

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Let Us Go Up to the Mountain of the Lord

Elder Timothy J. Dyches, United States
Europe Area Presidency



Elder
Timothy J. Dyches

The prophet Isaiah declared, “Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, . . . and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths.”¹

The holy temple of the Lord is “the mountain of the Lord,” where we can strengthen our faith in our Heavenly Father and in His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Within the sacred walls of each temple, we are taught “of his ways,” where we came from, our purpose here on earth as we “walk in his paths”, and where we may go. The house of the Lord is a sublime setting for exercising our agency in learning and becoming.

As your Area Presidency, we rejoice with you in the many blessings the temple brings into our lives. “Our greatest desire is to see people living joyfully and preparing to go to the temple where they receive ordinances and make covenants necessary for the exaltation of their families and become spiritually and temporally self-reliant.”²

In this ever-changing world, the temple stands firm and steadfast.

Temple worship reminds us of the reality of binding families together and the responsibilities of parents to their children. “The divine plan of

happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave. Sacred ordinances and covenants available in holy temples make it possible for individuals to return to the presence of God and for families to be united eternally.”³

The goal for 2015 is for you to personally feel that connecting spirit of families in your own life. This begins as you complete the *My Family* booklet with stories and family history about your ancestors and then take their names to the temple.

When attending the temple, we render Christlike service in performing acts of love for those who cannot do it by themselves. President Joseph F. Smith stated, “Through our efforts in their behalf their chains of bondage will fall from them, and the darkness surrounding them will clear away, that light may shine upon them and they shall hear in the spirit world of the work that has been done for them by their children here, and will rejoice with you in your performance of these duties.”⁴

In my own family, some of our most treasured memories have come as we joined together in the temple to perform sacred ordinances for our own deceased ancestors. “Selfless acts of service and consecration refine our

spirits, remove the scales from our spiritual eyes, and open the windows of heaven. By becoming the answer to someone’s prayer, we often find the answer to our own.”⁵

A member recently wrote: “Each time I attend the temple, I feel the Spirit burn deep within me. Just being on the temple grounds is an amazing spiritual experience, but being inside and serving the Lord and helping my ancestors by giving them the opportunity to accept the gospel gives me a feeling I am struggling to put into words . . . a feeling that overwhelms me the moment I cross the door into the temple.”⁶

Transcendent blessings await all who enter into the sacred ordinances and covenants of the temple. We become better people, better disciples of Christ. Consistent temple worship deepens our love of God, strengthens our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and increases our ability to feel the Holy Ghost in our lives.

Today, we must ask ourselves: Are we fully converted? Do we reflect in our countenances the joy of the gospel of Jesus Christ as true disciples should?

“If you have not yet been to the temple or if you *have* been but currently do not qualify for a

recommend, there is no more important goal for you to work toward than being worthy to go to the temple.

... Secure a temple recommend and regard it as a precious possession, for such it is.”⁷

Your life will never be the same again. Greater peace, joy and faith are waiting for you. Let us go forward with greater faith this year with our

eyes firmly fixed on the temple. Be temple worthy every day. ■

NOTES

1. Isaiah 2:3.
2. 2015 Europe Area Plan.
3. “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129.
4. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* (1998), 247.
5. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Waiting on the Road to Damascus,” *Ensign*, May 2011, 76.
6. Personal communication.
7. Thomas S. Monson, “The Holy Temple— a Beacon to the World,” May 2011, 93.

LOCAL NEWS

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland Visits Edinburgh during Church’s Scottish Anniversary Year

By Sister Joyce Jones

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was in Edinburgh (Sat 6 Jun and Sun 7 Jun) for a visit to local Church members and missionaries that coincided with the 175th anniversary of the Church’s first baptisms in Scotland. Elder Holland paid tribute to the Christian faith of thousands

of early pioneers who joined the Church in Scotland and their legacy to the Church’s modern-day Scottish membership.

In 1840, Elder Orson Pratt—an early Apostle—dedicated Scotland for the preaching of the gospel, with dramatic results. Over the twenty years that followed, more than 10,000 Scots joined the Church.

