

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Shall We Not Go On in So Great a Cause?

By Elder Timothy J. Dyches, USA

Second Counselor in the Europe Area Presidency

The Lord has invited all of us to come and be a part of His great work, to labor together in all callings within the Church, to “invite all to come unto Christ” (D&C 20:59).

A tide of optimism swells within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints among all leaders, members and missionaries. We are all united in assisting our Heavenly Father

“to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39), or the work of salvation. There is a place for everyone to contribute, from the newest member in the Primary to the eldest attending sacrament meeting. The Europe Area just enjoyed one of the greatest blessings we could ever receive. More people in this, the Europe Area, attended sacrament meeting in June 2013 than ever before, over 100,000! More



Elder Timothy J. Dyches

of us than ever were uplifted and edified as we partook of the sacred emblems of the Lord’s Supper, renewed eternal personal covenants with our Father in Heaven and were more determined to be like His Son.

Let us build on this achievement for the future brightness of hope in our homes, branches and wards. With every effort we make to invite others, particularly to partake of the sacrament, our own reverence and understanding of the Atonement is enriched. The broken heart is mended and sweet peace will fill our souls. We can be

very near to heaven during the sacrament.

“What does the Atonement have to do with missionary work?” asked President Howard W. Hunter. “Any time we experience the blessings of the Atonement in our lives, we cannot help but have a concern for the welfare of others. . . . A great indicator of one’s personal conversion is the desire to share the gospel with others” (in *Preach My*

Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service [2004], 13).

How can we keep the momentum going? What can I do? Here are some simple, yet significant, goals all Church members can incorporate in their lives in their desires to share the gospel:

1. Ask specifically for help in sharing your testimony of the gospel in your daily prayers. Ponder during prayer of the love you have for the Savior.
2. Help at least one person this year come to sacrament meeting. Invite them to “come and see” (John 1:39). There is someone waiting just for your invitation and you probably already know them!
3. Invite the missionaries to teach at least 4 times in your home every year. If you haven’t yet, invite them this week. You’ll be pleasantly pleased and warmed with the spirit of the gospel that His true messengers bring into your home. If they can’t bring someone to your home, go with them to teach.
4. Make certain there are no strangers in church. Always, always be a friend. Introduce yourself to every face and shake every hand of anyone you haven’t met or whose

burdens you could lift. Then offer your help. You will brighten someone's day and enlarge your circle of friends. Everyone needs more friends, everyone.

Never let discouragement cause you to retreat. "Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow'" (Mary Anne Radmacher, in *The Oxford Dictionary of American Quotations*, sel. Hugh Rawson and Margaret Miner, 2nd ed. [2006], 172). Don't give up, ever.

As we exercise faith in these our four personal commitments, our faith will grow and our lives will be blessed. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said, "True faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has always been linked to the offering of sacrifice, our small gift to be a symbolic echo of His majestic offering" ("Called to Serve," *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 37).

I bear witness that whatever our sacrifice, whatever our worry, as you invite all to come unto Christ, you will find your yoke is ever easier to bear and your burden ever lighter. The words will come. You will be standing on holy ground, His ground as His servant.

Shall we not go on in so great a cause? (see D&C 128:22). ■

Presidency Changes at London Temple

By Elder Don Carpenter, Director of the London Temple Visitors' Centre



Members of the new presidency of the London Temple were introduced to temple workers at a special devotional Sunday night, October 27th at the Crawley Stake Centre. Temple workers met to honour the outgoing presidency and welcome the new.

Introduced as the new presidency were Kenneth and Pamela Johnson, temple president and matron; David and Lyn Irwin, first counsellor and assistant matron; and John and Janet Crossland, second counsellor and assistant matron.

Expressing love and gratitude to the many temple workers assembled were President Raymond Lowry and his wife, Irene, who have since returned to Northern Ireland, and their counsellors

and wives David and Jean Cook from Solihull and Martin and Jan Lock from Yate. "It's been a great joy and blessing to serve in the House of the Lord these last three years," said President Lowry.

Lyn Irwin, David Irwin, Matron Pamela Johnson, President Kenneth Johnson, John Crossland, Janet Crossland



David Cook, Jean Cook, President Raymond Lowry, Irene Lowry, Jan Lock, Martin Lock of the outgoing London Temple presidency

Born in Norwich in 1940, President Johnson was baptized by his wife's father, Tom Wilson, in 1962. He served as president of the Norwich Stake and as a regional representative of the Twelve. He was called to the First Quorum of the Seventy in April 1993, released in 2010 and given General Authority emeritus status.

