

# UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

## AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

### Europe Area Plan Update

By Elder Patrick Kearon, Great Britain  
Europe Area Presidency



Elder Patrick Kearon

The simplified Area Plan was launched in January. We are now over halfway through the year. This is a good moment to ask yourself how you are progressing with the three priorities.



'Bring a Friend' is intended to sound comfortable. We have an image of friends joining us for a walk or an ice cream, or coming to sacrament meeting with us when we speak. Many will have brought friends to see *Meet the Mormons*. Our friends will come to understand that they feel different when they have these experiences, and they might wonder why.

'Become Spiritually and Temporally Self-Reliant' recognizes that if we don't stand firmly on our own feet spiritually, we get swept away too easily by the storms of life. Daily prayer and scripture study are at the heart of spiritual self-reliance. The blessings come instantly, as they do when we fast each month, contribute a generous fast offering, and offer an honest tithing. Temporal self-reliance lets us be more confident as we gain education and become more employable.

'Find an Ancestor' is something which will also bring extraordinary

light and blessings as we find those who have gone before us and perform sacred ordinances for them. As we take steps toward binding our families together through the generations, we marvel at what happens in our lives. We see evidence that prophetic promises of protection, guidance, and joy are poured out upon us.

If you haven't really tried the three steps above, it isn't too late. You can start now. You will quickly see the impact these three simple invitations

will have on you and upon those around you.

Why do we do these things? More than anything, because our Father in Heaven, who sent us here, wants us back with Him. It is as if we have just gone away to school for a day, in the eternal sense. He wants us to return safely to Him, and while we are away He wants us to be happy. These are things which will give us peace and happiness and, at the same time, will allow us to help others get home too. ■

## LOCAL NEWS

### 175th Commemoration of Wilford Woodruff's First Baptisms at Hill Farm

By Marion McLaverty and Sister Joyce Jones

Over 60 people gathered at Hill Farm, Castle Frome, on 6 March 2015 to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the first baptisms by Wilford Woodruff in the area of Worcestershire/Herefordshire.

The commemoration was organised by Bernard and Val Haw, local missionaries for area Church historical sites, and was hosted in the barn at Hill Farm by current owners Mrs Louise Manning and Mrs Manning Snr.

After a rousing start by the Ledbury Town Crier, a special video message

was shared by Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, one of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As a descendant of Ellen Benbow Carter—a foster child of John and Jane Benbow, who owned the farm in the 1840s—Elder Holland expressed deep affection and respect for those who live within the beautiful Malvern Hills.

While preaching in Hanley in the Potteries, Brother Woodruff felt prompted to go south to continue his mission. However, it was



**Members and descendants of those who were baptised here gather at Benbows' Pond.**

through the help of another person, William Benbow, that he found the exact area where he needed to teach. William's brother John was part of a group of worshippers known as the United Brethren, who were seeking the truth. On 3 March 1840 Wilford Woodruff and William Benbow, along with William's young son, rode an omnibus for twenty-six miles to Wolverhampton. The next day they rode a coach for an additional thirty-four miles to Worcester, then walked the last sixteen miles to John Benbow's farm in Castle Frome, Herefordshire, to teach those who had been prepared to hear the gospel message.

John and Jane Benbow invited Elder Woodruff to share his message in their home the day after he arrived.

The Benbows and four of their friends were baptised, the first in this area, on 6 March 1840.

Elder Woodruff spent the next day clearing out the pond near the Benbows' home to prepare for more baptisms. By Sunday, word of an American missionary had spread swiftly, and Elder Woodruff preached three sermons in three different locations to a total of nearly one thousand people. Wilford and others converted nearly 1800 people to the gospel from the Herefordshire area. Many of those he baptised immigrated to America to help colonise the West and build the Church in Utah and surrounding western states.

Speaking at the commemoration, Warrick Kear spoke of a gift of £300 that John gave the Church to fund the

first printing of the Book of Mormon in this land. Subsequently, 5000 copies were published in 1841. Through his generosity of another donation of £100, fifty others were able to emigrate from Liverpool to the U.S.