During a Sunday address broadcast live across 56 stakes throughout Northern Europe, Elder Holland spoke of his faith in the scriptures and the spiritual conviction that kindled within him while serving as a missionary in Britain:

“The spiritual experiences and holy affirmations I have had regarding the Saviour and His restored Church first came to me as a young man on a mission here in the United Kingdom when I read the Book of Mormon.”

He continued, “The Book of Mormon stands preeminent in my intellectual and spiritual life, the classic of all classics, a reaffirmation of the Holy Bible, a voice from the dust, a witness for Christ, the word of the Lord unto salvation.”

Those attending the Sunday broadcast spoke enthusiastically about the gathering in Edinburgh:

“A sign of a good meeting is to leave better than when you arrived—I’m



SIMON JONES



SIMON JONES

◆ Elder Holland meets Scottish friend of over 30 years Mike McKay.

◆ Elder Holland, President Teixeira and Elder Herbertson welcome each missionary.



SIMON JONES

Elder Holland is greeted by President Allen D. Freed of the Edinburgh Scotland Stake at the multi-stake broadcast on Sunday June 7th.

leaving feeling enthusiastically renewed.” (Penny Casey from Dalkeith)

“It was truly special to have an Apostle of the Lord in Scotland bearing his testimony so strongly of the Saviour Jesus Christ, His gospel and the importance of the Book of Mormon. . . . I plan to share this experience with my friend.” (Simon Beveridge from Edinburgh)

One well-known early missionary preaching in Scotland during the 1890’s was David O. McKay, who later

became President of the Church. He was once feeling homesick on his mission and said that while walking around he saw an inscription chiselled in an arch—‘What-E’er Thou Art, Act Well Thy Part’—which buoyed him up. The words are now found on an inscription in the grounds of the Church’s mission headquarters in Edinburgh.

Elder Holland lived in the United Kingdom from 1990 to 1993 when serving as President of the Church’s Europe North Area. He was ordained a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in 1994. At the time of this call, Elder Holland was a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy, to which he had been called in 1989. From 1980 until his call as a worldwide Church leader in 1989, Jeffrey R. Holland served as the ninth president of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, USA. He is a former Church Commissioner of Education.

(See www.lds.org/church/leader/jeffrey-r-holland?lang=eng.)

There are over 26,000 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Scotland within the UK’s total membership of 186,000. ■

Blood Donation in the UK: The Church Is ‘Doing Something Amazing’

By David Eaton, Community Outreach Leader, National Public Affairs Council

“Do something amazing; give blood”. By hosting blood donation sessions in Church meetinghouses throughout the UK, the Church is helping the NHS Blood and Transplant’s familiar slogan, and the highly desired outcomes behind it, achieve a broader fulfilment.

Throughout 2014 there were 190 blood donation sessions held in 24 wards and branches across 14 stakes. The vast majority of donors in sessions held in LDS buildings are not actually members of the Church, but for the brief time they pass through one of our meetinghouses they have what for many may be their first encounter with the Church.

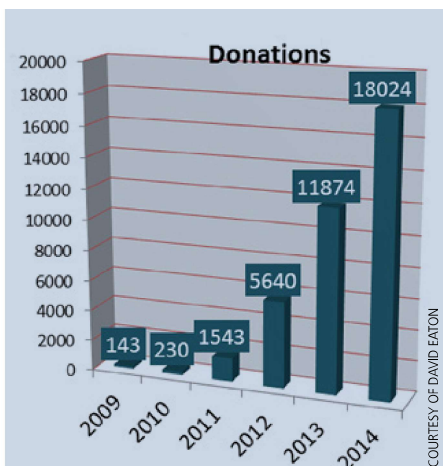
The chart shows how donations have grown over the last six years, totalling 18,024 individual donations in 2014 through LDS meetinghouses.

