

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

“We are under covenant both to lift up those in need and to be witnesses of the Saviour as long as we live”

By **Elder George R. Donaldson, Great Britain**

Area Seventy

President Henry B. Eyring said, “We are under covenant both to lift up those in need and to be witnesses of the Saviour as long as we live.”¹

As we keep sacred the covenants that we have made, we will draw closer to God. Our desires shall align with His. Our prayers will be given to us by the power of the Holy Ghost. We will know who, when and how to invite our loved ones to return.

“And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also.”²

Naturally, during the Christmas celebrations our thoughts turn to those who have wandered onto forbidden paths or those who have estranged themselves from the warmth of family and God. We wonder what more we can do to bring them back. It is my experience and testimony that as we rely upon the healing power and encircling love of Jesus, we shall bring them home.

You remember the Lord’s promise to Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon when they were away from their families: “My

friends Sidney and Joseph, your families are well; they are in mine hands, and I will do with them as seemeth me good; for in me there is all power.”³

Alma and the Saints of his day prayed for his son and the sons of King Mosiah. An angel spoke to them in their rebellion: “Behold, the Lord hath heard the prayers of his people, and also the prayers of his servant, Alma, who is thy father; for he has prayed with much faith concerning thee that thou mightest be brought to the knowledge of the truth; therefore, for this purpose have I come to convince thee of the power and authority of God, that the prayers of his servants might be answered according to their faith.”

President Eyring reflected: “There is a gravestone near my home of a mother and grandmother. She and her husband were sealed in the temple of



Elder George R. Donaldson

God to each other and to their posterity for time and all eternity. The inscription on the gravestone reads, ‘Please, no empty chairs.’ She asked for that inscription because she knew that whether the family will be together depends on the choices each family member makes.”⁴

“Though some of the sheep may wander, the eye of the Shepherd is upon them, and sooner or later they will feel the tentacles of Divine Providence reaching out after them and drawing them back to the fold. Either in this life or the life to come, they will return. They will have to pay their debt to justice; they will suffer for their sins; and may tread a thorny path; but if it leads them at last, like the penitent Prodigal, to a loving and forgiving father’s heart and home, the painful experience will not have been in vain.”⁵

“May God bless you always in all your righteous endeavours. May He quicken your understanding, increase your wisdom, enlighten you by experience, bestow upon you patience, [and] charity. . . . May He give you entrance to the hearts of those you [love] and then make you know that as you enter there you stand in holy places. . . . May He enrich your knowledge with the skill and power to teach righteousness. May your faith and your testimonies

increase, and your ability to encourage and foster them in others grow greater every day.”⁶ I pray that this Christmas may bring healing and sincere Eternal reunion—“all this in the name of Him who died that we might live, the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world, Jesus Christ.”⁷ ■

NOTES:

1. Henry B. Eyring, “Come unto Me,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 24.
2. Doctrine and Covenants 84:88.
3. Doctrine and Covenants 100:1.
4. Henry B. Eyring, “Our Perfect Example,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2009, 71.
5. Orson F. Whitney, in Conference Report, Apr. 1929, 110.
6. J. Reuben Clarke Jr., *The Chartered Course of the Church in Education*, rev. ed. (1994), 12.
7. J. Reuben Clarke Jr., *The Chartered*, 12.

LOCAL NEWS

A Live Nativity Raises Funds for Charity

By Sophie Rayton

Hereford MS Therapy Centre received £500 from members of the Hereford Ward by singing carols and providing a Nativity display with real animals—a live Nativity.

Whilst Christmas shoppers in High Town, Hereford came to buy gifts they were reminded of the true gift of Christmas and given an opportunity to donate

to a worthy cause.

Lisa Shaw, MS sufferer and Charity Centre Manager, said, “We are so grateful for the support given and the money raised.” The Members in Hereford were able to provide such a unique Nativity courtesy of Wayne Gardner, who owns Newbridge Play Farm & Farm Park in the historic Pioneer town of Ledbury.

Cheltenham Stake will now have four wards organising a live Nativity with real animals, supplied by a member’s farm, which will be open to the public and in support of a local charity. ■



Members of the Cheltenham stake perform in a live Nativity

BY SIMON GIBSON

Aberdeen Charities Benefit from ‘Santa’ Collection

By William Dunbar



Bro Mike King delivering a cheque to the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, George Adam

NORMAN ADAMS

During December, for nearly 25 years, members of the Bridge of Don ward, Aberdeen, have paraded the streets in the local area with a platform truck upon which is displayed a full size sleigh and ‘Santa’ on board. The money they have collected from residents has gone to a number of different charities.