Comments were also shared by Mary Pochin, Rob Biggs and Sherri Libutti, in addition to a musical item presented by missionaries and members of the Stroud ward, accompanied by harpist and senior missionary Sister Sherri Libutti.

Mrs Louise Manning closed the meeting with a few remarks. With reference to the financial help John Benbow gave to the Church and others, she said that John knew he had to give others a better opportunity, and what was a community in this region became a community in a very different place. She spoke of the great example Wilford Woodruff is to us today and said that the legacy of the people he baptised in this region has gone throughout the world.

Having lived at Hill Farm for over 20 years, she closed by commenting that she was very proud to learn that the first acre in Utah had been ploughed by an Englishman. ■

## Ipswich Ward Temple Trip

By Jane Gough

Members of the Ipswich Ward, Ipswich Stake, recently hosted a new-convert trip to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' London England Temple, in an attempt to help new members perform temple ordinance work for their families.

The trip was the first of what is hoped to be many future trips to be held regularly to

support new members in embracing the temple.

The group was composed of ten converts and five reactivated members representing a variety of cultures—United Kingdom, United States, Hong Kong, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

All the names provided for the session were family names from the Ipswich Ward.

The day was complete with the visitors' centre missionaries hosting a tour of the temple grounds as well as an inspirational fireside for the group. ■



**Ipswich Ward members and ten new converts on a recent temple trip**

## Hartlepool Collects for Red Cross

By Angela Tivinan

On a recent cold morning, members from the Hartlepool congregation, in the Billingham area, were all geared up to collect money for the British Red Cross in a local superstore. Mary Barratt from the congregation already regularly collects for the British Red Cross but asked local members for their help. Although

ROSE MARY BARRATT



*Members from Hartlepool Ward with Elders Baker, Johansson, Burrows and Orihuela at the Red Cross charity collection*

there were only 9 individuals that day, they collected for 3 hours and raised over £400 from very generous shoppers.

All agreed that it is was a very pleasant

experience dealing with members of the public, and the members were grateful to be able to assist the charity with much-needed funds. ■

### NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

## Mormon Missionary Choir Performs at Historic Venues for Easter

By Sister Sylvia Brown, Scotland/Ireland Mission

Tourists came hurrying to investigate the wonderful sound rising from the crypt of 15th-century Rosslyn Chapel. It was the perfect atmosphere for the sacred music of the Mormon Missionary Choir from the Scotland/Ireland Mission as they warmed up for their Easter performance in the ancient chapel above, famous for its intricately carved stonework.

What is remarkable about the group of 25 is that they practiced together for the first time barely 48 hours before their first performance. The theme of their 'Historic Buildings Tour' was "Know This—He Lives". The group sang in eleven different venues over seven days, including the Royal Chapel of Stirling Castle, the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle, and St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. They made their own history as they

brought a fresh dynamic and vibrant spirit into these ancient halls.

The choir director was Elder William Black from Missouri, USA, age 21. This

is the fourth time he has ably conducted a missionary choir tour during his mission. The leading pianist was Elder Jan Novotny from the Czech Republic, age 23. Singing was enhanced by two flutes and a violin accompaniment.

The excellence of the choir's singing was impressive, and their music visibly carried the spirit and testimony of Christ into the hearts of hundreds of



*Missionaries from the Scotland/Ireland Mission performing on their historic Easter tour*

SISTER BROWN

members of the public who might otherwise be closed to their spoken message. As those in the choir bore their testimonies of Christ through music, their love of Him grew. Sister Skousen

stated, “I’m so grateful I had this opportunity to testify in song, learn from the examples of other missionaries, and feel the Spirit with such power. I loved to look into the audience and watch

the Spirit work with them. I know God is in this work!” Another said, “It was amazing to feel the Spirit, and more especially to see others feel the Spirit who had never felt it before.” ■

## Aberdeen Beach Clean-Up by Helping Hands

By Sandra Wood

JOHN SINCLAIR



Members from the Aberdeen area give Helping Hands at the annual Aberdeen Beach Clean-Up

The Annual Beach Clean-Up at the Donmouth Bridge of Don Aberdeen, organised by the Bridge of Don Community Council, took place on Saturday the 11 April 2015, with support from members and missionaries of the Bridge of Don and Aberdeen congregations of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The Mormon Helping Hands were part of a group of nearly 50 people who took part in the clean-up.

