

Old Manse Update

Work been ongoing on the former manse, with the contractor having to contend with some very wet weather recently. The plasterers have nearly all the final dash coat on the external walls completed. The roof is now re-slatted with new lead being installed to the valleys and flashings. The front parapet leadwork has commenced. A flat roof has been renewed to the rear at high level. Internally the re-wiring has commenced along with the re-piping of the heating system.

Scout Leaders required (urgently)

As you may be aware, the Scout Section of 1st Cookstown Scout Group (11-14year olds) has not been able to run for the past 2 years as we haven't been able to find leaders. This situation gives us great concern. If there is anyone who would feel able to undertake the role with 1/2 others please contact Margaret Hamilton ([07880 975337](tel:07880975337)) or Colin Rea ([07761 229052](tel:07761229052)) for details.

Prayer Requests

If anyone has any requests for prayer, please contact Lynne Dripps on 07901 691093.

ROTAS

Church Stewarding Rota

December Margaret Hamilton, Colin Rea
January Lynne Dripps, Maurice Murphy

Collection Rota

Manse side (December) Margaret Hamilton
Town side (December) Gary McKeown
Gallery (December) Heather Parke, Norman Wilson
Manse side (January) Lynne Dripps
Town side (January) David Hartley
Gallery (January) Alastair Brown, Maurice Murphy

FWO Rota

This week Stephen Park Next week David McDowell

Sound Desk Rota

Today Andrew Johnston Next week David Hartley

Junior Church Rota

Today Nativity Practice
Next Week Nativity Practice

Crèche Rota

Today Sandra Hunter, June Reid, Sandra Black
Next Sunday (Creche Christmas Party) — Sandra McKeown, Alison Currie, Gillian Lyle

If anyone would be willing to assist on the creche rota, or if you are no longer able to commit, please contact Gillian Lyle on [07889 756457](tel:07889756457).

Announcements for inclusion in the bulletin should be sent to:
Paul Ferguson (paulferguson@firstcookstown.co.uk)

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC 105651)



First Presbyterian Church Cookstown

(founded 1646)

Welcome!

Sunday, 7 December 2025

Please take this Bulletin home with you.

"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12



Remember: www.firstcookstown.co.uk You can access this Bulletin, listen to service recordings, and contribute news and updates, along with much more information.

*Before any Service, speak to God; During the Service, let God speak to you;
After the Service, speak to one another! MISSION is every believer's responsibility!*

Today we will be streaming our services live via **YouTube**. Why not visit our YouTube channel, where you can watch live, or catch up on previous services. Simply go to:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCzB39BpHtK85Pb9hKRpc1Yw

Praise

AM

IPH 291 - Come O long expected Jesus
IPH 312 - Child in a manger
IPH 326 - Love came down at Christmas
Joy has dawned

PM

Today

11:30 am

Morning Service: Revd Michael Currie: "Christmas Unwrapped #1 - A Promise" - Luke 1:26-38 (there will be a cup of tea served afterwards in the church hall). Can members of Kirk Session please meet in the Morrison Room immediately after our morning service.

6:30 pm

7:00 pm

Evening Service: we join with Molesworth for their evening service.
Youth Fellowship meet in *The Loft*.

Monday

2:00 pm

Friends at First Craft & Chat until 4pm. Everybody is welcome to come along and try some craft, bring your own, or just come and enjoy a cup of tea with the chat. This group had a stall at the recent Craft Fair and raised £403 to give to the Building Fund.

6:00 pm

6:30 pm

Squirrel and Beaver Scouts meet in The Loft until 7:15 pm.
Cub Scouts meet in the halls until 8:00 pm.

Tuesday

10:30 am

Prayer Time in the Morrison Room.

7:45 pm

First Cookstown Bowling Club: We look forward to welcoming anybody who would like to try bowls for the first, or who maybe hasn't played in a while, as well as our 'old faithfuls'. Even if you just want to come along to watch, chat and have a cup of tea, please come and join us.

Wednesday

10:30 am

NO morning Bible Study this week.

