

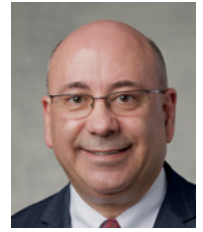
# UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

## AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

### Family Home Evening

Elder Joaquim J. Moreira

Area Seventy



Elder  
Joaquim J. Moreira

Because I love my family, I have always strived to be able to set an example, to explain, persuade, demonstrate, pray, fast, play, correct and be corrected, as well as perform the ordinances of salvation for my family, and follow as much as possible the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in the way He has served others.

“And again, inasmuch as parents have children in Zion, or in any of her stakes which are organized, that teach them not to understand the doctrine of repentance, faith in Christ the Son of the living God, and of baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands, when eight years old, the sin be upon the heads of the parents.”<sup>1</sup>

“Following the example of our Savior, according to that which he hath commanded us, it shall be well with you in the day of judgment. Amen.”<sup>2</sup>

Jesus Christ set an example for us in all things—in baptism, prayer, judgment, wisdom, compassion, forgiveness, humility, obedience, mercy, kindness and persuasion.

One of the tools we have in the Church to strengthen, unite, make plans and goals, pray, answer doctrinal questions and have a joyful time is family home evening, where we can demonstrate Jesus Christ’s example.

As it says in the Seminaries and Institutes manual *Gospel Teaching and Learning*:

“He loved them, prayed for them, and continually served them. He found opportunities to be with them and to express His love. He knew their interests, hopes, and desires and what was happening in their lives.

“He knew who they were and who they could become. He found unique ways to help them learn and grow—ways meant just for them. When they struggled, He did not give up on them but continued to love them and minister to them.

“He prepared Himself. . . . He sought His Heavenly Father’s guidance.”<sup>3</sup>

Sometimes the biggest challenge is the desire to have a perfect family home evening. I remember the difficulties we sometimes had in coordinating



**“If you have any doubt about the virtue of family home evening, try it. Gather your children about you, teach them, bear testimony to them, read the scriptures together and have a good time together.”** — Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Gordon B. Hinckley (2016), 171.

the right day of the week and in finding the right schedule in the middle of the children's school responsibilities, but with balance and wisdom we always found a solution for our challenges.

I remember that among our best family home evenings were the ones where we invited the missionaries to bring their investigators into our home before their baptism, so they could see how a family home evening was handled in a Mormon family and also to help teach them the gospel. Those were always moments filled with spirituality that our children loved.

As stated in the family proclamation: "Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. 'Children are an heritage of the Lord' (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations."<sup>4</sup>

Another concern we had during our family home evenings was to teach self-reliance in our family. We were always transparent with our children, and we always decided together what kind of life we could have and how we could achieve it. Another family motivation was to teach the importance of our family surname, to leave a family legacy, and for that we

use to consider that "the divine plan of happiness enables family relationships to be perpetuated beyond the grave."<sup>5</sup>

In family home evenings we learned about the plan of salvation, how to have an eternal perspective of things, realizing that "true doctrine, understood, changes attitudes and behavior."<sup>6</sup> With the right purpose we would travel to the temple to perform

the ordinances for our ancestors, and that has always made us feel that we had an eternal bond with each one of them. ■

#### NOTES

1. Doctrine and Covenants 68:25.
2. Mormon 7:10.
3. *Gospel Teaching and Learning: A Handbook for Teachers and Leaders in Seminaries and Institutes of Religion* (2012), v.
4. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," *Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129.
5. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," 129.
6. Boyd K. Packer, "Little Children," *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 17.

#### LOCAL NEWS

## Elder Christofferson Speaks at United Kingdom Parliamentary Meeting

By Mormon Newsroom UK

Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles addressed the influential All-Party

Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief during a meeting at the



*Elder Christofferson greets participants of the APPG event on freedom of religion or belief.*



Panel and audience engage in Elder Christofferson's message on freedom of religion.



Elder Mark A. Gilmour

United Kingdom Parliament (May 1).

In tackling the challenging issue of religious tolerance, Elder Christofferson was joined by Dr Daniel Mark, chair, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and by Margaret Galy, head of Freedom of Religion or Belief, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The meeting was led by Jim Shannon MP, who chairs the prominent Parliamentary Group.

Elder Christofferson expressed the Church's desire to unite with all others of goodwill in countering oppression of religious groups. He said: "Religion or belief is fundamental to societal well-being. Freedom of religion benefits not only believers but all of society, whether they know it or not. Therefore, all have an interest in protecting this freedom, whether they are believers or not."

Elder Christofferson added: "I see three major benefits to supporting freedom of religion or belief. First,

religious freedom supports and strengthens the rule of law. Second, freedom of religion or belief is foundational to other fundamental and cherished freedoms. And third, religion or belief, freely exercised, promotes civic virtue and is vital to strong, flourishing communities."