Extremely poor weather conditions persisted in the morning, including heavy rain and blustery winds, but after a while the

rain stopped, the winds dropped, the sky brightened and the sun shone—a “miracle”. The Secretary of the Bridge of Don Community Council was very appreciative of the service and donated hours the members gave to the project.

‘Clean Up Aberdeen’ is part of ‘Clean Up Scotland’, the national mass-engagement campaign of ‘Keep Scotland Beautiful’. This campaign aims to involve one million people in action against litter and mess and is working to change long-term behaviour by making dropping litter socially unacceptable. ■

## Dundee Hosts International Women’s Day Meeting

By Evelyn Liston

IAIN LISTON



Pictured from left to right: Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Health; Dr Anne Fearfull, University of Dundee’s School of Business; President Ian Snee, stake president; Evelyn Liston, director of public affairs, Dundee Stake; Leslie Lieth, adult Sunday School teacher; and Lynne Anderson

This year’s theme for International Women’s Day was presented through inspiring addresses by four exceptional women at an open gathering held in the meetinghouse of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Bingham Terrace, Dundee, Scotland.

Lynne Anderson, a Primary teacher from Dunfermline, opened the meeting, followed by Dr Anne Fearfull, Senior Lecturer at the University of Dundee’s School of Business. After a wonderful musical item, Leslie Lieth spoke of biblical women who inspired and overcame nations through perseverance and difficulties.

The final speaker was Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Health, who also gave a compelling address. All four speakers shared trials and triumphs from their own lives, speaking with beautiful candor and leaving all those who attended feeling unified and uplifted. ■

## International Women's Day

By Pat Wilkinson

To mark International Women's Day on 8 March, women from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Birmingham and from the local community gathered for a sewing marathon at the chapel in Lordswood Road, Harborne, in aid of charities that support women and girls in Africa. Around 70 women and girls sewed dresses and washable sanitary pads for use in Africa and donated hundreds of toiletries to the Salvation Army's Birmingham shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

Organiser Naomi McMorn said, "It was a fantastic day to come together and serve women, our sisters, around the world who are less fortunate than we are. We had a great time teaching one another new skills and making friends whilst contributing to the worthy causes. It reminded me that we are all children of God and any change we want to see in the world begins with us."

Three charities were supported: [dressagirlaroundtheworld.com](http://dressagirlaroundtheworld.com), [donatepads.org](http://donatepads.org) and [salvationarmy.org.uk](http://salvationarmy.org.uk). ■

**Stake Primary president Sister Diana Cross with her 9-year-old daughter, Poppy, at the International Women's Day service day**



ADAM CROSS

## Warrington Church Hosts Conference on the Homeless

By Tammy Johnston

CLARE PEARTREE



**MP David Mowat and other guests at the Warrington homeless conference hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Warrington**

They say that religion and politics shouldn't mix, but this didn't seem to be the case at a recent conference hosted by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Great Sankey. Representatives from all three main political parties, including the Rt Hon David Mowat MP (Conservative), met with local religious leaders on Sunday 1st March to learn more about the plight of the homeless in the Warrington area.

The event was introduced by Bishop Jonathan Gray of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who spoke about the good Samaritan. He was followed by Susan Blythe, founder of the YMCA's 'Room at the Inn' shelter, which sleeps ten people and provides sleeping bags to less vulnerable individuals who are forced to sleep on the streets when the Inn is full.

Susan has worked tirelessly with the homeless since 1990 and can often be found trawling the streets looking for those who are sleeping rough and making sure they have somewhere to

turn for shelter and ongoing support.

Susan explained the importance of working with the local authorities and partner agencies. The local authority recently commissioned a report on homelessness and housing and is working towards new strategies for the future. "Room at the Inn will work with local authorities for as long as is necessary," she said.