6:30 pm

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in the halls and loft.

7:00 pm

We meet promptly in the church car park to go **Carol Singing**.

Thursday

8:00 pm

Prayer Meeting in the Minister's Room.

Next Sunday

10:15 am

Sunday School and Bible Class.

10:50 am

Prayer time in the Minister's room until 11:10 am.

11:30 am

Morning Service: Revd Michael Currie: "Christmas Unwrapped #2 - A Prophecy" - Matthew 1:1-17

6:00 pm

Evening Service: Revd Michael Currie - "The Birth of the heir...at last" - Genesis 21

7:00 pm

Youth Fellowship meet in *The Loft*.

Looking Ahead

Sunday 21/12/25

Nativity Service @ 11:30 am

Sunday 21/12/25

Carols by Candlelight Service @ 6 pm (supper will be served afterwards)

Tuesday 23/12/25

Blood donation session at Glenavon House Hotel, 12:30 until 7:30 pm. Note that donation sessions are now by appointment only; to book an appointment, please go to www.nibts.org or call [08085 534 653](tel:08085534653).

Thursday 25/12/25

Christmas Morning Service @ 10:30 am

Friday 26/12/25

Boxing Day football (details to be confirmed)

Sunday 28/12/25

Revd David McMillan

Sunday 4/1/25

Communion Service on the first Sunday of the New Year.

(Heidelberg) Catechism Corner

Q35 What is the meaning of these words - "He was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary"?

A: That God's eternal Son, who is, and continueth true and eternal God, took upon Him the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the Virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost; that He also might be the true seed of David, like unto his brethren in all things, sin excepted."

Ruth's Ramblings

Ruth Mahood's latest update / prayer letter is available from either vestibule table.

Parking

Work continues on the old manse. This means that the back yard is no longer available for additional parking.

Evening Services

From November we will hold our evening services in the Morrison Room. Once a month we will also have a more informal service with tea/coffee beforehand. On these evenings someone will also share their journey with God when we will also have an epilogue. Even if you cannot commit to every Sunday evening, do come along if possible as we seek to grow in our faith together and encourage one another as a church family.

Choir

We hope to have a choir take part in our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 21st December. A practice will be held on Sunday mornings in the Morrison room at 10:30am for anyone interested.

REACH

The REACH team made up of volunteers from the local churches are exploring the idea of a night-time street outreach. If you would be interested in helping out, or would like some more information please speak to Michael.

INSPIRE magazine subscription

Anyone wishing to start a subscription for the INSPIRE magazine (formerly Wider World), or to cancel an existing subscription, please contact Rachel Johnston on [07732 107352](tel:07732107352) or johnstonrachel77@gmail.com The cost of the annual subscription for 2026 is £10.00 (4 issues), or the digital copy of the magazine can be purchased online for £2.50 per magazine. Could I have any outstanding payments by Sunday 14th of December, please and thank you.

Presbyterian Herald

Anyone looking to cancel an existing subscription, or to take out a subscription to the Presbyterian Herald for 2026, please let Philip Leonard or Michael Currie know. Cost for this incoming year remains at £20.

Tyrone Presbytery Marriage Preparation Course

Couples married within the Presbyterian Church must attend some form of preparation and each year presbytery facilitates classes free of charge. The next course will be held on Saturday 7th February 2026. Couples can register using the following link: tyronepresbytery.weebly.com

Men's Fellowship

We hope to plan some events as part of our Men's Fellowship which will be aimed at all age groups. If you would like to be involved please speak to Chris Kerr.

Sperrin Choir

The Sperrin Choir presents "Voices of the Season" in the Burnavon Theatre. Come along and enjoy traditional and modern Christmas music on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th December. The choir will be joined by soloist Josh Futi, tenor, on Thursday and Sperrin Kidz and Sperrin Youth Choir on Friday. Tickets available from the Burnavon Theatre.

Website

We recently updated our church website: www.firstcookstown.co.uk We trust this will be easier to navigate for those who visit in the future.