

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

A Message of Gratitude

By Europe Area Presidency



*From L to R: Elder Patrick Kearon, Elder José A. Teixeira
and Elder Timothy J. Dyches of the Europe Area Presidency*

We would like to express gratitude for the goodness and faithfulness of the members of the Church throughout Europe. We see the effect of deepening faith in the lives of those we meet. We celebrate the joy that a growing understanding of the Savior's atoning gift is bringing to so many.

We marvel at the countless thousands of hours given in service one for another. Most of this service and devotion goes unseen and unreported and takes place in the home.

The Church in Europe has entered a new chapter of growth, with more people attending Sunday meetings than at any point in history, just as worldwide Church membership has passed fifteen million. Thank you for inviting and bringing your friends to church and for helping those who may have drifted to return. Your daily example is noticed and appreciated by those around you.

We have seen personal storms weathered and challenges overcome. There is patience and fortitude in adversity and a helping hand for those who are going through their own trials of health, relationships, or economic hardship.

We are grateful to see so much joy in those who apply the principles of the restored gospel in their own lives, as well as bring those blessings to the benefit of others.

Our loving Father in Heaven and our Savior, Jesus Christ, are eager to pour out Their blessings upon us for every step of faith we take and for every act of obedience we offer to Them. Jesus promises in the Doctrine and Covenants:

“For thus saith the Lord—I, the Lord, am merciful and gracious unto those who fear me, and delight to honor those who serve me in righteousness and in truth unto the end.

“Great shall be their reward and eternal shall be their glory” (D&C 76:5–6).

Thank you for your example and service. It is a privilege to serve with you.

Europe Area Presidency

Christopher Charles Is New Area Seventy for Greece and the Adriatic

By Clive Glenister and Shawna Windom

Christopher Charles, 63, from the East Grinstead Ward, has been called to serve as an Area Seventy for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Elder Charles returned with his wife, Rashida, from the Greece Athens Mission in July 2012, where they had been overseeing the work performed by missionaries serving in Greece and Cyprus.

Serving as a mission president, Elder Charles commented that he and his wife were totally conscious of the sacrifice parents of these missionaries make as they send and support their sons and daughters on their missions. Consequently, they made the well-being of these treasured children their greatest priority.

Elder Charles, born in North London of Cypriot parentage, was a convert to the Church. As a young boy with a father who was a Jehovah's Witness and a mother

who was Greek Orthodox, he always had a firm conviction that God was real. His quest to find the truth started at age eight when he bought a Bible with his own pocket money and it fell open to the passage in Matthew 24 relating how the Saviour would come again. He knew then this passage would be fulfilled one day, but it took another 16 years of searching and confusion before missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints contacted him and his wife.

By then he had married Rashida, whose father was Muslim and whose mother was a member of the Church of Scotland. Elders Woolstenhulme and Erickson taught with such power that Elder and Sister Charles were baptized within four weeks in March 1975.

As an Area Seventy, Elder



PHOTOGRAPH BY STUART CAVE

Charles's stewardship currently includes ten countries in the Greece Athens, Adriatic North and Adriatic South Missions, although he is also assigned various responsibilities in the rest of the Europe Area. Those called to serve as an Area Seventy are required to give part-time voluntary Church service within their assigned geographic areas while supporting Area Presidencies in international areas.

Retired after almost forty years in the banking and financial services industry, Elder Charles and his wife feel blessed and ready to continue their service to the Lord. ■

Elder Christopher Charles, the new Area Seventy serving in Greece and the Adriatic, with his wife, Rashida

The British Pageant: Truth Will Prevail

By Paul Oliver

It was just after 10-o'clock on the night of the third live performance. The last note of the finale rang out across the Lancashire countryside in magnificent 8-part harmony, for 10½ beats. On the road outside the Preston Temple grounds, the sound

attracted the attention of a young woman. The audience responded with a roar of approval as they stood to applaud the performance. The young woman was now intrigued. What was it that was so wonderful? Curious, she crossed the dual carriageway and walked up Temple Way. A gospel conversation followed!