Last year a cheque for £741.41 was presented by Mike King, the stake director for public affairs, to George Adam, the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, for the Lord Provost’s Charitable Trust, who commended the youth and other members for their public spiritedness for raising the money which was much needed for the many charities that would ultimately gain from their kind gesture. The platform truck was provided free for a week by a local vehicle rental company.

In addition, the ward Relief Society sisters have been involved with supplying food, knitting hats and collecting new underclothing, scarves and toiletries to make up Christmas boxes for local charities. ■



Bro Bond as Santa on the charity sleigh with a local resident

COURTESY OF WILLIAM DUNBAR

Knitting for Albania

By Traci de Marco, Northampton Stake RS President

When Ola and Dave Willis were called to serve a humanitarian mission in Albania they mentioned in an e mail to Peter Slattery, a member of the Northampton Stake Presidency, about the poor conditions there. The stake presidency then asked if any Relief Societies in the stake could assist with a service project.

As humanitarian missionaries for the Church Elder and Sister Willis' purpose was to find organisations and individuals who were already working with the poor and needy. They identified ways to support and strengthen these organisations so that their

capacity is expanded. The overall aim was to relieve suffering and foster self-reliance for families of all nationalities and religions.

Elder and Sister Willis requested the following items:

“Small children in hospital for chemo need woolly hats to keep little hairless heads warm. The Therapy hospital has children aged 0–6 yrs with various handicaps such as cerebral palsy, autism so educational items such as matching games,



COURTESY OF OLA WILLIS

Elder and Sister Willis whilst serving a full-time mission in Albania

RS women of the Huntingdon ward making the gifts and boxes

stacking games, puzzles, lacing cards, beads, books and games that teach numbers, colours, shapes, animals or can stimulate conversation between therapist and child. All children in schools, hospitals and orphanages would benefit from art items, colouring books, pencils, crayons, writing books, drawing books, lift the flap books, books with mainly pictures and few words (due to language) etc.”

As a stake Relief Society we thought that by sending items to Albania this would be a great way to not only support Elder and Sister Willis on their full-time mission but also to reach out to those who desperately needed basic items that we can so easily take for granted. Several wards got involved, like Milton Keynes

and Bletchley who made hats and knitted goods for babies but the main contributor was Huntingdon, which was the Willises' home ward. The sisters of the Huntingdon ward donated many items from the list which enabled 28 education packs, 30 newborn packs and nearly 40



COURTESY OF EMMAL MALACHOWSKI

Local Albanian children receiving the donated gifts



BY OIA WILLIS

hygiene packs to be boxed and sent to Elder and Sister Willis in Albania. There were also a number of small gifts for Christmas and a box of teddies. All the left over bits and pieces were used to make complete packs that were passed to the Primary children to create Christmas stockings for a local women's refuge in Huntingdon.

Elder and Sister Willis were amazed and so grateful for the donations by the sisters. "Distributing the gifts sent by the stake was a highlight of our mission. Every single gift was greatly appreciated and benefitted the lives of many individuals. Most of the school kits went to the children at an orphanage, but we also helped a very poor family with 4 children who lived near our apartment who all attended school but their schoolbags were completely empty! It was lovely to see the children's smiles but also humbling to witness how glad they were at receiving a few basic items for school. Newborn

and hygiene kits were given to mothers in the maternity wards most of whom were very poor, and the staff at the unit with the abandoned babies were happy and excited as they tried on the little hats and booties the sisters had made. The larger hats went for very sick children in hospital. Always, people looked at our badges with the name of the Church on, and it was a pleasure and privilege for us to be able to explain that these donations had been prepared by women from Relief Society in England, and they were just amazed and touched that complete strangers would be so kind."

As I watched the project from start to finish, I was touched by the incredible effort of our sisters and I've no doubt it changed lives. As we engaged in the work we were filled with the pure love of Christ for people whom we would never meet but could still feel connected to. ■

Marjorie Jean Cox—a Lifetime of Selfless Service

By June McWatt

As a member of the Westcotes Ward in the Leicester Stake, Marjorie Jean Cox is the most senior of her congregation and is loved by everyone who knows her. Now in her ninetieth year, her life has been an example of selfless service, not only in the Church, joining in June 1990, but also in her community, receiving a British Empire Medal.

As a youngster, Marjorie attended a brand new school on Folville Rise, Leicester but little did she know the influence she would have later in her life at that very same school, including having a room named after her, the Marjorie Cox Reading Room.

On leaving school at 14 years of age before World War II, her varied career pattern included working for a local wool manufacturer, as a bus



Marjorie outside the Marjorie Cox Reading Room at Folville Rise Junior School, Leicester

BY JUNE MCWATT

conductress with Leicester City Transport and as a switchboard operator for the General Post Office (later British Telecom). However, as a young woman, Marjorie was strongly influenced to serve others by her father. In 1956 Marjorie joined the Territorial Army and eventually attained the office of Sergeant Major in the Signals Division. In recognition of her outstanding service for many years in that capacity, she was awarded the BEM (The British Empire Medal) and also two service medals for 'Long Service' which she proudly wears every year on Remembrance Sunday.