President Johnson said, "My heart is full, as is my joy." He quoted from section 84 of the Doctrine and Covenants: "And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also, for I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up" (verse 88). He said he has long trusted in this scripture. He gave high tribute to his wife, Pamela, and said "she has helped me to be my best self."

President Irwin was president of the Plymouth Stake, and he and his wife recently returned from the Czech Republic, where he served as mission president. President and Sister Crossland have been serving as temple workers in the London Temple. President Crossland served in the Wandsworth Stake presidency and was twice bishop of the Selsdon Ward, Maidstone Stake. ■

Pulling in the Same Direction

By Joel Matthews

A countless number of oak saplings were pulled up in the searing heat at Blackwater Meadows by members of the Farnborough ward who volunteered over 200 hours on Saturday 20th July.

The solid conditions of the parched ground made digging the 3-inch to 4-foot oak seedlings, which at times appeared more like trees, back-breaking work. To protect and prevent the tranquil meadows natural habitat from turning into a shaded woodland, it was crucial that the work was carried out.

The sun drenched conditions may have bent forks and blistered hands, but it never broke the spirits of the hard-working volunteers. Bishop Rushforth spoke of the valiant effort, saying, "It wasn't easy, but it was worth it." When asked why the ward members got involved with the conservation project, he added, "Serving others is one of the fundamental principles of our religion, and it's always a pleasure to

contribute something to the local community."

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, who improve the green spaces and wildlife in the area, gladly invited and organised the day for the Church members to



BY JOEL MATTHEWS

participate. BVCP Senior Ranger Andrew Price, who made sure everything ran smoothly, commented, "It was wonderful to see families of all ages turn up with smiles on their faces." After passing on his warm gratitude, he continued, "They made what appeared to look like gruelling work, given the heat, look relatively easy, and it's fantastic to see organisations such as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints care about the community they live in." ■

Members of the Farnborough Ward on Helping Hands Day at Blackwater Meadow

Sidney Park Receives a Helping Hand

By Jenny Collier

Around 40 members of all ages from the Grimsby wards united to help preserve and rejuvenate a large community park. Sidney Park has multiple facilities and covers a substantial area in a densely populated part of the town and is greatly used by the community. Therefore, local residents were dismayed when the park was earmarked for change.

These residents of the 'Sidney Park Friends' started looking for volunteers to help rejuvenate the park and bring it back to its former glory. Two wards in Grimsby came to their aid with two consecutive action Saturdays at the park.

The weather that greeted the members was grey, overcast and raining. The local reporter noted in her article how the weather immediately changed as soon as the members arrived and started to work. The rain stopped, the clouds dispersed and out came the sun allowing the work to proceed. Over the two action days, benches were wire-brushed and painted, litter was picked, picnic tables were wire-brushed and painted, gardens hoed and planted and a beautiful old bridge that spans the large pond in the park was lovingly repainted.

A few days after the Helping Hands project where the children had planted 100 lettuces in the park's 'Incredible Edible Garden,' there was a surprise visit by judges for the town's "gardens in bloom"

competition. The garden was awarded third prize, much to the delight of the Primary children when they heard of it later. The Incredible Edible Garden is a project where crops are planted for the local residents to pick and use as they need.

Nicola Hocknell, president of Sidney Park Friends, expressed her appreciation, saying, "It has been an absolute pleasure working with the Church. I feel that we have not only achieved a big step towards restoring Sidney Park to its former glory for the community, but we have also met some wonderful people. . . . I am writing a letter of thanks to the Church for the marvellous 'Helping Hands' programme you have and the kindness of members." ■



COURTESY OF NICOLA HOCKNELL

Grimsby Ward members help out at Sidney Park on Helping Hands Day

St Albans Stake Helps Create Community Gardens

By Janet Cox

In spite of incessant rain, a valiant band of around 40 members of the St Albans Stake turned out to tame the newly acquired piece of land that will eventually become the St Albans Community Gardens. This is a four-and-a-half-acre site which was in need of clearance so that the area will be wheelchair friendly, with raised beds that can be used by those unable to stand, and an area devoted to a sensory garden for those with sight impairments. It is hoped that anyone who enjoys gardening and being in the fresh air will be able to come to a safe environment and use the plots to grow flowers and vegetables.

A small excavator and a dumper truck had been hired by the enthusiastic organisers, John and Kate, to enable the members to work on digging out a path and laying gravel, and this equipment was put to good use by Bishop Charles Farnsworth of the St Albans Ward and Bishop Nathan Botterell of the Dunstable Ward. These two stalwarts toiled from 10am till 3pm to complete this challenge, but it had to be continued on the following Monday, which was Bank Holiday, when a team composed mainly of Hitchin members returned to carry on while the equipment was still on site. The weather that day was sunny and dry, so the afternoon was spent finishing the excavating and laying the foundation for the path.