Such was the power of the British Pageant: Truth Will Prevail that the final note—on its own—created a missionary moment. One of the



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARIE BARBER

many that the pageant created from the 9 performances last July to August as it told the history of the Church in the British Isles by a cast of hundreds.

“The British Pageant: Truth Will Prevail has made its mark on the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and the cast, the crew, all of our pageant helpers and volunteers have made this happen because you first embraced the principles of Zion in your hearts, to begin with, and then together as a community of Saints”, declared Stephen Kerr, pageant president, in his message to everyone involved with the first-ever British pageant.

Each individual who participated or was in an audience has their own story to tell of the impact the pageant made on their feelings, their spirituality and the way they viewed the Church and its British heritage. In fact, the story of the first-ever

The full cast, crew, directors and presidency of the British pageant in front of the Preston Temple

The British pageant cast on stage during the production run from July 31st–August 10th 2013

British pageant cannot be told accurately in any language created by man. Its real story can only be understood in the language of the Spirit.

Angela Larsen, a visitor from California, wrote, “The story of the pageant encompasses the history of the Church in the British Isles, and the great migration of Saints to the U.S. in the 1800s, who were taught by the likes of John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff and others, and the extreme hardships they suffered for the advancement of the Church. It was extremely moving and the auditorium was thick with the Spirit! You could feel the spirits of those Saints and Apostles along with the early reformers right there with us—rejoicing in the Restoration of the gospel. Not a dry eye in the place! The music was tremendous! The acting—superb!”

There are defining moments in our lives when something happens that is so significant—a few seconds that change who we are, what we believe, so that we can never go back to what we were. Monday morning rehearsal, two days before the first night, was such a time for me. When I watched the scene depicting Heber C. Kimball preaching in the Vauxhall chapel, for a few seconds, I felt that I was listening to Heber testifying of the restored gospel—and the Spirit testified of the truth of what I was hearing.

During the nine performances over 15000 children of our Heavenly Father enjoyed their own unique spiritual experiences as they travelled in their coaches, cars and trains from all around the UK.

“Tonight”, said one sister, “was an important line in the sand for me and my family! We are going to be different.”

Wendy McLoughlin, a member of the Nottingham stake, shared her feelings: “The pageant was totally



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARIE BARBER

amazing. I was totally moved to tears. It was probably the most amazing thing I have ever seen”.

Johnny Arnold was not a member of the Church when he sat in the audience for the final performance. Two hours later, the recipient of a powerful manifestation of the Spirit, he knew something had happened—and he knew that there was something special. He has since been baptised.

Many who had not attended church for a long time were so moved that they resolved to return to activity immediately.

All who were involved with the pageant were

set apart as representatives of the Church by their bishops. Each was serving a mini-mission.

Stephen Kerr said of the members who were involved in the pageant, “We believe we had enough faith and sacrifice between us that we could have been organised as one of those early British pioneer handcart companies, we could have travelled the Mormon trail and crossed the plains together! We would have arrived together in the Salt Lake Valley!”

“This is our story, still being written . . .” (Arthur Ashton’s words as spoken in the pageant). ■

NEWS FROM IRELAND

Jason Smyth and the Dublin Ireland Stake Help Children with Sight Loss

By Ken Berber

Jason Smyth, the fastest Paralympian on the earth and double gold medal winner at the London 2012 Paralympics, raced down from his home in Derry to help raise funds for the National Education Centre for Blind Children. ChildVision has been educating

children with sight loss and various other disabilities for over 100 years. Through varied education programmes they aim to ensure all children are given access to education and help children



Jason Smyth and Ruth Hickey from ChildVision (head of fund raising and communications)

Helping Hands activity in the grounds of ChildVision. A funfair is an annual event that is usually held at the Dublin Stake Centre, with the proceeds donated to chosen charities. In 2013 the

become independent, happy and resourceful members of their communities. All children attend ChildVision free of charge.

