

The 3rd of this month is the 50th anniversary of the first broadcast of Trumpton. It could be said that on the 20th, Washington will become Trumpton! The subtleties work for us Brits but perhaps go unnoticed by the US's 45th administration (even if - and I hope they do - the satirists pick up on Trumpton's second episode, "Miss Lovelace and the Mayor's Hat").

You may remember Trumpton Town Hall clock opening each episode with Brian Cant's voice-over:

"Here is the clock, the Trumpton clock.

*Telling the time, steadily, sensibly;
never too quickly, never too slowly.*

Telling the time for Trumpton."

Words to caution Donald Trump, they nonetheless also comprise a reminder for us all that time ticks on relentlessly...

Whereas the original Trumpton's fire chief, captain Flack, was often annoyed at never having an actual fire to put out, I suspect the new Trumpton's political fire brigade will be called to put out many things set ablaze; they will need our prayers - really, they will - as will our own politicians as we embark on a 2017 which promises to be significantly different to that which has passed.

The Gospel according to Luke (12.2) quotes Jesus: "Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known." All politicians would do well to heed this - not just in the US but especially, over the next several months, the politicians of the UK and EU.

If the world is watching and waiting to see what Donald might achieve for the betterment of the world during the next four years (no pressure, then!), we should not forget, either, that we all have the ultimate eyes on us, watching and waiting. So a good prayer (ironically from the funeral service) to God at the beginning of a new year is: *"Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth, to turn to Christ and follow in his steps, in the way that leads to everlasting life."* Use it.