

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

To Bring Us to Him

Elder Patrick Kearon, Great Britain
Europe Area President

The little cards with three invitations to act are intended to bring our friends and us closer to our Heavenly Father and our Saviour. Our Father's plan of salvation for His children is often called the plan of happiness. It is called this for a good reason. Those who learn of it, and then act upon the things they learn, feel the blessings of the Holy Spirit and discover new happiness often unlike anything previously experienced.

If you haven't yet responded to the invitation to bring a friend, perhaps these summer months are a good time to ask someone to join you for a walk, for something to eat, or to come to church to listen to you or a friend speak.

If you would like to be more self-reliant spiritually or temporally, you could pray with more purpose and read the Book of Mormon with greater intent this month. If you haven't been a saver, it is never too late to start. Put a little money aside each week and each month, and practice living within your means.

If you need help with bringing a friend and becoming spiritually and temporally self-reliant, then find an ancestor. There are extraordinary connections between the generations of our families on both sides of the veil, and every aspect of our lives here on earth is blessed as we turn our hearts to

our ancestors. We only discover these blessings when we take simple steps to find them and to perform saving ordinances on their behalf in the temple.

You will probably be amazed at what happens in your life when you respond to these three invitations. When you act in faith in these three simple ways, Heavenly Father's plan



becomes more real to you. It really does become the plan of happiness.

The difference between anxiety and peace is often little things, small steps that can be easily overlooked because they seem too simple and too routine. Take these steps this summer and see what they can do for you, your family, and your friends. ■



Elder Patrick Kearon



WELDEN ANDERSEN, © IRI



PHOTO BY JULIE MARIE LOVERIDGE



PHOTO BY JULIE MARIE LOVERIDGE/TAYNE HUNSAKER

Sunderland England Stake Celebrates the Creation of the First Mandarin-Speaking Branch in the UK

By John Jenkinson



Members of the first Mandarin-speaking branch in the UK—the Newcastle Branch in the Sunderland England Stake



JOHN JENKINSON

The first Mandarin-speaking congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the UK was formed on 19th July 2015 as part of the Sunderland England Stake in the North East of England. The Newcastle Branch conducts sacrament meeting, Sunday School, and all other meetings in Mandarin Chinese, a language that is spoken across Southeast Asia and as the national language of mainland China.

The branch is made up of members from all over the Southeast Asia area—including China, Hong Kong and Malaysia—who are currently living in the North East of England. Many are university students who have come to study abroad, as well as families who have permanently moved to the area. The branch reaches the need for anyone within the Sunderland stake area who would prefer to learn about and study the

gospel in Mandarin. Currently the branch has just over 30 members.

President Wang of the Newcastle Branch remarked, “This is a fantastic opportunity for members to learn

of Jesus Christ and his teachings in their native tongue. It is a privilege to serve members who have travelled so far and found the gospel here in the United Kingdom.” ■

How Is an Internship at the EU Office of the Church in Brussels? Ask Sanna

Sanna Brandenburg (Netherlands)—My Experience

By Francesco Di Lillo, Brussels

Sanna Brandenburg has recently completed an internship at the European Union office of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Brussels, Belgium. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science, international relations and organizations from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. As a young Latter-day

Saint graduate, she saw the internship as a way of supplementing her studies and giving her an opportunity to work closely with Church members.

Could you explain a little bit about yourself and why you decided to apply for an internship with the European Union office?

Sanna: During the second year of my studies, I became aware of the possibility of making an application to the EU office of the Church in Brussels. I was motivated to apply because I could still gain relevant practical experience beyond the theoretical foundation I had received during my studies. In addition, I was enthusiastic about working for the Church. After I finished my degree, I accepted the opportunity to be an intern at the EU office.

Could you describe an average day in the office?

S.: A typical workday would start at 9.00 am and usually end at around at 5.00 pm. I worked on numerous projects. I often needed to work beyond the typical office hours. I would start earlier on Mondays because I had to prepare the agenda for our team meetings, go through the week's agenda for the European Parliament and brief the team on committee meetings that we should attend. Monday through Thursday were mostly committee meetings in the European Parliament, and some of our team, including me, attended regularly.

You mentioned that you have been working on some projects. Could you go into some further detail?

S.: I was responsible to chair the weekly agenda meetings. This meant that I had to monitor the EU and some external websites and become knowledgeable in current policy issues and relevant events that our office could attend. Issues were mainly those regarding religious freedom.

This also included keeping an eye on relevant delegations and committee meetings. I had to report on those.

Another interesting task was to keep an eye on a certain draft directive that our office was working on. I had to research which members of the European Parliament voted for or against it. This project brought to mind once again just how big the European Parliament is! The list I made gave the office an idea of which MEPs they could best establish contacts with for certain issues.