Now, approximately 5% of all blood donated in the UK comes through an LDS Church meetinghouse, and in terms of the good it is doing, Theo Clarke, Lead Donor Relations Manager for the NHS Blood and Transplant, says, “Although this isn’t exact, each blood donation has the ability to save

SIMON JONES



Edinburgh Castle



A chart showing the growth of blood donations from LDS meetinghouses over the past 6 years

or improve the lives of up to 3 adults or seven babies. Therefore the 18,024 donations in 2014 help 54,000 adults or 126,168 babies. As I say, the figures are guesstimates, but they're impressive nonetheless."

All wards and branches with an LDS meetinghouse are invited to contact their local NHSBT office and offer the meetinghouse as a free venue for blood donation sessions. Each stake director of public affairs has access to a how-to guide that walks through the process of approaching the NHSBT. This also includes guidelines referring to Church policy on not offering tea and coffee on these sessions in Church buildings.

As the Church moves forward with the strong relationship it has built with the NHSBT, many more lives will be saved and improved because of the blood collected in our meetinghouses. Furthermore, community relationships will be enhanced as tens of thousands



NHSBT receiving donations at an LDS meetinghouse

of members of the public have the opportunity to enter one of our Church buildings, perhaps for the first time. One word of caution when they do come to give blood: we must remember that this is not a missionary proselytizing moment. We should not seek to engage them in missionary discussion.

Please just let them come and donate blood and leave unsolicited. Of course, should the Church ambience or one of our excellent pieces of religious artwork provoke a question on their part, we should be on hand to give an answer, but please let them approach us rather than the other way round. ■

50th Anniversary for Cambridge Chapel

By Fiona Boston

The Cambridge Ward, Ipswich Stake, of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its meetinghouse with a public open day and a visit from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Whilst there has been an LDS presence in the city for over 100 years, it wasn't until 1965 that a chapel to house the congregation was completed, after 3 years of construction, in Cherry Hinton Road. Building missionaries and members were heavily involved in the fundraising

and erection of the building, donating many hours of service. Construction took longer than expected after a very bad winter in 1963 when heavy snowfall caused delays.

The Mayor, Councillor Gerri Bird, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Robert Dryden, both of whom are local to the Cherry Hinton area and remember watching the meetinghouse being built, were shown around the building and the family history centre with great interest.

Displays of the construction process, historic documents and

other aspects of Church life, including missionary work and Mormon Helping Hands volunteering, were presented.

The Mayor was happy to join in with the children's activities that had been provided, including writing her name in Greek on playdough.

Later in the evening the celebrations continued with a buffet, dancing to a live band and a special video presentation sent from Elder David Baxter of the First Quorum of the Seventy, who is a past Ipswich Church leader. Doris Clarke, one of the few original members in attendance when the chapel was built and opened, cut the celebration cake. ■

FIONA BOSTON



The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Robert Dryden, the Mayor, Councillor Gerri Bird, and Bishop Eduardo Sanz

Self-Reliance

By Martin Gardner and Les Pointer

In the October 2011 general conference, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf declared: “This work of providing in the Lord’s way is not simply another item in the catalog of programs of the Church. It cannot be neglected or set aside. It is central to our doctrine; it is the essence of our religion” (“Providing in the Lord’s Way,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2011, 55–56).

Since September 2012 there has been a worldwide transition from Employment Resource Services to Self-Reliance Services. The transition in the Europe Area began in September 2014, and the new operational structure is now being implemented in most of the stakes.

One of the great aspects of this initiative is the introduction of new material and other resources.

Some of the new materials now offered are:

My Path to Self-Reliance, a self-assessment booklet that helps members to identify existing needs in their lives and provides a gateway to helping

them access the appropriate resources to help them meet those needs. Stakes and wards may hold regular devotionals to start members on their path to self-reliance, helping them to understand the importance of this doctrine, determine their current level of self-reliance and select a self-reliance group that will help them reach their goals. This booklet may be used individually, with family, with priesthood leaders or in self-reliance centres.

Other materials have been created to support members in their participation in these self-reliance groups. They include *My Job Search, Starting and Growing My Business* and *Education for Better Work*.

Another important addition are the introduction of 12 principles of self-reliance, incorporated into the booklet *My Foundation: Principles, Skills, Habits*. These lessons form part of the weekly group lessons and represent the aspects of spiritual self-reliance enabling us to come closer unto Christ. This booklet may also be accessed in other ways—individually, in family home evenings or in quorum and Relief Society training.