To raise much-needed funds for the charity, the members of the Dublin Ireland Stake organized and managed a

stake attempted to more effectively reach the aims of the Helping Hands programme by holding the event in partnership with a charity on their own premises. All were invited to attend, including students and their families, members of the Church, and the local community. Jason Smyth, 4-time gold medal winner for Ireland in the Paralympics, would be the star attraction and 15,000 flyers advertising the event were posted to homes in the local area.

The event was held on September 28th 2013. Members organized all the fun stalls, including go-kart racing, hook a duck, a clown balloon man, face painting, and lots more. They sold ice cream, sweets, homemade breads and cakes, and managed the car park. ChildVision organized burger and pizza stands.

Jason Smyth brought one of his Paralympic gold medals with him and gave an encouraging and inspiring talk, then posed with people for photographs. As the event was about to start, a prayer was offered to ask that all would go well and that the weather would be good. The prayer was answered, and

despite forecast of rain the afternoon was blessed with pure sunshine and temperatures of 16 degrees. €8,000 was raised for the charity on the day. The Dublin Ireland Stake has since been approached by various other charities seeking Helping Hands in 2014. What a way to start “hastening the work.” ■



PHOTOGRAPH BY BERNARD O' FARRELL

A member offering face painting at the ChildVision event to raise funds for children with loss of sight

A Special Visit from the Southern Utah Heritage Choir

by Aprih York

The Dublin Ireland Stake was included on the Southern Utah Heritage Choir's twentieth anniversary tour of Ireland. The choir's passion and testimony of the Saviour were directed with enthusiasm by founding director Floyd Rigby, accompanied by organist Karen Cantera, with Nancy Allred as associate director.

The humble and yet powerful display of faith was performed during the group's Ireland international tour beginning on October 5, 2013. In addition to Dublin, the choir travelled to many locations throughout the Emerald Isle, including Galway, Limerick, Kilmallock, Killarney, Cork, Cobh, Thurles, Murroe, and Adare. The choir's selection of wholesome music from all styles, periods, and geographical locations, with an emphasis on sacred hymns and anthems, went down very well amongst the audience.

All the men and women in the Southern Utah Heritage Choir came to serenade with their prayers of song. It was particularly heart-warming to hear a familiar Irish medley as part of the programme for the evening.

“They were a very friendly bunch” and “we were delighted they could be in Ireland”, said Gabrielle McManus from the Dublin Ireland Stake, who was thrilled when the choir decided to stay after the performance in order to interact with everyone. Each member of the choir took the time to sign autographs for the children. Members of the stake expressed gratitude to have had the privilege to see such a display of talent in their corner of the globe. ■

The Southern Utah Heritage Choir performing at Dublin on their 20th anniversary tour



PHOTOGRAPH BY BERNARD O' FARRELL

Clondalkin Index-a-Thon

By Joan Hannick

As we opened the building at 06:45am on that Saturday morning, Bishop Rafii Haji turned to me and asked, “Do you think people will come?” My heart skipped a beat but then a wonderful peaceful feeling came over me and I knew everything would be OK.

It was August 3rd, a beautiful holiday weekend in Dublin, and we were opening up the chapel for our ward’s Index-a-Thon event. We had invited people in the Clondalkin Ward and throughout the stake to join us, and we planned on working from 07:00 am to 07:00 pm, with the goal of indexing 10,000 records in 12 hours. We had publicized the event for two months, sent posters to all of the wards and branches and uploaded the poster to all of the Facebook pages associated with the stake, inviting people to join us either personally or online on the day. We also sent invitations to all of the genealogical societies in Ireland, inviting them to support us in achieving our goal. The wonderful women in Relief Society offered to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as some wonderful treats in case we got hungry.

