

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

A Gift of Peace and Protection

Elder Axel H. Leimer, Germany

Area Seventy



Elder

Axel H. Leimer

As we come into the Church through baptism, we are filled with the hope for eternal life and to come closer to God by better understanding Him and His purpose for us.¹ In our religion we seek answers to life's most difficult questions. Initially we may receive answers from friends, trusted teachers, the missionaries, our home teachers, or the bishop. But over time we need to learn to access the powers of heaven ourselves and to become spiritually self-reliant.

President Henry B. Eyring said:

"There are many . . . who feel a pressing need for that blessing of personal revelation from our loving Heavenly Father. . . .

"We all know that human judgment and logical thinking will not be enough to get answers to the questions that matter most in life. We need revelation from God. And we will need not just one revelation in a time of stress, but we need a constantly renewed stream. We need not just one flash of light and comfort, but we need the continuing blessing of communication with God."²

Personal revelation comes to each of us just as it does to prophets and apostles—through the Holy Ghost. He is a personage of spirit. He testifies of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ,³ and confirms all truth through spiritual promptings and feelings of peace. The scriptures describe this

communication as coming by a still, small voice,⁴ "not through physical senses but by touching the heart and mind,"⁵ sometimes piercing and powerful.⁶ These brief moments are like short flashes of light in the darkness.

By deciding to be baptized into His Church, we receive the promise of living in permanent light.⁷ As we follow promptings, we commit more fully to our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

At the end of His earthly ministry, Christ said to His Apostles, "I will not leave you comfortless."⁸ He told them: "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth. . . . He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."⁹

The Apostles then received the gift of the Holy Ghost and conferred the same gift to others who had been baptized, by the laying on of hands with the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood.¹⁰ This gift, also referred to as baptism by fire,¹¹ comes on condition of repentance, and it requires us to remain worthy.¹²

As President Boyd K. Packer taught, we each "must stay in condition to respond to inspiration" so that the Lord can pour "pure intelligence into our minds to prompt us, to guide us, to teach us, and to warn us."¹³

Think about what this gift of continuous personal witness and revelation implies:

- That there is a God
- That He knows us personally
- That He directs His Church through prophets and will confirm those directions to each of us individually
- That He cares about us and wants to speak with us and guide us
- That He respects our agency
- That we are never truly alone

The gift of the Holy Ghost leads us to spiritual self-reliance so that we may learn to act for ourselves and not be acted upon¹⁴ and "that every man might speak in the name of God the Lord, even the Savior of the world."¹⁵

This gift is such a blessing! It is a protection we so desperately need and helps us to find the answers to life's most important questions. The Holy Ghost leads us to place our trust and testimony on the perfect, firm foundation of Jesus Christ, who leads our church. The prophet Helaman put it best when he said, "And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, . . . it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock

upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall.”¹⁶ ■

NOTES

1. See John 17:3.
2. Henry B. Eyring, “Continuing Revelation,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2014, 70.
3. See 2 Nephi 31:18.
4. See 1 Kings 19:11–13; 1 Nephi 17:45; Doctrine and Covenants 85:6.
5. Dennis E. Simmons, “His Peace,” *Ensign*, May 1997, 31.
6. See Helaman 5:25, 29–31.

7. See James E. Faust, “The Gift of the Holy Ghost—A Sure Compass,” *Ensign*, May 1989, 32; Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed. (1939), 61.
8. John 14:18.
9. John 14:16–17, 26.
10. See Acts 2:38; 8:12–25; Moroni 2:1–3.
11. See Matthew 3:11; 2 Nephi 31:17; Doctrine and Covenants 19:31.
12. See Acts 2:38.
13. Boyd K. Packer, “These Things I Know,” *Ensign*, May 2013, 8.
14. See 2 Nephi 2:13–14, 26.
15. Doctrine and Covenants 1:20.
16. Helaman 5:12.

LOCAL NEWS

Once a Dream, Now a Reality (Official Ribbon Cutting Opens the Salisbury Chapel)

By Sister Joyce Jones

After waiting for nearly three decades, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gathered on Saturday, 9 May 2015, to celebrate the completion of the newly constructed Salisbury Chapel. After early-morning showers, the skies cleared for the Salisbury meetinghouse opening, with John Crew (Poole Stake president), Alan Burchell (Salisbury Branch president), and Councillor Mrs. Jo Broom (the 754th Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Salisbury) participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Addressing the local congregation, Councillor Broom extended her congratulations by welcoming the addition of the Salisbury Chapel to the local community in the historical Sarum area. During the meetinghouse opening, she acknowledged the memorable nature of the day: “As many have waited some

27 years since the land was acquired in 1988, I know how special this day must be for you.” Acknowledging the unique structural features of the building and the service contributions of the members, Councillor Broom noted, “This chapel represents a significant

landmark in this historical city. . . . I do wish you well and do hope you will have a happy and thriving future in this community.”