Other projects involved a completely different set of tasks: for example, organising events. This was something I had not done a lot before. This involved many aspects: contacting hotels and restaurants for appropriate venues; recommending a suitable event format; identifying appropriate guests to be invited. But it also involved managing communication within our team. One



Sanna Brandenburg, intern at the European Union office of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Brussels

event that stays the most with me was the Family Values Award Dinner. The Church, through its EU office, gives this award annually to organisations and/or persons who devote themselves to the protection of family values. We had the opportunity to send invitations, greet guests and to host some Church officers too, such as Elder Kearon, President of the Europe Area; Sister Burton, general president of the Relief Society; and Sister Oscarson, general president of the Young Women. It was a real pleasure to meet them in person. What made it more interesting is that our team also had to arrange for interviews and work together with a camera crew. We had many tasks relating to this event, but with the office team, we were able to make it a successful one.

What has been the highlight of your experience?

S.: Everything was equally important with regard to gaining new skills, new experiences, and new friendships. The time I spent at the EU office of the Church was definitely worth it! Anyone taking up the chance to be involved should at least stay two months in order to get the most out of your internship. I was fortunate to have stayed three.

Thank you, Sanna!

The European Union office of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints supports the government relations efforts of the Church. It focuses on issues related to faith, family and freedom of religion or belief, and joins forces with other churches

PHOTO BY FRANCESCO DI LILLO

and organizations to promote and secure the free exercise of faith and religion for all people. If you are a graduate student and a member of the Church with an interest in EU affairs,

international relations, and freedom of religion or belief and would like to know more about doing an internship at the European Union office, please write to EUOffice@ldschurch.org. ■

Ruth and Rachel Shanks, both Latter-day Saints, aged 10 and 12, took turns at reading the story of Queen Esther from the Bible, a brave queen who was prepared to sacrifice her life to save her people. They were followed by Rebekah Sneddon, aged 10, and Millie Donaldson, aged 9, both Latter-day Saints, who read a story about faithful mothers teaching their sons to trust in God and keep their promises. The story ended with a question for the audience to ponder: “When have you chosen to keep a promise?”

Katrina Campbell, a Latter-day Saint mother of five, spoke of her mother and grandmother who had inspired her. She also spoke of Edith Cavell, a nurse who helped over 200 Allied soldiers during the First World War. Nurse Cavell was executed by a German firing squad for her compassionate actions. Yvonne Cassidy, a Baha’i, shared the story of Baha’ullah, then went on to speak about Tahiri, a woman from the early days of the Baha’i faith who

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Celebrating Women of Faith— International Women’s Day

By Margo McClumpha

The purpose of the annual International Women’s Day is to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. Carole Sneddon, Edinburgh Scotland Stake interfaith specialist, was assigned to coordinate this year’s I.W.D. event in the Dalkeith Ward.

Women from various faiths, which included Baha’i, Buddhist, Hindu, Pagan and Christian, were invited to speak on ‘Women of Faith Who Inspire Me’. The Dalkeith chapel was filled to capacity with an audience that included men, women, youth and children, all of various faiths. It was an evening of inspirational talks, songs and music. Marianne Neilson, president of the Edinburgh stake Relief Society, the women’s organization of the Church, conducted the meeting and gave a warm welcome to all in attendance.

Nila Joshi of Loanhead, representing the Hindu faith, spoke about her beliefs and shared some words in

Sanskrit. An experienced speaker, Nila chairs the Edinburgh Women’s Interfaith Group and organises interfaith visits and events every year.

Sally Day, a Buddhist, spoke of Sister Chan Khong, a Buddhist nun who devoted her life to service. Her teachings were on mindfulness meditation practice as a key to living a life of giving and serving.

Speakers at the IWD event. Back row, left to right: Bethany Campbell, Katrina Campbell, Yvonne Cassidy, Sue Cotterill, Nila Joshi, Chantal Robertson. Front row, left to right: Rachel Shanks, Ruth Shanks, Millie Donaldson, Rebekah Sneddon, Sally Day.



MATTHEW SNEDDON

challenged the culture by not wearing a veil and by directly addressing men. She was later executed.

A choir of women and youth from the Dalkeith Ward sang "Walk Tall, You're a Daughter of God". The choir ranged in age from 7 to over 70. Chantal Robertson of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification focussed on Joan of Arc, sharing details of her life. Chantal related that her faith teaches that the family is of central importance in life.

Bethany Campbell, a Latter-day Saint teenager, spoke of the challenges of living one's faith in today's world. She shared a story of a teenage girl who refused to participate in bullying a class member in school. This teenager's example stopped the bullying.