The evening included a slide presentation created by Reverend Jackie Bellfield of the Bold Street Parish Church, Warrington, which explained how mental stress can leave anyone in dire circumstances and how 38% of homeless people have been brought up in foster care.

The new chairman of the Inn, Brian Monaghan, invited a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to serve on the committee in January. "Planning has started amongst our local Church members on a project to carry out much-needed maintenance on the internal fabric of the building," explained Bishop Gray. "We

are supplying man hours to achieve some essential upkeep.”

“An uncertain horizon means that we rely on faith groups’ efforts for support,” added Susan. “Donations of clothing, food, sleeping bags and toiletries are always welcome.”

Others in attendance at the conference included political candidates for Warrington South Nick Bent (Labour) and Councillor Bob Barr OBE (Liberal Democrat), along with his wife Caroline. Lib Dem councillor and LDS Church member Stefan Krizanac was also present, along with Hasan Kasai, a Muslim representative from the Warrington Council of Faiths. ■

## Getting to Know Who We Are

By Eileen Webb

Twenty-two young people and their leaders from the Outlane Scout Troop in Huddersfield recently spent an evening researching their family trees at The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints family history centre on Halifax Road, Huddersfield.

Scouts, Explorers and Networkers were welcomed by local Church leader Boyd McEwen, who explained why Mormons research their family histories and build temples, before being given a tour of the Church building.

The young people arrived armed with ancestral names and dates already known to them, and with the help of locality specialists and other staff from the family history centre, they were able to conduct further research. One young Scout, who attended with her grandmother, was excited to trace her family history back five generations!

Each young person wrote the names and dates of their ancestors on a “real” family tree, which was added to as more information was found. At the end of the evening these were framed and taken home to share with other family members.

The evening was a huge success. “This is really good!” “I’m definitely coming again!” and “I can’t go yet, I haven’t finished!” were all comments heard on the night, and the visitors left amidst promises to return and continue what had been started. ■

## They Walked with Him

By Sister Nancy Theiss

Sunday evening, 22 March, the Northampton Stake young single adults presented an Easter fireside, “They Walked With Him,” to a packed gathering of families and friends at the Northampton Stake Centre. This touching presentation, drawn from the scriptures, was a reflection on the interaction of six individuals with Jesus in the last days and hours of His mortal life. Those six, and the YSAs that assumed the roles, were John the Beloved (Dan Kitsell); Mary, the mother of Jesus (Paige Mace); Mary Magdalene (Charlotte Rose); a leper (Sam O’Malley); a Roman centurion (David Ryan) and Peter (Ezra O’Malley). Music accompaniment was provided by the Northampton Stake YSA Chorus, plus solos by Dan Kitsell and Sam O’Malley and a group vocal number that included Kate Dixon, Megan Gibbons and Leah Robinson. Narrators included Kofie Ofei, Robyn DeKock, Megan Bowles and Stuart Brann.

The genesis of this fireside began several months earlier with a desire by the stake YSAs to prepare a special Easter fireside for members and non-members of the Northampton Stake as a meaningful prelude to the Easter celebration. The objective was to stimulate a thoughtful reflection and appreciation for our Saviour through the unique approach of the feelings of His disciples who were with Him just prior to His arrest and Crucifixion, as they came to realize what was about to happen and the eternal impact for all of His Crucifixion and Resurrection.

EILEEN WEBB



*Local Scouts research their family history at Huddersfield Family History Centre*



*Northampton Stake YSA actors and choir at the Easter fireside 'They Walked with Him'*

After the prayerful selection and invitation to participate in this sacred presentation, those with speaking parts were asked to do the following in their preparation to assume the roles of the disciples they had been chosen to represent:

1. Prayerfully study the scriptures relating to the roles of the persons they were representing as those persons walked with the Saviour in His last days.
2. Develop scripts that would accurately capture the events and emotions of the disciples in those final days preceding the Crucifixion.
3. Memorize their scripts so that their presentations might be an expression from the heart, and the congregation might see and feel their conviction in their roles.
4. Visit the temple preceding the fireside for spiritual guidance in understanding, absorbing and effectively delivering the feelings and message of Easter.