President John Crew then followed with remarks and expressed appreciation to all involved in the planning and construction process. While speaking to the congregation, he said, “It is a day of celebration, rejoicing, and thanksgiving. We thank the pioneers whose faith and sacrifice have been critical to help us realize the vision we see today. We are blessed by the tithes and offerings of members of the Church that have made this day possible. . . . We are grateful to join with the Christian community in Salisbury as we add another chapel of worship.”

Concluding his remarks, President Crew added, “May this new chapel stand as a beautiful, sacred edifice that stands as a beacon, a place where we can come to know and feel the love of our Saviour Jesus Christ and our loving Father in Heaven, a time to give thanks and look to the future.”

Poole Stake president John Crew, Councillor Mrs. Jo Broom, Salisbury Branch president Alan Burchell, and London South Mission president Roger C. Millar and his wife celebrate building opening.



ELDER DAN JONES

Following the brief meeting, guests were invited to tour the building before enjoying a luncheon prepared for all in attendance. Among the nearly 200 members and guests present, six previous branch presidents were in attendance to commemorate the opening of the new Salisbury Chapel, a long-held dream that has now become a reality. ■



ELDER DAN JONES

Northampton Screens 'Meet the Mormons'

By Debbie Twigger

Over 600 local members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, friends, family and community leaders poured into the two local Cineworld cinemas at Northampton and Huntingdon on May 20th to see a special charity showing of the US

cinema success 'Meet the Mormons'. The newly elected MP, Rt Hon David Mackintosh, for Northampton South attended the event, along with other community leaders from SACRE and the Northamptonshire Community Police. Donations to the Royal British Legion

amounted to over £700 collected on the night from the cinemagoers.

Stake president Karl Hirst commented, "It was simply brilliant to walk into a cinema advertising MTM on their feature boards and then to see a large and attractive group of missionaries and YSA inside taking donations for Royal British Legion. The film was outstanding and very well supported. Everyone there found something in it to which they could relate and something desirable in it. As impressive as the movie was, to see the foyer filled with members afterwards was at least equally moving. The influence of the Saints pushing back the natural atmosphere was tangible. The manager of the cinema said what a pleasure it was to have hosted us. Other staff called after us to thank us and wish us goodnight as we left. The whole experience seemed to capture the essence of an important, hastening work."

The Church-produced film is now being shown around the 25

From left to right: Rob Clayton (Northampton Stake presidency); Rachel Packman, community engagement officer, Northamptonshire Police; Rt Hon David Mackintosh, MP for Northampton South; Traci De Marco, stake Relief Society president; and Tony Twigger, public affairs



COURTESY OF TONY TWIGGER

countries of Europe, including the UK, in cinemas and meetinghouses. Recently, LDS Charities of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gave a \$1.8 million donation to the American Red Cross from the proceeds of 'Meet the Mormons', a film the Church released last October in America.

Further to an invitation to attend the charity showing in Northampton, the Rt Hon Michael Ellis, MP for Northampton North and Private Parliamentary Secretary to Theresa May, Home Secretary, received a tour of the Northampton Stake Centre, with an invitation to speak with the YSA at a later date. ■

of God' and 'Called to Serve'. So, with a wonderful atmosphere set, everyone was ready to sit back and enjoy the specially produced and uplifting film.

Sofia, one of the Pakistani youth leaders, remarked, "This film makes us realise that we are not so different from one another. We worship God and teach the same principles of love and service to one another."

Afterwards, a plea was made on behalf of Bishnu (who featured in the film) and his fellow Nepalese countrymen who suffered so much in the recent earthquakes, whereupon £207 was raised for them.

The leaders of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association (whose motto is "Love for all and hatred for none") have since been in contact expressing their enjoyment of the film and a desire for further meetings so that "we can collaborate and work on projects together as we share so many similarities". ■

'Meet the Mormons' at the Rex

By Eileen Webb

On Friday the 22nd of May, members from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Huddersfield and their friends enjoyed a unique experience watching the blockbuster film 'Meet the Mormons' at the Rex Cinema in Elland near Halifax, Yorkshire. Joining them as special guests were Rt Hon Craig Whittaker, MP for Calderdale Valley, who was accompanied by his mother. Representatives from the Royal British Legion, the Pakistani Alliance Community and the Yorkshire branch of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association were amongst the audience of nearly 200, which also included councillor and Mrs James, Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Calderdale, councillor and Mrs Dodds, Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Kirklees.

The Rex is a structurally unaltered, purpose-built cinema dating from 1912. It is a true independent cinema and operates without subsidy from the National Lottery, local council or anybody else. In May 1990, a Conn 651 theatre organ, with resonator pipes and two Leslie tone cabinets, was

installed, and organ recitals have been a regular feature ever since.