The final speaker was Sue Cotterill of the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids. Her spiritual path included Buddhism and mindfulness, which has transformed the way she lives. Being a Druid has confirmed her deep feeling of connection with the earth, nature and all humanity and that compassion is a vital teaching in all religions.

As each speaker finished and took her place on the stand, the other speakers expressed their respect and joy for her talk with smiles and a quiet touch of a hand on her arm. The attentive audience watched in wonder as they observed the respect that each speaker showed for the other speakers. The event was instrumental in helping attendees learn about other faiths and realize that women share a common bond that is centred

on faith, family and community.

Speakers and audience connected to each other during the event, which felt like a family gathering. The evening ended with refreshments representative of different cultures. Jennifer Middleton, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,

remarked, "I think it was so enlightening and uplifting, to sit there and hear the testimonies and experiences from women of very diverse faiths. There was such a feeling of love and unity."

Each woman left the event knowing they were no longer strangers but women of faith. ■

Dundee Couple Celebrate 60th Anniversary

By Johnny Nicoll

The 31st of December 2015 was indeed a special anniversary for John and Phyllis Nicoll of the Dundee Bingham Ward, Dundee Scotland Stake, as they celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Phyllis (nee Meek) was baptised in 1950 and has been an active, faithful

Latter-day Saint ever since. The couple met whilst working together in the Keiller sweet factory in Dundee and were married on New Year's Eve, 31st December 1955. John was not a member of the Church but supported Phyllis in attending services and serving in various callings. They have two children, Carol born in 1958 and Johnny born in 1961.

As the years went on, John became good friends with many of the members in the Dundee East Branch, where Phyllis attended. Shortly after Johnny (the son) was baptised in 1969, John started taking the missionary lessons and was soon baptised himself. The couple were sealed in the London Temple a year later.

John and Phyllis have continued to serve the Lord in a variety of callings and capacities and have remained stalwart in the faith in the ensuing years. They particularly enjoyed serving together in the Preston England



John and Phyllis Nicoll at the original house in Dundee where members met for church in the 1950's

JOHN NICOLL

Temple and still attend the temple as often as they can.

The 31st of December 2015 was very much a day of celebration, with many of their family and friends attending various activities and functions throughout the day. A congratulatory card and note was received from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and the local newspaper ran an article on the special event. One of the main highlights of the day was a nostalgic visit back to the “house” on Old Glamis Road, Dundee, which served as the meeting-house chapel in the 1950’s before the construction of Dundee’s two chapels, erected and opened in the 1960’s.

John and Phyllis are currently serving as stake self-reliance specialists within the Dundee Scotland Stake and are frequent patrons of the stake family history centre. They have two children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. ■

Shetland Does ‘Strictly’ to Raise £20,000 for British Heart Foundation

By Sandra Wood

Sister Kerry C Sjoberg from the Lerwick Branch, Aberdeen Scotland Stake, on the Shetland Islands and her dance partner, Bryan Irvine, were complete beginners at ballroom dancing but spent just over a month learning to dance to take part in a local dancing competition. The event was borrowed from the format of BBC TV’s ‘Strictly Come Dancing’. Six couples took part, and Kerry and Bryan danced three dances, the quickstep, waltz and the samba. All four judges scored them a perfect 10. They were voted winners by the local audience, who donated £1 each to vote. The competition was a sell-out show and raised £20,000 for the British Heart Foundation charity.

Locals from around the Shetland Islands provided extra entertainment. ■



KERRY SJOBERG

Sister Kerry Sjoberg and dance partner Bryan Irvine competing in the ballroom dance competition to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation

Members ‘Clean for the Queen’ in Their Local Community

By Debbie Twigger

Members from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints around the UK participated in the “Clean for the Queen” campaign over the first weekend in March. In Aberdeen the Bridge of Don and Aberdeen Wards took part in a Helping Hands project as part of the nationwide litter pickup to celebrate Her Majesty’s 90th birthday.

Members cleaned and picked up litter in a quarter-mile radius around the Aberdeen meetinghouses, which included grassed areas, shopping areas and public spaces.

In Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, around 70 members of all ages were involved in two local projects to help out in the community picking up litter on Spring Common and in

Great Stukeley. Other reported projects took place in Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham and Stockport, working with local councils to collect litter from local areas.

“Clean for the Queen” is a campaign launched by *Country Life* magazine in partnership with “Keep Britain Tidy” to respect our surroundings by cleaning up Britain in time for the Queen’s 90th birthday this year. The UK’s largest pickup took place on the 4th, 5th, and 6th March and was an organised way for councils, churches



DEBBIE TWIGGER

Some of the Huntingdon Ward members at the Spring Common litter pickup in Huntingdon, organised by the local council for the "Clean for the Queen" campaign



ABERDEEN - VICKY MCKAY

Aberdeen and Bridge of Don ward members at the litter pickup for the "Clean for the Queen" campaign



CHELMSELEY WOOD/SOLIHULL - BRIAN HEATH

Members from the Chelmsley Wood and Solihull Wards gather after the cleanup.



