

Talking Point - February 2020

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PANTOMIMES THROUGH THE YEARS

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A WORD FROM MORRIS

At last the very long month of January is over, especially if you got paid before Christmas!

February begins with us leaving the E.U. but is it the end of Brexit, I think not. This is of course a Leap Year so February holds the possibility of a Valentine proposal from some young lady to the man of her dreams.

As for me, it completes nine years of ministry at Cooke and in this final year of ministry before retirement, it could be the year of last things, such as my last Easter etc. That would seem quite a negative way of looking at things, when it is just the prelude to new beginnings and new possibilities.

In preparation for this year of change, and allowing the congregation to look to the future, the Kirk Session has asked you this month to choose four new elders. It is hoped that this enhanced leadership team will help the congregation through the process of choosing a new minister in 2021.

I urge you, to prayerfully consider your choices and above all else, make sure you vote, so that it will become clear who God is calling to these important roles.

It is clear, that there are many challenges ahead, but how we meet those challenges is important. In the parable of the talents the one who was condemned was the one who did nothing with the resources at his disposal. His one talent was not an inconsiderable amount of money. It might not have been as large a sum as others, but he could have done a lot with it. So let us look forward to this year, to see what God can do, and let us pray and plan for the future.

This is the day that the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it.

Morris Gault

FOODSTORE@COOKE

Thank you very much to everyone for donating so generously to the Foodstore. We have given out 13 food hampers in December. The following are in short supply: Pasta sauces, fruit juice, spaghetti, rice, biscuits and dilutable juice. A box is available in the Reception area for your donations.

CLOTHING BAG APPEAL

21st/22nd March 2020

Please keep all your good unwanted clothing until then. More details in the March Magazine. Thank you for your continued support.

PW NEWS

The next meeting of the PW will be on Tuesday 25th February 2020 when we will visit our friends in Woodvale PW.

Everyone is most welcome to attend.

FLOWER TEAM

January	Ruby Rankin
February	Cecil Hetherington

DEATHS

Doreen Hutchinson
Margaret Eleanor McKnight
Francis Brown.
Joseph Lamberton
Jean Orr C.B.E.
Hedley Reddick

16th December 2019
21st December 2019
26th December 2019
1st January 2020
11th January 2020
23rd January 2020

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020

Praying with Zimbabwe.

This years "World Day of Prayer" will be held on Friday 6th March 2020 in Assembly Buildings Belfast at 11am and Knockbreda Methodist Church at 7.30 pm.

The theme of the service is "Rise! Take your mat and walk"
We reflect on the difficulties and unrest that has plagued Zimbabwe for many years, the challenges that the people have met and their hopes for the future as they seek love, peace and reconciliation.

Ladies from the churches in our area are taking part in the evening service in Knockbreda Methodist Church and it would be lovely if you are able to join us that evening.

GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Laura Hetherington is heading to Tanzania for 2 weeks in July with the charity Go Make a Difference. While in Tanzania she will be helping to build water tanks, goat sheds and low cost housing. Volunteers will also teach in local schools. To help with fundraising for her trip, Laura will be providing refreshments after church on the 2nd and 9th February. Thank you in advance for your support.

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS



PANTO NO 10!

Snow White and the 7 dwarfs was our 10th Panto and what an amazing show it was. Well done to all the cast, crew, make up, costumes, props, sound, light and everything else that went into producing it and of course congratulations to Cecil Hetherington for writing, directing and coaching in order to pull in all together. There were 36 cast on the stage, some were dwarfs, some were animals, some were good, some were evil and some were just hilariously funny take a bow everyone, well done!

Can you remember the names of all the other pantos?

From 2011 we had - Cinderella, Aladdin, Dick Whittington, Sleeping Beauty, Little Red Riding Hood, Puss in Boots, Alice in Pantoland, Babes in the Wood, The Three Musketeers and lastly Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

NOMINATION OF NEW ELDERS

An information leaflet and nomination papers for the election of 4 new Elders are included with this month's Talking Point magazine for those eligible to vote.

The closing date for the return of nominations is the end of morning worship on Sunday 23rd February 2020.

A box for the return of Voting papers will be available in the Campbell Reception Area from Sunday 2nd February 2020, or may be returned directly to the Clerk at the address below. Postal returns must be received before 23rd February 2020.

Thank you.

Mrs Elaine MacNeill
55 Kirkliston Park
Belfast BT5 6ED

GENESIS CAROL SINGING

Just before Christmas a group of young people and leaders from Genesis sang carols for residents in Arlington and Camlo Homes in North Parade before returning to Cooke for their Christmas party.

It was a great evening and was enjoyed by residents and carol singers alike.

Texts of appreciation were received to let us know how much the residents had enjoyed having the young people with them to sing favourite and much loved carols, and to thank them for coming to share the love and joy of the Christmas season.

WELCOME TEAM FOR FEBRUARY

Reception & Count

David Lowham // Janis McKnight // Alan Wilson
Eleanor Brennan // Jean Wilson

WELCOME TEAM FOR MARCH

Reception & Count

Lisa Gaylor // Harvey Glenn // Janice Glenn
Patricia Emerson

UCB "WORD FOR TODAY"

UCB Word for Today (and "Word for You today" for young adults) carried a mini-series from 21st – 25th January 2020 called "Stand on God's Word" which gave us words from Scripture to help us through difficult times -

Included below is the reading from Tuesday, January 21st:

"When we're facing danger. David said: "This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety...my God and I trust him."

When we're afraid and facing an overwhelming situation, we can run to God for safety. Trusting in God doesn't mean we'll never face difficult or scary circumstances.

Life throws all sorts of things our way. But we can still be at peace because of God's promises, such as this one:

"I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honour them" (Psalm 91:14-15 NLTUK).

He will never leave us to face anything on our own. We'll always have Him with us, and we can always rely on Him. He's bigger than our situations and more powerful than any storm that we're facing.

When we speak God's Word over our lives, we release the power contained in it. So we need to be speaking out verses which show us how big God is compared to our situation. Here are some examples:

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline"(2 Timothy 1:7 NLT);

"The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm" (Exodus 14:14 NLT);

"Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock" (Isaiah 26:4 NLT);

"I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?" (Jeremiah 32:27 NLT).

So let's stand firm today, and expect God to keep His promises to us."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Worship - Morning

Date	Time	Morning
2nd February	11:00am	Morris Gault
9th February	11:00am	Morris Gault
16th February	11:00am	Morris Gault
23rd February	11:00am	All Age Service
1st March	11:00am	Morris Gault

Worship - Evening

Date	Time	Evening
2nd February	7:00pm	Bible Study
9th February	7:00pm	Bible Study
16th February	7:00pm	Bible Study
23rd February	6:30pm	Cafe Church
1st March	7:00pm	Bible Study

DEADLINE FOR MARCH MAGAZINE: Sunday 23rd February

You can email contributions to magazine@cookecentenary.org.uk

POINTS OF CONTACT

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