giving a percentage of our money has always been a central part of worship for God's people.** Giving does 9 key things in our lives; **1.** It provides for God's house, **2.** It tells God we trust him, **3.** it creates margin in our life for God to fill, **4.** It reminds us that we are not the source of our own blessing, **5.** It connects our money to God's kingdom purposes, **6.** It gives our jobs an eternal significance, **7.** It transforms our money into a 'seed', **8.** It breaks the greed and self-reliance of our hearts, **9.** It puts God 1st. Giving is more than us being generous.... it is primarily responding to the generosity and grace of God in our lives. It should be a key characteristic of all Christians.

## Annual General Meeting for year ending December 2023

The AGM for 2023 was held after morning worship on 19th May 2024 and began with a movie highlighting many of the wonderful events, initiatives and blessings of the past year.

The Treasurer, Mr Keith Savage thanked everyone for their generous giving throughout the year and showed slides to give an overview of Income and Expenditure to the Church and Property Accounts.

The Church Account had a surplus of £7,064.83 at the end of the year and the Property account had a closing balance of £7,985.35 (after adjustments this will reduce to -£2245.90.)

Mrs Carol Reynolds outlined Income and Expenditure for the Missions Account and was pleased to report that we met the United Appeal target for the congregation and had a closing balance of £2,564.40 which will be used for missional giving.

Until now, financial donations to Foodstore have been lodged into the Missions Account, but are reported separately. For ease of accounting the Committee have agreed that a separate "Foodstore" account should be opened. Mrs Reynolds will continue to manage the Foodstore Account and Mrs Elaine MacNeill will take over responsibility for the Missions Account.

Mr A Corscadden proposed and Mrs M Wisoner seconded the adoption of the Church reports and this was agreed by all in attendance. Everyone responsible were thanked for the work that had been done to maintain the church accounts and provide the information for the AGM.

Copies of the 2023 Annual report are available for collection from the Church Reception Area. If you would like to receive a copy please either email Elaine MacNeill at [elaine.macneill@cooke.church](mailto:elaine.macneill@cooke.church) or phone **07801 883591**.



### FLOWER ROTA

#### June

##### Flower team: Pamela McW

**2nd** A&J Corscadden IMO Yvonne Woods

**9th** Mina Graham IMO Alex Graham

**16th** IMO Josephine Dickson

**23rd** Margaret Allen IMO Roy

**30th** Carson family for the Cooke family

#### July

##### Flower team: Cecil H

**7th** Florence Kinghan

**14th** Harold Gilmour IMO Thomas & Mary

**21st** Margaret Dunn IMO family & friends

**28th** IMO Hester & William McMurtry

#### August

##### Flower team: TBC

**4th** Joan Hamilton

**11th** Irene Burns IMO Janet

**18th** IMO Pat Wilson

**25th** Janice Glenn

#### September

##### Flower team: Joan Hamilton

**1st** Barbara Taylor IMO Ann & Lynn Patton

**8th** Hilary & Colin Brunt IMO Shirley

**15th** Lottie McDowell IMO Brian

**22nd** Eleanor Brennan

**29th** Hetherington Family



Heading North for adventure at the coast again this summer, two of our young people, Elliot and Ryan will be part of the Scripture Union team at Portstewart CSSM. In the summer of 22 they both graduated from the 'Whales' section for teens to join the leadership team and are excited to return this July.

### Why CSSM?

**Ryan:** I have grown up going to CSSM and have experienced how much it has helped me develop my faith particularly in the later years, so I love coming back so I can try and encourage other kids to become closer to God.

**Elliot:** I love the ethos and the fun way of bringing the heart of God into view for kids of all ages.

### Why Portstewart?

**Ryan:** it's simply the best.

**Elliot:** I love the amazing community of dedicated leaders who are there year after year, they make it amazing. (Also, its **not** Portrush CSSM!)

### Best thing about Team life?

**Ryan:** the relationships you make with completely new people in the space of two weeks. I've made friends with people who I can make jokes and laugh with but who also listen and answer any questions about faith that I have which I think is an amazing thing.

**Elliot:** the influence and guidance from older leaders is brilliant. You spend every day with the kids in your section but are constantly encouraged and grow in your own faith. I've made great friends and love mealtimes, late night chats and a bit of down-time surfing on the strand.

### How does CSSM shape the rest of the summer?

**Ryan:** For the first two weeks of July I'm serving the Lord, which mentally sets me up really well for the rest of the summer as it helps me get my priorities right and strengthens my faith. CSSM helps me shape my summer around God.

**Elliot:** Full low-down on top North Coast ice cream and coffee shops, new friends, great investment in the lives of kids, fun and focus at the start of July... CSSM is superb!



Person 1: Nana Boateng

Person 2: Brian Smith



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| Date   | Services & events  |
|--|--|
| Sunday 2nd June<br>Sunday 9th June<br>Sunday 16th June<br>Sunday 23rd June<br>Sunday 30th June             | 'Sticker Sunday'..... Church gathers @ 11<br>Good news to share and live @ 11<br><b>Youth and Children's Sunday @ 11.... Church picnic</b><br>Mission focus Sunday with Mitch from 'Crown Jesus'<br>Communion Sunday and welcome new members |
| Sunday 7th July<br>Sunday 14th July<br>Sunday 21st July<br>Sunday 28th July                                | Church gathers @ 11<br>Church gathers @ 11<br>Church gathers @ 11<br>Church gathers @ 11   |
| Sunday 4th August<br>Sunday 11th August<br>Mon 12th - Fri 16th<br>Sunday 18th August<br>Sunday 25th August | Church gathers @ 11<br>Church gathers @ 11<br><b>Scuba... Summer Mission @ Cooke</b><br><b>Sunday Funday</b> all age service @ 11<br>Church gathers @ 11   |
| Sunday 1st Sept  | <b>Back to School Sunday @ 11</b>  |

**COOKE  
FOOD  
STORE**

Foodstore continues its work over the summer. The team will provide weekly hampers for people needing assistance. Please continue to remember to show your support by bringing tinned food, toiletries and other goods to leave in the church welcome area or in the Halls on Tuesday mornings. The 'Big Blessings Tuesday' table will keep going over July and August.

## POINTS OF CONTACT



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Clerk of Session

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