A self-reliance event at an LDS chapel

ELDER MICHAEL LEE

As the initiative is priesthood led, the First Presidency approved the creation of a ‘Leader Guide’ to provide leaders with a pattern for implementation—through the direction of newly constituted stake self-reliance committees, which are chaired by a member of the stake presidency.

Adam Garner got up one morning dreading another day of job searching. He desperately wanted a new career but obstacles seemed insurmountable. He was losing hope.

An e-mail arrived from the self-reliance specialist. She had been passing on lists of vacancies and wanted to know how things were progressing. A conversation ensued and it was realised that Adam needed to be referred to the missionaries at the Birmingham Self-Reliance Centre who had run a successful business in Adam’s preferred employment field. In just a few weeks with mentoring and support, Adam gained a qualification and successfully managed a job application and interview and began his new career.

The new material is not only blessing the lives of Latter-day Saints but also those outside of the Church. Dr Brian Grimm, President of the Religious Freedom and Business Foundation and a practicing Catholic, has been so impressed by the initiative that he has sought, and been given, permission from the Church to use these materials in helping him establish a pilot project to counter religious extremism and radicalisation. ■

For more information go to srs.lds.org

Discover Islam Exhibition

By Ian Govier

The Discover Islam exhibition was launched at the Senedd (National Assembly for Wales) in Cardiff Bay and attended by Ian Govier, Merthyr Tydfil Stake president, and Julie Jones, LDS member of Interfaith Council for Wales. They joined Dr. Salim Kidwai OBE (Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Wales), Presiding Officer, Dame Rosemary Butler AM, and other faith and community leaders, who were invited to this lively, informative and thought-provoking exhibition of posters that showcases aspects of Islam and the lives of Muslims which are often not seen or reported.

The previous day, both Julie and President Govier joined members of the Interfaith Council for Wales at

Cardiff University in giving evidence to the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life that is being chaired by Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss.

The purpose of the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life is “to consider the place and role of religion and belief in contemporary Britain, . . . examine how ideas of Britishness and national identity may be inclusive of a range of religions and beliefs, . . . [and] explore how shared understandings of the common good may contribute to greater levels of mutual trust and collective action, and to a more harmonious society” (www.corab.org.uk/national-consultation#what3). ■

Left to right:
Ian Govier
(stake president,
Merthyr Tydfil
Wales Stake),
Dr. Salim Kidwai
OBE (Secretary
General of the
Muslim Council
of Wales) and
Julie Jones (LDS
member of
the Interfaith
Council for
Wales) at the
Discover Islam
exhibition



JULIE JONES

Welsh Church History

By Jill Morgan

Last summer, the UK received a visit from a film crew headed by Monte Bona, director of the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area in southern Utah. The MPNHA is one of some 40 areas designated by the US Congress as making a major contribution to the early expansion of the United States. You can find further information at www.mormonpioneerheritage.org.

The MPHNA preserves historic buildings and sets up interpretive centres in Utah, and most recently has been producing a series of TV documentaries—*Discovery Road*. Last summer's visit to the UK was to gather material for a documentary looking at families who emigrated to the US from the UK as members of the Church but who have distant cousins who still live here. Interviews were filmed in Yorkshire and in South Wales. In Huddersfield, one of the participants was Angela Dodd Graham, who is not a member of the Church and who hadn't realised she had relatives in Utah. In Merthyr Tydfil siblings Arline Jones, Arnold Jones and Freda Entwistle, together with their cousin Glen Mahoney, told the story of their ancestor Moses Jones, who left for Zion in the 1860s, leaving behind a wife and six children. They were to follow once he sent money for their passage, but (for reasons that are not altogether clear) they never did

join him, and he re-married in Utah. However, some generations later, Moses Jones' ancestors joined the Church in Merthyr—among them Arline, Freda and Arnold's mother and her cousin, Glen's great-uncle.