On 'Meet the Mormons' night the organist, Ben Hinchcliffe (a nonmember and local teacher's assistant) kindly volunteered to play this unique instrument before the film began. The prelude music included a rousing version of 'Onward, Christian Soldiers', 'Guide Us, O Thou Great Jehovah', 'The Spirit

Craig Whittaker, MP, and his mother with stake president Boyd McEwen outside the Rex Cinema for the showing of 'Meet the Mormons'



The Piano Guys: 'Mind the Gap'

By Sister Joyce Jones



Back row: Paul and Tracy Anderson, Michelle and Jon Schmidt. Front row: Julie and Steven Sharp Nelson, Rachel and Al van der Beek.

The hearts of many in the London area were captured 7th June, which marked an evening of music and testimony in a devotional by the Piano Guys: Jon Schmidt, Steven Sharp Nelson, Paul Anderson, and Al van der Beek. In the midst of their European tour, on Sunday evening they were greeted by a capacity audience of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and community friends in the Hyde Park Chapel on Exhibition Road, London.

Steven Sharp Nelson began the devotional with references to memorable

British phrases, with emphasis on one of his favourites, 'Mind the gap', which became a theme for the night. He identified the challenge to shorten the spiritual gap between ourselves and the Saviour by aligning our lives with the will of God. "I have found the shortest distance between me and the Saviour is through good, uplifting music."

Al van der Beek followed by recounting his story of forsaking pride by turning his heart to the teachings and beliefs he honoured as a young missionary. His change of heart came as he and his wife agreed to "put both feet on the Lord's side." Together they

determined, "Let's do all the things we have been taught."

Reflecting on his shyness, Paul Anderson shared that as they have humbled themselves before the Lord, He has turned their weaknesses into strengths, allowing mighty miracles to occur with their music and videos. He emphasised the power of prayer as he expressed the group's need to shoot each of their videos within a 12- to 24-hour period. To accomplish their goal, the Piano Guys pray before, during and after each video shoot.

Representing the wives, accomplished violinist Julie Nelson told of her experience of being stranded in a backstage lift in Paris when she was expected to join the Piano Guys on stage. After describing a series of little personal miracles she experienced, she added, "After you do all you can do, the Lord steps in."

Concluding the devotional, Jon Schmidt referenced Alma 37:36–37 from the Book of Mormon, a scripture that has guided the Piano Guys' professional journey. He reiterated that there is no better way to 'mind the gap' than to "cry unto God for all thy support; yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest let it be in the Lord; yea, let all thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever. Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good."

To the delight of the audience, a few songs were shared throughout the evening to illustrate their devotion and gratitude to God for their faith and for their gifts of music. ■

Catford Missionaries

By Debbie Singh-Bhatti

When Sister Fiona Edwards was called to serve as young single adult Sunday School teacher in the Catford Ward, Wandsworth England Stake, she took seriously her charge to help strengthen the faith and testimonies of these young people and prepare them to serve missions. But as the weeks and months rolled by, the initially large class got increasingly smaller as class members stopped attending. One by one these faithful young people left their homes in southwest London to serve missions across the world.

Catford is a small ward by anyone's standards. With an average of just 70 people attending church each week, it is nothing short of a miracle

that six members—almost 10% of the congregation—are currently serving missions, with two due to leave in the summer and another one preparing to serve later this year.

Of the six missionaries already out in the field, there are two sets of brothers: twins Elders Daniel and Joshua MacDonald-Smith, who are serving in Atlanta, Georgia, and Los Angeles, California, respectively; and Elders Harry and George Edwards (Mesa, Arizona, and Oslo, Norway). In addition, nearly 7-foot-tall 'gentle giant' Elder Joel Burch is serving in the Scotland/Ireland Mission and Sister Rhona Nansubuga, originally from Uganda, is in Birmingham, England. Due to

leave in June are Sister Farah Portas, who is heading for Malaga, Spain, and Sister Loredana Hunea, a convert from Romania, who has been called to serve in the England Manchester Mission.

Sister Edwards recalls that one of the most poignant moments the Sunday School class enjoyed was when they discussed with the missionaries how they felt about preparing for and being on a mission. They studied Psalm 142:4–6:

"I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

"I cried unto thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

"Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I."

In considering how they could overcome any dark moments they might encounter whilst serving their missions, the class found the answer in Doctrine and Covenants 84:88: "And whoso receiveth you, there will I 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."