Later on in her life, Marjorie's career took a turn back to the roots of her education, at Folville Rise Junior School, and she started to work there as a dinner lady serving school meals; a job which she grew to love and continued to carry out for several years. After retiring she made contact with her old school and the Head teacher, Bruce Wells, asked if she could voluntarily help the children by listening to them read, a service she still renders to this day. With a beaming smile, Bruce said of Marjorie, "I think it is lovely that we have someone in the school with a link to when the school started. Marjorie has a gentle character. All the school love her, from the staff to the children and she is a link to the past and the future. She is now helping the next generation to read." In recognition of Marjorie and as a tribute to her selfless service to the school for the past nineteen years, a reading room at the school has been named "The Marjorie Cox Room" in her honour.

Marjorie has one daughter, Carole, with whom she lives, two grandsons and two great grandchildren. She has also served in various callings in the Primary and Relief Society organisations. She is an accomplished hand knitter and always finds time to knit "a special something" for each new baby born in the Westcotes Ward. Marjorie freely admits to witnessing many changes during her long life but one thing that has remained constant has been her willingness to selflessly serve others. ■

Coventry Youth Offer Service to Index WWI Records

By Des Waddington



BY DES WADDINGTON

Youth from the Coventry 1st ward at the War Memorial

Youth from the Coventry Ward gathered at the monument in the War Memorial Park in Coventry in an effort to bring meaning to the important work that many of them have been engaged in to digitize World War I records. When the project is completed, these records of servicemen and servicewomen who served in the Great War will be made available to the public, free of charge through FamilySearch.org.

Joseph White aged 14 has been involved in the indexing project for over a year. He

estimates that he has completed about 2,500 individual records. Commenting on the work he said, "I really enjoy doing this work, I find it very interesting seeing the names of the people, where they lived and so on. I think that it's great fun to do, and it's a good experience."

This effort by the Coventry youth is very timely as 2014 sees the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I and it is expected that next year, there will be events held up and down the country to commemorate the sacrifice made by so many brave people.

Keith Penfold, Coventry Stake president, said, "It's great to see our young people getting involved in indexing and helping to preserve these valuable records. As they do this, it will help them to better understand why serving others is so important."

The indexing project is of vital importance as during World War II, a bombing raid on London damaged about 60% of the service records for British soldiers that served in World War I. This project will help to permanently preserve the records for the benefit of everyone who has an interest.

The monument is a visual reminder of the selfless service given by so many. Inside the monument is a room called the Chamber of Silence which contains the 'Roll of the Fallen', a list of all Coventry men killed in the two World Wars and the Gulf War, and is open to the public every year on Remembrance Sunday.

At around 90 feet (27m) high, the war memorial monument is the most prominent construction in the park. It was designed by local architect T. F. Tickner and £5,000 was raised from a public appeal that commenced in 1924 to fund the building work. It was built in 1927 and dedicated by Field Marshal Douglas Haig on 8 October 1927. The park was opened in July 1921 as a tribute to the 2,587 Coventrians who died between 1914 and 1918 fighting in the war. ■

Bishop Richard West—Fourth Time Lucky

By Jane Gough

Called to be a bishop for the fourth time, Richard West has an interesting story to tell. He was born in December 1958, the second youngest of five brothers. His parents were members of the Church and all five boys served missions: Nigel to the North British Mission, Steve also to the North British Mission, Nick to Toronto, Richard to Calgary and David to Toronto.

Just after returning from Calgary, Richard attended a baptismal service in Romford chapel and there met Rachael Hector. They were married and now have five children, who, like Richard's siblings, have all served missions too.

Richard was called as president of the Sudbury Branch in May 1982 when they were living in Acton, Suffolk. He was released in January 1985 when they moved to Great Waltham, near Chelmsford, Essex. He was called as bishop of the Chelmsford Ward in December 1985, but was only able to serve a year, when they moved into the Romford Stake. Some years later Richard moved to Great Baddow and in October 2000 he was called again as bishop of the Chelmsford Ward, serving until November 2003.

Richard worked for many years as an account manager for a number of leading sales organisations. He now owns and runs a specialist cleaning company.

In February Richard and Rachael were at home "minding their own business" when they received a call from President Fagg, the stake president, and Richard was called to be bishop for the fourth time—on this occasion to preside over the Maldon Ward, which meets in the Chelmsford Chapel, with a Sacrament attendance of about 100 members.

So, what does a bishop in his fourth term have as his main emphasis?