On the premise that if we had 100 people index for 1 hour each and process 100 records in that time we would easily achieve 10,000 records, we chose the UK Kent Register of Electors 1825 to

1900, which is easy to read and yet challenging when indexing. As we started indexing, more people started arriving and some nonmembers joined us to help and stayed and stayed, and still people kept arriving. Some of the youth enjoyed it so much that they asked to stay on, and made a game out of trying to find the most unusual first name—with ‘Cassebilinear’ being a sure winner. By 2:30 pm everyone was excited to hear that we had already passed our goal and had in fact achieved 10,565 records indexed.

People came and went, ate and chatted, laughed and fellowshiped, but most importantly they indexed, and the numbers kept growing. The atmosphere was amazing, and it was wonderful to look around the room throughout the day and see people of all ages laughing and talking as they

helped one another with the task in hand. With a seemingly never-ending supply of wonderful food and treats, people just stayed on indexing.

We indexed many records from Kent, but being blessed with such a large multi-national membership throughout our stake we also indexed records from the Philippines, Sweden and the Ukraine and WWI service records.

I never doubted that we would achieve our goal but was amazed at the end of the day to see that we had in fact more than doubled our goal, **indexing 21,188 records in total**. The members in our ward and stake are continuing to index and have requested that we make the Index-a-Thon an annual event.

“The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead.”¹—Joseph Smith ■

NOTE

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 475.

Members and friends index over 21,000 names in one day at the Clondalkin Index-a-Thon



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOAN HANNICK

Sponsored Walk for Leukaemia Sufferer

By Debbie Singh-Bhatti

When John Kennedy of the South Ribble Ward, Preston Stake received the devastating news that his six-year-old grandson K had been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and required intensive chemotherapy treatment, he decided to do something to help. A resident of Utah, USA, where not all of his medical costs are covered by insurance, K faces a three-year battle with the illness before he can hope to be given the all clear, and grandad, John, hatched a plan to assist with the treatment costs.

Despite being an ME sufferer and having had recent surgery himself, John decided to raise funds by completing a 20-mile sponsored walk from the Preston Temple grounds in Chorley to Whitefield in nearby Ashton Stake, where K's mum was raised. With the aid of a cross trainer, John gradually built up his fitness and stamina levels until he was able to walk between 8 and 9 miles a day, usually around three times a week, in preparation for his trek.

"When it got tough, I just kept thinking about my goal to do the walk," explained John, whose intensive training regime resulted in a nine-stone loss for him.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JOHN KENNEDY

John Kennedy, after walking 20 miles to raise funds for his grandson K, with his daughter Joy at the finish line

"Knowing that I was doing it for my grandson, and that he was depending on me kept me going."

In perfect weather conditions, John completed the 20-mile hike on Saturday 11th June, in a little under 10 hours and is extremely grateful for the prayers and support he received, particularly from his two daughters, Joy Kennedy and Meg Hyde, who helped him through the last few miles of the walk. In addition, family, friends and Church members on both sides of the Atlantic have been involved in a number of fund-raising activities—including the 'Race for Life' and car boot sales—which have resulted in a total of over £1,000 being raised so far.

K's anticipated three-year fight against his illness means that ongoing funds will be required to help pay for his treatment. Brother Kennedy is already planning his next venture.

"I'm thinking of completing a marathon or something similar next year. I'm not a runner, so I'm planning on doing it with Nordic style walking poles!" ■