The filming produced so much good material, three programmes are to be produced and aired rather than one. The first—"The Dreams I Left Behind"—was scheduled to be shown on the Utah TV channel KUEN in June and covers the material filmed in Yorkshire. The second—"Music Is the Reason"—links the small town of Wales, Utah (established because of the coal discovered in the area), with the Wales we know. It includes interviews with members of the Morryston RFC Male Voice Choir, who rehearse in Seion Newydd chapel in Swansea; the Jones, Entwistle and Mahoney cousins in Merthyr Tydfil; Rosalind Hall (another descendant of Moses Jones and a Merthyr native who conducts the BYU male chorus); and Merrill Osmond, who has family and musical connections with South Wales.

"Music Is the Reason" will be aired on Utah television stations later in the summer, but was shown in May at the Merthyr Tydfil stake Church history symposium—its world premiere. ■



JILL MORGAN

Monte Bona (Director, MPNHA) and Ginny Oliver (interviewer for Discovery Road) at the grave of Elder Abel Evans in Cefn Coed cemetery near Merthyr Tydfil

'Lamb of God'—Lasting Memories

By Jeannie Wills

The Birmingham Town Hall was the first prestigious public venue to host the British Saints Symphony Choir and Orchestra. On Saturday May 30th the full premier production of 'Lamb of God', a concert of sacred music composed by Rob Gardner, was performed in this historic building.

One hundred and fifty young adults from all over the United Kingdom gathered for two performances to the delight of hundreds of members of the public, Church members and their guests.

Among those attending were the Worshipful the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Glenis Slater, and her Consort, Mr. Clive Slater, with members of the Solihull Ward. They were delighted with the performance and

The British Saints Symphony Choir and Orchestra at the performance of 'Lamb of God' at Birmingham Town Hall

were impressed with the very high standard of delivery.

Ian Holland, a representative of the Baha'i faith, also attended as an invited guest and shared his thoughts afterwards. He said, "The evening was really magnificent. I got the sense it was going to be something special when I realised it was to be hosted at the Birmingham Town Hall. These days it is not easy to reflect or revere the sacred. However, the composer, the orchestra, the choir and the soloists combined to do just that. I told a number of people how beautiful and extremely powerful it was. This awesome performance will stay with me for a long time."

The choir and orchestra had been practicing together at weekends since October 2014 in LDS chapels in Birmingham and the North. They travelled from Scotland, Ireland, Norfolk and Dorset as well as from many areas in the Midlands and Yorkshire. During the lunch break of the final rehearsal

in Harbourne, a selection of singers performed an organised flash mob in the local Waitrose Supermarket to the delight of the shoppers. One customer commented that she had realised while she was shopping, it would have been her father's 100th birthday on that very day, and the beautiful singing had overwhelmed her emotions.

These talented musicians, singers, soloists and narrators dedicated themselves fully to the commitment of excellence for which the producers Megan Hodun, musical/vocal director, and Philip Siu, conductor, orchestra/narration, were so hopeful. Short parts of the score are sung in Aramaic—the

language of the Saviour and His contemporaries, in order to evoke the power and emotion that the composer desired.

The versatility of the orchestra and performers was evident during the emotional crescendos often ending in complete silence, leaving the audience with their thoughts about their own beliefs and feelings.

The enthusiastic applause and standing ovation closing the polished evening performance showed that the piece of orchestral music, choral interludes, solos and readings had brought a deeper regard for the life of our Saviour. ■

Editor's Note

The editors, **Jason Watling and Debbie Twigger**, invite all news stories, articles and photographs to be sent to ukiensign@ldschurch.org. Stories should be in Microsoft Word, 350–500 words, with photographs in jpg format, around 3–4mb in size. Please submit stories for the News section as close to the event as possible.

The signed written permission of all participants in the photograph, as well as the photographer and author, is required for the Church to use the article.

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All articles and photographs for the websites and Local Pages should be sent to ukiensign@ldschurch.org. ■

From left to right: the Mayor's Consort, Mr. Clive Slater, and the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Glenis Slater, with Philip Siu, conductor of the British Saints Symphony Orchestra

