

RE Lessons Public consultation

Back in February, the Education Minister announced that there was to be a review and update of the content of RE following the ruling of the Supreme Court that RE in Northern Ireland was unlawful. A drafting group was set up to revise and rewrite the content, the first draft of the new Core Syllabus has been released for public viewing. This is not the final version and is open for public consultation meaning we can read it and respond with our thoughts and suggestions for improvement. Anyone with an interest in what our children and grandchildren are going to learn in RE lessons in the future are encouraged to respond. The consultation closes on 30th September at 11.59pm. To read it and have your say on it, follow this link: <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-religious-education-core-syllabus>

Grant Award - Work to Halls

Good news! We have been successful in applying for a grant, the Northern Ireland Community Infrastructure Fund from the Department of Communities and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. The grant award is for projects up to a value of £50,000, of which we have been awarded the maximum of £40,000. We are required to make up the £10,000 shortfall out of church funds. This will be used to do some urgent repairs to the hall roof and guttering, which will hopefully help with the water penetration to the halls. The works will be completed over the summer months. Scaffolding will be required around part of the hall, however access will be maintained to and from the hall using the normal routes. We would like to thank the various organisations that sent in letters of support for the grant application.

ROTAS

Church Stewarding Rota

August..... Brian Donaghy, Judith McGeown
September Alison Bell, David McDowell

Collection Rota

Manse side (August) Margaret Hamilton
Town side (August)..... Norman Purdy
Gallery (August) Chris McKnight, Norman Wilson
Manse side (September) Alison Bell
Town side (September) Gary McKeown
Gallery (September)..... Alastair Brown, Ronnie Nicholl

FWO Rota

This week David McDowell Next week..... David Hartley

Sound Desk Rota

Today Stephen Park Next week..... Andrew Johnston

Junior Church Rota

Today Victoria McKnight, Andrea Harkness
Next Week Joan Park, Andrea Getty

Crèche Rota

Today Gillian Lyle, Ellie Lyle
Next Sunday TBC

You can keep up with all that is going on in church life by following our Facebook page, subscribing to our YouTube channel, or visiting our website: www.firstcookstown.co.uk

To contact Revd Michael Currie, Tel: [07754 168911](tel:07754168911) or Email: mcurrie@presbyterianireland.org

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First Cookstown is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, registered with the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland (NIC 105651).



First Cookstown

Knowing Jesus, making Jesus known

Weekly Bulletin

Sunday 9 August 2026

*“Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.” Psalm 25:6*

We warmly welcome you to worship this morning on this first day of another week, whether you are part of our church family, here in First Cookstown, or just visiting with us.

We hope that as we worship together we will encounter God and experience the hope and assurance of the Gospel and the relevance of God's word in our world today.

If you're new to First Cookstown, we do hope you have been made welcome at the door and someone helped you get your bearings. Maybe you are new to the area and you are looking for a local church where you can feel at home.

Catechism Corner will return in September

Praise

AM

IPH 161 Holy, holy, holy
IPH 82 God is always near me
Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire
O Church arise

PM

Today

11:00 am
6:30 pm

Morning Service: Mr Leslie Reid (One Mission Society)
Joint Evening Service in Molesworth Presbyterian Church.

Monday

2:00 pm

Friends at First Craft & Chat meets from 2pm to 4pm. Come along as we make some items to sell in October at the church fete, or just come for the chat over a cup of tea. Everyone will be made very welcome.

6:00 pm

Squirrel Scouts will resume in September.

6:30 pm

Cub Scouts will resume in September.

7:00 pm

Beaver Scouts will resume in September.

Tuesday

10:30 am

Prayer Time in the Morrison Room.

7:45 pm

First Cookstown Bowling Club: Our meetings resume in September, when we look forward to welcoming you to join with us once again!

Wednesday

10:30 am

NO Bible Study.

Thursday

8:00 pm

Prayer Meeting in the Minister's Room.

Next Sunday

10:15 am

Sunday School and Bible Class will resume in September.

10:50 am

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

11:00 am

Morning Service: Mr Alan Simpson (Mossie)

6:30 pm

Joint Evening Service in Molesworth Presbyterian Church.

Looking ahead...