Alan Hawkshaw Stages a New West End Musical

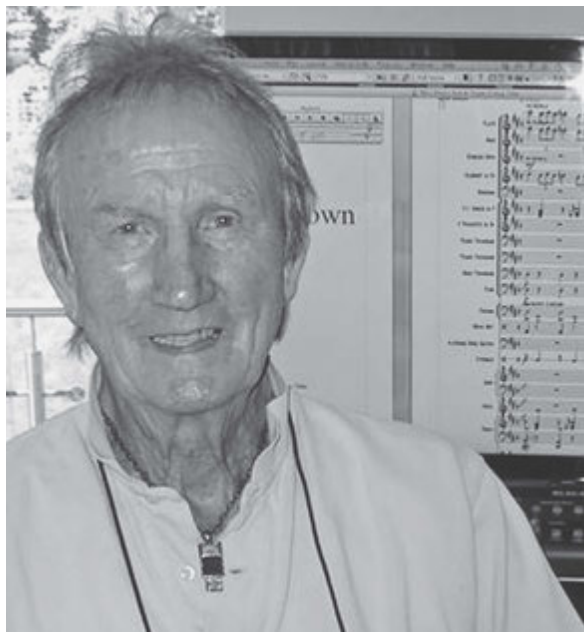
By Rowland Elvidge

When in 1974 the American Academy of Arts and Sciences awarded Alan Hawkshaw the Best Arrangement Award for 'I Honestly Love You' performed by Olivia Newton John, it was clear that here was a young arranger and composer with a bright future. His skills as a keyboard player are now well known and he has worked with, written and played for many international stars, musicals and television scores. Songwriting also gave Alan, a member of the St Albans Ward, the opportunity to collaborate with some of the world's best lyricists. Some of his other awards include the Ivor Novello Award and the prestigious Gold Badge Award for services to the industry from BASCA (British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors). He was also nominated for a BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) award for a well-known TV series and you will hear his theme music every day on several popular TV programmes.

When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, Alan was determined to be a part of it in some small way, and with his wife Christine, who was born in Germany, they boarded a flight with the intention of experiencing this global event. They were not to be disappointed. Alan managed to procure a hammer and chisel and on arrival in Berlin went straight to the wall and began chipping away at it with many other westerners.

It may have been the inspiration of witnessing this event that inspired him to create this new West End musical *Berlin, the Musical*, or it may be the influence of his German-born wife Christine. Since that day he has often considered writing about this and the obvious way it would be a musical and was fortunate to be introduced to the right people at the right time, so the seed began to flourish alongside others who supported the production.

This joint production of *Berlin, the Musical* was performed as a concert, with a performance



Alan Hawkshaw, composer of Berlin, the Musical

of the vocal score, on September 21st 2013 at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London. With the London Youth Symphony Orchestra and a cast of around 20 singers, including 5 principal singers, this work was assisted by narration and projection with images of that period. It is a heart-wrenching story of the dangerous liaisons between family members who are caught up in the conflicts that surrounded the division of loved ones caught up in political turmoil.

A member of the audience commented:

"It was a fantastic night in the theatre—a quality and engrossing piece of work set in of one of the most iconic periods of 20th century western history. Sally and I—along with the rest of the audience—were blown away. The story and characters were immediately engaging and the themes of aspiration, love, beliefs and family loyalties were woven beautifully. I could go on forever about the wonder of last night but shall just say that it was one of the most joyous evenings I have ever spent in a theatre."
(Tony Osoba, actor)

The Italian lyrics were written by Jeanne Madsen, a very talented LDS member living in Utah, who sadly passed away four years ago. The show is dedicated to her memory. ■

Portsmouth Young Man Excels at England Schools Athletics

By Shawna Windom

Leslie Parkes, aged 16 years and a member of the Portsmouth Ward, recently achieved two gold medals at the England Schools Athletics Championships in Birmingham, representing Hampshire. His specialist event is throwing hammer, and in a high quality event featuring all of England's top ten throwers in his age group, Leslie produced a throw of over 60 metres to win the gold medal. Later in the competition, Leslie won a second gold medal, this time in the sprint relay.

Leslie is a teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood and is highly respected at church, in the athletics community, and also at school where he achieves good grades.

He continues to attend his Church meetings and youth activities, and has completed two out of four years of daily early-morning seminary, a scripture study programme for youth aged 14–18 years. ■



PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM PARKES

Leslie Parkes, 16 years, won two gold medals at the recent England Schools Athletics Championships

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. A form will be emailed or is available from your stake media specialist/director of public affairs.

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