"This was a deeply spiritual moment for us," Sister Edwards recalls, "and there were tears of joy as we discussed how the Lord would help these young people in their preparations and service. I love these young people. This little band of missionaries is an amazing example to me and to us all. Their testimonies of the gospel are amazing. They are a credit to their families and the Catford Ward." ■

The eight missionaries currently serving from the Catford Ward, Wandsworth Stake



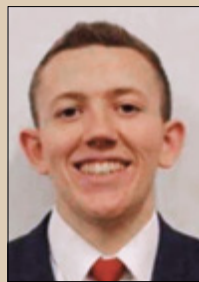
Sister Loredana Hunea
England Manchester Mission



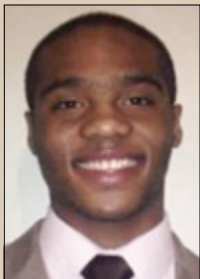
Sister Farah Portas
Spain Malaga Mission



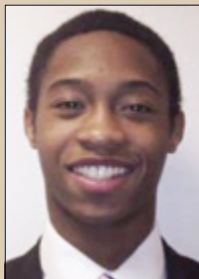
Elder Harry Edwards
Arizona Mesa Mission



Elder George Edwards
Norway Oslo Mission



Elder Daniel McDonald-Smith
Georgia Atlanta Mission



Elder Joshua McDonald-Smith
California Los Angeles Mission



Sister Rhona Nansubuga
Birmingham England Mission



Elder Joel Burch
Scotland/Ireland Mission

Sheffield Stake Young Men Give Helping Hands to Scouts

By Jeremy Kay



Young men and dads give Helping Hands at the Hesley Woods Scout Activity Centre in Sheffield.

Hesley Woods Scout Activity Centre in Sheffield hosted Aaronic Priesthood commemoration camp on the 22nd and 23rd of May.

All participants enjoyed an uplifting and inspirational workshop encouraging acts of Christlike service, and then set goals for what they would do following the counsel in Doctrine and Covenants 4:2: "Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day."

Following the workshop, teams performed Helping Hands projects throughout the site, moving and stacking logs so others can enjoy a campfire, clearing the Beaver play area, and removing sleepers and materials from

the Cresta Run toboggan track, which is currently under reconstruction.

In total, over 160 hours of work were donated to the site.

Luke Joseph, site maintenance manager, remarked, "The young men have worked really well and effectively. In this three-hour block of time we have done work that would have taken us weeks to complete."

Site manager Edwin Buttimer emailed, "It was great to have you, and we always look forward to having you stay with us."

Other activities throughout the week-end included a campfire, competitive buggy racing, building the highest crate stack tower, 'dads and lads' football match and flying egg race, where teams of two worked together to construct and propel an egg, without cracks or damage, the furthest distance. ■

Meltham Ward Sign Language Class

By Debbie Singh-Bhatti,
with Adam and Beth Cartwright

When their cousin Laura was born deaf, sisters Abigail, Megan and Elena Platt decided to learn how to sign so that they could communicate with her. Now grown up and in some cases married, they are putting this talent to good use by holding sign language classes to teach others the same skill.

Along with their cousin Amy Beaumont, who is sister to Laura, the three sisters welcomed over 50 people to their most recent 10-week course, based on BSL Level 1, which was held at Meltham Ward Chapel in the Huddersfield Stake. Over thirty of those attending were nonmembers from all walks of life, keen to expand their knowledge.

"Sign language is a valuable skill," explains Megan, "and is useful for friends and family members simply looking for a better way to communicate with their loved ones, but can also be a great asset in the workplace. Several of our attendees were employed in schools."

The ward used social media to promote the course to local schools and the larger community, and over the past year more than one hundred nonmembers have visited this rural Yorkshire ward to attend classes.

"By holding the lessons in the chapel with the missionaries joining in, and by closing with a blessing on the refreshments, we help people see our faith in a nonthreatening way," observes Megan.

“We keep trying different events and promoting them in different ways so we can see what works best to raise the profile of the gospel,” added Bishop Sam Bridgstock. “What these sisters have done is a remarkable example of that.” ■



ADAM CARTWRIGHT

Some of the members of the 10-week sign language class in the Meltham Ward

North Yorkshire Family History Day

By Mark Cosens

A wonderful day of discovering family and local heritage was organised by North Yorkshire County Records Office and held at the Pavilions of Harrogate. The event proved a great success.

The Harrogate Family History Centre of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had a stand run by local expert volunteers David Purser, Geoff English and Barry Fisher. They were also supported by Elder and Sister Smith, a senior couple serving for two years as family history missionaries in the England Leeds

Mission of the Church. Welcome support was offered by six full-time missionaries from Harrogate, who gave two-hour shifts and enjoyed talking to visitors and passersby who wanted to know more about finding their ancestors.

‘Getting Started’ guides and other handy resources were provided free of charge by Brian McKechnie of FamilySearch and were very popular.

In all, 65 members of the public sat in at various times, asking for information and help to solve family history problems and blockages! ■

Editor’s Note

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

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

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BARRY FISHER



From left to right: Councillor Tim Swales, Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council; sister missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and Mrs Sally Swales