The Saturday was spent clearing bindweed and this filled a large number of black bags. Weeding and hoeing the plots was undertaken by the families in attendance, much to the delight of John and Kate who were on site to supervise the progress. Julie Barry and husband Jim had arranged a marquee filled with painting and colouring books, races and games to entertain the children while their parents worked. The rain stopped play at 3pm that day, but the project's main aim, laying the foundation for the pathway, was completed satisfactorily on the Monday. ■

JUDITH TOMLINSON



The team of St Albans ward members on Helping Hands Day at the St Albans Community Gardens

Helping Hands Day in Huddersfield

By Eileen Webb



BY KATE BENNIS

Huddersfield First Ward members give a helping hand of service at Moorlands Primary School

Members of Huddersfield First Ward had a wonderful time at their Helping Hands Day which took place at Moorlands Primary School. Children and adults worked alongside each other digging out and refilling overgrown boxes, weeding, cutting back trees and bushes, and clearing paths.

A couple of rainy spells did nothing to dampen their enthusiasm. Indeed the little ones enjoyed themselves playing with saucepans and mud! They also helped their parents, working alongside them whilst learning the value of serving others.

Mrs Swift, one of the teachers at the school who came with her children, was impressed with all the effort that the members made. Sister Judith Tomlinson, who helped to organise the day, remarked, "We like it when we find projects where the children are safe to come along and help or play. They learn a lot from working with their parents and this helps them to develop a good work ethic for when they are older."

The drink and biscuits provided by the school also played their part in keeping everyone's spirits up and in making the day the success that it was. ■

A Descendant of First British Pioneer Now Serving in Scotland

By Dawn Keogh

When 20-year-old Christine Watt, from Castle Rock, Colorado, learned that she had been called to serve a mission to Scotland, she couldn't believe her luck. Not just because she didn't want to go to a hot country, but because she had a famous ancestor who had served in Scotland himself, twice. Sister Watt, a full-time missionary for the Church, is descended from the first person in the British Isles to be baptised a member of the Church in 1837. George D Watt's story was recently re-enacted in a stunning pageant spectacular which took place at the temple grounds in Chorley, near Preston, which was attended by 10,000 people over two weeks in August.

George D Watt emigrated to America to join other converts after serving a mission in Scotland between 1840 and 1842 to help spread his new faith. Sister Watt is serving in Edinburgh, in the very same place where her ancestor climbed Arthur's Seat. Previously, Sister Watt has served in the Hamilton area where she served with a companion, Lindsey Hulet, whose ancestor, Peter Muir Fife, was baptised shortly before George Watt arrived in Scotland. When the young sister missionaries

discovered their connection, they were struck by the remarkable coincidence of them both serving together in the land their forefathers knew.

Sister Watt has been on her mission for six months and will serve in total for eighteen months. She said she felt inspired to serve a mission, and her opportunity came sooner than she anticipated when the Church lowered the age of women entering the mission field. She feels sure that her ancestor George D Watt, a man who served as a clerk to President Brigham Young in Utah, would certainly approve of her decision to serve a mission, and no doubt applaud the fact that she has come to the Edinburgh that he loved so much. ■

From L to R: Sister Lindsey Hulet and Sister Christine Watt, both serving in the Edinburgh Stake and descendants of early British pioneers



COURTESY OF SISTER CHRISTINE WATT

Keith's Dream: A Story of Courage

By Dawn Keogh



BY JIM DRESSEL

Members of the Bridge of Don Ward, Aberdeen Stake assist Keith Turnbull with his dream of climbing to the top of Oxen Craig to raise funds for MND Scotland

Looking up at the peaks of Bennachie hill range in the north east of Scotland can be a daunting prospect for the average rambler. For Keith Turnbull it might as well have been Mount Everest! Brother Turnbull, a member of the Bridge of Don Ward in the Aberdeen Stake, cherished an ambition of reaching the top of Oxen Craig, the highest peak in the Bennachie hills, and marvelling at the stunning vista of the north east countryside spreading far around. As a sufferer of motor neurone disease, a debilitating condition which seriously affects the ability to control body movement, it seemed unlikely that he would realise his dream. But that was before he turned to his friend Alistair Grubb, who enlisted the help of ward and stake members.

Keith's ambition was to raise £5,000 for Motor Neurone Disease Scotland, a charity which helps sufferers of the disease. With a limited ability to walk, Keith and his support group turned to Nick Rankin, a prosthetics engineer and member of the Bridge of Don Ward, who designed a wheelchair that could be pushed, pulled and carried to the top of Oxen Craig. With the chair ready to make



Keith Turnbull is assisted on the climb to the summit of Oxen Craig by members of the Bridge of Don Ward, Aberdeen Stake

the ascent, offers of help soon came in, and a team of almost 30 members, consisting of full-time missionaries, youth, sisters, elders and high priests, volunteered to do the pushing, pulling and carrying, inspired by Keith's own determination and desire to help others.