Everyone who enters the bishop's office will see a quote by John Wesley:

*"Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long, as ever you can."* ■



BY JANE GOUGH

**Bishop
Richard West**

Change in Europe Area Presidency

'The Garden' a National YSA Production at Watford

By Debbie Twigger, Assistant Editor

A musical production entitled 'The Garden' was staged, last April, by young adults from around the United Kingdom at the Watford Stake Centre to tremendous acclaim from enthusiastic audiences. The cast and orchestra were assembled from auditions and rehearsals held in Watford and the Midlands and took a year to bring together. 'The Garden' is an allegory of the plan of salvation and was written by Michael McLean and Bryce Neubert with orchestrations by Merrill Jensen.

The 32 piece orchestra was led with professionalism and exuberance by Philip Siu, co-producer and musical director who has a background of playing drums and percussion in London's West End shows. He commented, "The production has been a complete team effort. None of this would be possible without all the talents of the various people who have sacrificed their time and effort to make the show a success."

The cast were superbly directed by Maia Peacock, artistic director and co-producer who graduated from the University of Kent with a degree in English and Drama. She is currently serving in the Alpine German-Speaking Mission, having formerly worked backstage on 'The Lion King' in London. She states, "We were very excited about this show as we planned and speculated how we could stage it. However, we knew that it would be quite an undertaking to gather busy young adults from across the country to rehearse enough to perform to a good standard." Some talented voices were demonstrated by the male lead roles from Nathan Mansfield, John Nettleship, Robin Dick and Christian Lucas with delightful performances from Rebecca Seehootorah, Rebecca Wild and Naomi Govier in the female leads.

The strong vocal performances were directed by Megan Hodun who has been extensively involved

Europe Area Presidency: Elder Patrick Kearon, First Counselor; Elder José A. Teixeira, President; Elder Timothy J. Dyches, Second Counselor

On August 1, 2013 Elder Timothy J. Dyches joined the Europe Area Presidency as the Second Counselor to Elder José A. Teixeira, President of the Europe Area of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He will replace Elder Kent F. Richards at the Europe Area headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. Elder Richards has served in this capacity for one year and will fulfill further assignments in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Elder Timothy J. Dyches was called to serve in the Second Quorum of the Seventy at the semi-annual general conference of the Church on April 6, 2013. Elder José A. Teixeira continues to serve as the Europe Area President, with his First Counselor Elder Patrick Kearon.

A Seventy is one of the ordained offices of the Melchizedek Priesthood,

the higher order of the priesthood. Seventies have a special call and ordination to preach the gospel and serve as "special witnesses" of Christ to the world.

Elder Timothy J. Dyches has served as a full-time missionary in the Germany South Mission, president of the Oregon Portland Mission, and in other various Church capacities. Elder Dyches earned a bachelor's degree in university studies from Brigham Young University and received a medical degree from Washington University Medical School. He was an ear, nose and throat surgeon in private practice and was in senior management at a national surgical management company.

He and his wife Jill Elizabeth Dudley have three children and resided in Reno, Nevada before moving to Frankfurt am Main. ■

Source: Public Affairs, Frankfurt



The full cast, orchestra and producers of 'The Garden'

in jazz and chamber music. Her choirs have performed in the north-west United States regional jazz choir competitions, placing 1st and 2nd.

Attending the Saturday evening performance was Elder Clifford T. Herbertson, Area Seventy, with his wife and son, who gave his thoughts on the production:

“We were genuinely thrilled to attend and enjoy a production that was so well developed and performed. The organisation behind the event all seemed to be well-planned and executed. The orchestra was outstanding!

The cast of 'The Garden'



“Overall, a powerful and inspiring performance, thanks to all those involved in putting it together! The camaraderie amongst performers and audience will remain with me for a long time. The friendships and faith developed as a part of this may well be the most powerful outcome and I hope it will always be something that burns brightly in the hearts of those that participated.”

Following the success of this production the team are now in the process of auditioning and rehearsing for a new concert series over Easter weekend 2014 entitled ‘Lamb of God’, by Rob Gardner, to be performed at the Watford Stake Centre. ■

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 and photographs in jpg format, around 3–4mb in size.

The signed permission of all participants in the photograph, as well as the photographer, are required for the Church to use the article and photograph. A form will be sent out upon receipt of the article or can be obtained from your stake media specialist/stake director of Public Affairs.

Local editorial committee

Shawna Windom – Wandsworth Stake
Warrick Kear – Leicester Stake
Dawn Keogh – Scotland
Debbie Singh-Bhatti – Sheffield Stake

Websites/social media

The latest news and additional articles can be found at www.lds.org.uk, www.mormonnewsroom.org.uk, www.facebook.com/LDSUK and on twitter at [#ldschurchuk](https://twitter.com/ldschurchuk)

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