Sunday 23/8/26

Revd Alistair Gordon (Portglenone)

Sunday 30/8/26

Revd Michael Currie "The Christian battlefield No.4 Doubt" - John 20:24-29

Sunday 6/9/26

Back to school with God family service @ 11:30 am. (BBQ after worship)

Sunday 6/9/26

Evening Communion Service

Sunday 13/8/26

Sunday School & Bible Class will recommence.

Bereavement

It is with regret that we announce the death of Miss Florence Leonard of Milburn Street, Cookstown, who passed away unexpectedly at her home on Thursday 30 July 2026. A funeral service was held on Saturday 1 July 2026 in First, followed by burial in Cookstown Cemetery. Our deepest sympathy goes to her brothers, Robert and Alfie, sisters, Janet and Edith, and to the entire Leonard family.

Pastoral Cover

Revd Michael is currently on leave until Monday 24 August. Anyone requiring the services of a minister are asked to contact Robert Park ([07934 681958](tel:07934681958)) or Robert Hamilton ([07835 516785](tel:07835516785)).

Safeguarding

We are delighted to announce that from now on Stephen Park will be our Designated Person and Louise Reid will be our Deputy Designated Person. We thank them for their willingness to take up this vital role within the life and witness of our church and we wish them God's blessing as they take up these respective roles. Their contact details are as follows: Stephen ([07763 119783](tel:07763119783) / dp@firstcookstown.co.uk) and Louise ([07765 933081](tel:07765933081) / ddp@firstcookstown.co.uk) These details will be displayed in due course, and we encourage you to hold them in prayer. We also pay tribute to our previous Designated Person team of Derek Short and Lynne Dripps, sincerely thanking them for their service over the past number of years.

Membership Classes

Membership classes will be held in the autumn, in preparation for our November communion service. If you would be interested in being a communicant member, please speak to Michael. Classes can be arranged to suit whoever comes along.

Scout Leaders required (urgently)

As you may be aware, the Scout Section of 1st Cookstown Scout Group (11-14 year 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.

Church Gates

It is requested that anyone opening or closing the gates into the church car park, please ensure that the gates are properly secured in either the open or closed position at all times, and not left free to move accidentally. Everyone's cooperation in this matter is appreciated. Thank you.

Prayer Requests

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

Parking

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

REACH

The REACH team, made up of volunteers from the local churches, have started a night-time street outreach ministry. If you would be interested in being involved, or would like some more information please speak to Michael.

Congregational Walk

A congregational walk has been organised for Saturday 19th September along the North Coast from Portstewart to Portrush and back. We plan to meet at the harbour end of Portstewart promenade at 11:00am, and return by early afternoon. You are encouraged to bring a packed lunch and we will eat together at the West strand in Portrush at 12:30pm. If you can meet in Portstewart that would be great, alternatively if enough people wish to travel by bus, we can arrange to hire one. Everyone will be made very welcome and are encouraged to join with us on the day.

Summer Services

Just to remind everyone that the morning services in the months of July and August will start at the earlier time of 11:00am. Also, as in previous years, we will have joint evening services. We will host July when Molesworth will join with us and Molesworth will host in August when we will join with them. We hope to have a cup of tea afterwards.

Football

A group from the local churches regularly meet on Friday evenings at MUSA to play football. If you would be interested, contact Michael for more information.

Women's Book Study

Women are encouraged to take a copy of Cheryl Marshall's book, entitled "all of me", for a read over the summer. Later in the year a study will be held based on the book, so if you are happy to leave a contact number on the sign up sheet when you pick up your copy that would be appreciated. Even if you don't think you will make the study, feel free to take a book.

Men's Book Study

In the Autumn, as part of our Men's Fellowship, we hope to complete the study material that accompanies Matt Fuller's book, entitled *Reclaiming Masculinity*. From next Sunday (dv), all men can sign up and collect a copy to read over the summer months in preparation for later in the year. Even if you can't make the study, you are welcome to take a copy as it will be well worth reading.

'Harvest Fete' - Saturday 3rd October

Save the date and start prepping for our 'Harvest Fete' - Saturday 3rd October. From fresh vegetables and homemade cakes to delicious preserves and creative crafts, there will be something for everyone to enjoy! Our church is delighted to host a 'Harvest Fete' this year, and we would love as many people as possible to take part. Now is the perfect time to start planting, baking, and creating, so you can share your talents and join in the fun. We look forward to a wonderful day of community, competition, and harvest joy!