As they reached the summit of Oxen Craig, Keith expressed his feelings about his experience saying he felt "ecstatic", adding that he was so appreciative of everybody's hard work to get him to the top. A retired industrial engineer, Keith served until recently as a high priests group leader; a long-standing member of over 30 years, he and his wife Desiree are committed to the gospel and the service of others. A video of Keith's inspiring journey and those who helped him get there has been posted on YouTube. ■

Dunfermline Women Celebrate Literacy Success

By Wendy Rand

New doors have been opened to three Dunfermline Ward members, of the Dundee Scotland Stake, who have just graduated from a literacy course on International Literacy Day.

Carolyn Brown from Kelty, Marie Brown and her daughter Michelle, undertook a literacy course produced by the Church entitled "Ye Shall Have My Words," which is designed to teach beginning reading and writing skills. The text and vocabulary are taken from the scriptures.

Sheena Christensen, who was a counsellor in Relief Society at the time, felt inspired to teach a lesson on literacy one Sunday, and asked her friend Carolyn to speak for a few minutes about what her life was like with dyslexia. Afterwards, she was approached by Carolyn, Marie and Michelle and asked if she could help them with their dyslexia and other literacy difficulties. That is when Sheena discovered the Church's literacy course and made arrangements to meet with these ladies.

Sheena shares, "This is a wonderful course, based on the scriptures. It allows the students to learn slowly and just take small steps forward at a time. The course has taken these three sisters 2 to 3 years to complete and they are better at socialising

and more confident. I would recommend the course to all those who feel there is a need for it."

Carolyn says, "The course has allowed me to admit that I have dyslexia. It has taught me how to understand the scriptures better and to read aloud in class. I can now do simple things that I couldn't do before, such as answering the phone and writing down messages, understanding bills and bank statements, handling forms and dealing with council and bank staff on my own."

Marie is now planning on doing a computer course and an SVQ course in Care Work, something she never would have considered previously. She said, "I am more confident reading the scriptures. I now have a more positive outlook on life. I am integrating more within the Church and finding ways that I can serve others. I can now say that I have dyslexia and need help."

Michelle, who took the course to help support her mum, says that it has helped her understanding of the scriptures, improved her grammar and spelling, given her more confidence to read aloud and take part in discussions, and ultimately has strengthened her testimony.

Each of these sisters is now looking forward to the doors that are now open to them with their new-found skills and self-confidence. ■

Sheena Christensen, Marie Brown, Carolyn Brown, Michelle Brown and Bishop Charles Marr.



BY IAIN LISTON

The Heroes of Harlow

By Maria H. Sanchez

England London Mission

Their children are grown and gone. It's just the two of them. For themselves, they have no need of a passenger van for seven. Yet they have one. They are what we call "empty nesters". Though their nest may be empty, their van is not. Steve and Carol Tappenden are the heroes of Harlow, especially to the young single adults in their area.

Called in December, 2010, as bishop of the Harlow Ward, Bishop and Sister Tappenden immediately took the lead in caring for the young single adults in their ward and helping them associate with the other young singles in the stake. When other empty nesters are enjoying the fruits of their labours, the Tappendens are still labouring. Instead of travelling the world, they travel the roads of Hertfordshire County. And instead of enjoying the laughter of their friends, they enjoy the laughter of the young single adults.

In the outlying areas of London, the public transportation system doesn't always get you where you want to go, so the young adults are often hampered in getting to activities, unless they have a car. With the price of petrol and parking, even if they owned a car, the costs put a huge dent in their budgets. So enter

the terrific Tappendens at your service, if you please.

If you want to attend institute, family home evening, a dance, an activity, or a conference, you'll have no transport obstacles. And these young adults aren't put in the begging position. Thanks to the sensitive awareness of the Tappendens, they only have to accept the offer of transportation.

Although they are the smallest ward in the largest geographical area of the St Albans Stake, Bishop Tappenden and his sweet wife shepherd their flock wherever the fellowship of the young single adults is. You'll find them listening in at the family home evening activities, learning along with the young adults at institute, or sitting in their car in the parking bays waiting for the dance to be over.

Someone said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself". Steve and Carol Tappenden are the heroes of Harlow. ■



BY SISTER MARIA SANCHEZ

YSA from Harlow Ward with Bishop Steve Tappenden and his wife, Carol

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