STOCKPORT - SANDY MACLEAN

Stockport Ward members after litter pickup at a local park and surrounding roads in Great Moor

and community groups to get out and make a difference to their local communities. Local councils

assisted by providing the equipment. Despite the pouring rain and even snow in some parts of the

country, numerous bags of rubbish were collected from around the UK with the support of many MPs. ■

Lichfield YSA Temple Trip

By Elder Terry and Sister Susanne Rooney

In line with the Europe Area Plan for 2015 to 'discover the blessings of enabling the work of salvation for our ancestors', the presidency of the Lichfield England Stake set a goal for each member to find twelve ancestors and take their names to the temple for their ordinance work to be performed.

Eighteen young single adults (YSAs) took up the challenge, completed the institute family history course, found their family names and on 17th and 18th July attended the Preston England Temple to perform their work.

The group completed three sessions in the baptistry, giving returned

missionaries the opportunity to experience and understand all the priesthood duties involved in this aspect of temple work. Johnny Van Tonder said of his experience, "It was great to do missionary work for the dead and feel the Spirit so strongly."

Nathaniel Lake, a disabled YSA from Walsall, was assisted by the young people to enable him to take part. "I spent the majority of the trip doing confirmations, both being confirmed and confirming others," he explained. "Overall the experience left me feeling very upbeat and grateful for having previously received my temple endowment."

Louise from Wolverhampton is a convert. "The temple was beautiful," she enthused. "Doing work for ancestors was the most spiritual experience I ever had."



SISTER SUSANNE ROONEY

Lichfield YSAs relaxing after the temple trip

Among the group were a number of YSAs who plan to serve full-time missions. They were able to visit the missionary training centre (MTC). Ash Mukherji of Wolverhampton commented, “I am grateful for the opportunity to visit the MTC. I look forward to being able to teach people about the restored gospel and share how it has changed my life.”

The weekend ended with a tour of the historical sites around Preston.

Editors’ 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 submitted in Microsoft Word, 300–500 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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Lichfield young single adults certainly discovered for themselves the blessings that can come not only to their forebears but also to themselves as they

engage in the work of salvation for their ancestors. It is hoped that similar visits to the temple will become an annual event for the YSAs of their stake. ■

Elardeo Saldeba—Still Going Strong

By Joanne Wilkins

Ninety-five-year-old Elardeo Saldeba of the Nottingham 1st Ward has been a faithful member of the Church since 1985. His cheerful smile and ready handshake at the chapel door every Sunday have greeted hundreds of brothers and sisters for many years. Brother Saldeba arrives an hour early each week to wait at the door to welcome members and visitors alike. Age, ill health, and poor weather—nothing has deterred this faithful brother from this self-appointed responsibility.

Born in Jamaica in 1920, Brother Saldeba immigrated to England in 1955. Having been an Evangelist in his native country, he was disappointed to find that Nottingham at that time had no Evangelical church. When first introduced to the missionaries, he was not interested in their message, but his wife, Muriel, accepted the gospel. It was some years later, when a close bereavement caused him to once again consider the beliefs of his youth, that he became willing to investigate his wife’s religion. He was baptised and never looked back. Muriel passed away shortly afterwards. It was a time of great sorrow, but his friendship with another member of the ward, Dorothy Hibbert, began to grow and they were married in 1990. Brother and Sister Saldeba were called to serve as full-time missionaries transcribing the 1881 census, a time of spiritual strengthening and great joy.

Over the years, Brother Saldeba has served in a number of callings: he has been a ward missionary twice and, together with Dorothy, has taught many new converts the temple preparation lessons. He has also spent time as a counsellor in the Grantham Branch presidency. Asked why he has continued to stand so faithfully at the chapel door each week, Brother Saldeba says, “I love to meet my brothers and sisters each week, and I thank God I am able to do it.” He remembers how he felt when the missionaries first told him that he could find the truth through prayer and scripture study. “My baptism was the happiest day of my life,” he says. Prayer and scripture study are his watchwords still. Coupled with striving to love others, he says they are the secret to years of a faithful, happy life in the Church.

Ward member David Bourne comments, “Towards the end of 2015 there was more tragedy for Brother Saldeba when his beloved wife, Dorothy, died. She had been suffering with cancer for many years but had lived much longer than medical expectations. As a member of our high priests group, he is honoured and respected. He rarely misses a class.”

Brother Saldeba continues to greet the ward members each Sunday, quietly faithful and true to the gospel. He is a stalwart example of devotion and friendship. ■



COURTESY OF BROTHER SALDEBA