The preparations and delivery of this Easter event were a unifying experience for the YSAs from the seven wards in the Northampton Stake, in spite of the geographic distances between the wards. All who were involved felt it an honour to offer their time and talents as an expression of love and appreciation for our Saviour.

Likewise, those who attended were visibly touched by the sweetness of the spirit, the effectiveness in the communication by word and music and the wonderful prelude this event provided for the upcoming Easter and general conference weekend. It was an exceptional and memorable experience for all. ■

## Birthe Rutley

By Shawna Denny

For Birthe Rutley, charitable service is not something she does; it's who she is.

"Giving back is my life," Sister Rutley said. "I don't know of any other way to exist. It's like waking up in the morning and being a member of [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints]. I don't know any other way to be. I think that's what I'm here for."

Sister Rutley has been assigned for the past seven years to serve as the humanitarian aid coordinator for the Brighton Ward of the Crawley Stake. In this role she has tirelessly endeavored to meet a variety of needs.

Outside her Church calling, though, she serves as president for the women's section of the Royal British Legion in Lewes, Sussex. For more than 30 years, Sister Rutley has taken on the honour of laying the wreath for the RBL in Lewes. Sister Rutley has a fond connection to the RBL and its objectives. "The Royal



**Sister Birthe Rutley from the Brighton Ward**

British Legion is important to me because it is a genuine money-raising activity for a hands-on charity,” Sister Rutley said. “I have been involved in 100s of charities over the years, and I want to get involved with the British Legion because I know of the good it does.”

The women’s section of the RBL provides relief for numerous families of servicemen and women. They provide these families with the things they need in their homes and lives, whether in the form of furniture or assistance.

Sister Rutley recalled that her first charitable endeavour was providing cooking stoves and lavatories to an African village. The spark from that opportunity to serve others has since been a long-standing constant in her life as she has branched out to meet a multitude of needs.

“It has been such a pleasure seeing the things we have done bring

contentment to people’s lives,” Sister Rutley said.

Over the past seven years, Sister Rutley has raised funds and provided aid for Guide Dogs for the Blind, Work Aid in Africa, homeless centres, Harvest Help in Africa, Sightsavers (aiding those in third-world countries to have cataract operations), hospices, multiple sclerosis, Thank the Forces, Cancer Research UK and RISE (Women’s Refuge in Brighton), amongst other charitable causes. She has always been cautious, though, to make sure all efforts are acknowledged as efforts of the Church.

“When I write to the different charities, I always use the name of the Church because I want people to know what the Church is doing,” Sister Rutley said. This year, Sister Rutley aims to assist a variety of charities. SSAFA (Soldiers’, Sailors’ and Airmen’s Families Association), Samaritan’s Purse shoebox gifts, Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders), the Brighton and District Food Bank and the blood bank are just a few of the causes she hopes to support in 2015.

Sister Rutley is a past Mayoress of Lewes and is the mother of two, David Rutley (MP for Macclesfield) and Michael Rutley (a lecturer at the University of Wolverhampton), and the grandmother of four. She was born in Denmark. She moved to England in 1957 and has been a proud and charitable resident ever since.

Her son, David Rutley, said, “My mother continues to be an inspiration to me and many others in Lewes where she lives and to those at church. Her work is a great example of committed service for the community. I am very proud of all that she does.” ■

## Editor’s Note

The editors, **Jason Watling** and **Debbie Twigger**, invite all news stories, articles and photographs to be sent to [ukiensign@ldschurch.org](mailto: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.

### Local Editorial Committee

Shawna Denny: Maidstone Stake  
Warrick Kear: Leicester Stake  
Dawn Keogh: Scotland  
Debbie Singh-Bhatti: Sheffield Stake  
Tracey Prior: Wales

### Websites/Social Media

The latest news and additional articles can be found at [www.lds.org.uk](http://www.lds.org.uk), [www.mormonnewsroom.org.uk](http://www.mormonnewsroom.org.uk), [www.facebook.com/LDSUK](http://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](mailto:ukiensign@ldschurch.org). ■