The APPG for International Freedom of Religion or Belief aims to raise the awareness and profile of international religious freedom or belief as a human right among Parliamentarians, media, government and the public, and to increase the effectiveness of the UK's contribution to international institutions charged with enforcing this essential human right.

The APPG's co-chair, Baroness Elizabeth Berridge, received the 2017 International Religious Liberty Award from the J. Reuben Clark Law Society and the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, reflecting her many years of support and work for religious liberty. ■

## Elder Mark A. Gilmour—New Area Seventy

By Scott Balloch

During the recent 188th Annual General Conference, President Dallin H. Oaks presented the names of 55 new Area Seventies for sustaining vote. Among those names presented, and seated with his family in the congregation, was Elder Mark A. Gilmour of the Portsmouth England Stake.

"It was very special to be at conference for the first time, among so many members of the Church, for our family

to see that we are not alone. There are so many faithful Saints striving to do the work of the Lord.”

Mark Andrew Gilmour was born in Oldham near Manchester in England, on the 28th November 1975. He was married in the London England Temple to Lisa Anne Curtis on the 29th August 1998. Elder and Sister Gilmour are the proud parents of four children: Scott, who soon enters the mission field in Russia, Elizabeth, Emily and Heather.

Reflecting back on his family’s experience at conference, Elder Gilmour recalled the impact of President Nelson’s remarks in the priesthood session and particularly the moment when every quorum was invited to stand, one by one, by the new President of the Church. “It was simple and wonderful to be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with President Nelson and the brethren. It reminded me of the allegory of the olive tree in Jacob 5, when the Lord labours side by side with his servants in the vineyard.”

Sister Gilmour already has a personal testimony of the unity that connects Latter-day Saints across the world. She spent part of her childhood in the Middle East, Africa, as well as the United Kingdom. “I was impressed by President Oaks’s talk about small and simple things. There was a wonderful united feeling at conference. All of our individual covenant ties [felt] like they were coming together to bring a wonderful feeling of strength and unity.”

Elder Gilmour and his wife have both served in many callings in the Church. Elder Gilmour has previously

served as a full-time missionary in Austria, as a member of a bishopric, as a stake high councilor, as a stake president and most recently as the ward young single adult adviser. Sister Gilmour has previously served as Relief Society president and is currently teaching Gospel Doctrine.

Elder Gilmour’s career has led to a lifelong experience in the

telecommunications industry for a number of firms over many years. He is currently employed as a strategy director for Ciena. Sister Gilmour works in secondary school education, teaching drama. The whole family enjoy the outdoors whenever they can, and the Gilmour children share their mother’s passion for the theatre and dramatic arts. ■

## President Nelson’s Visit to the UK

By Chelsea Craven

**A**pril 12th was the beginning of a global ministry tour. President Russell M. Nelson, the 17th President of The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints, addressed members across the United Kingdom and Ireland, gathered in local chapels, via a broadcast from within the Hyde Park chapel in London.

“Our doctrine is not complicated or convoluted or complex. It’s so simple: Love God and love your neighbour. . . . We want people to have a better way of life.”



*Latter-day Saints line up outside the Hyde Park chapel in London to hear from President Russell M. Nelson.*



**President Russell M. Nelson and his wife, Wendy, greet a young girl after a devotional at the Hyde Park chapel in London.**

In his address to the members in the UK, the main subjects were those of loving and serving others as well as receiving and following personal revelation.

Many during President Nelson's visit expressed a feeling of love and a desire to serve after meeting and talking with him. Elder Holland Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and his wife accompanied the President and testified to his words. It was clear what the message was. ■

**Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares the podium with President Russell M. Nelson during a session of teaching and encouragement to Mormon missionaries in the Hyde Park chapel in London.**



## Missionary Memes

By Chelsea Craven

Two missionaries serving in the England Manchester Mission sent a picture home to their mothers and the next thing they knew, they'd been 'memed'.

Elder Carlson, who is 7 feet tall, and Elder Artarts, 5 feet, were on exchanges when they took a picture together. Soon after they noticed that a company's Facebook page had made their picture into a meme.

"I sent the picture home to my mum, and she posted it on Facebook. Next thing we know, all these sites are posting it," said Elder Carlson.

The meme was actually a quote from a teaching from President Gordon B. Hinckley, the 15th President of the Church: "The time has come for us to stand a little taller."<sup>1</sup>

Elder Carlson, when asked about the meme and what he felt about its message, said this: "I think the Saints here in the UK are great! So many of them have strong faith in Jesus Christ and have a desire to serve Him. The people are truly standing taller and are not afraid to stand for what they know to be right."

He continues by saying: "We sometimes shy away from our beliefs and are ashamed, but as we are bold and confident we truly are able to stand taller, and standing taller to

me means that we aren't afraid of what we know to be true and what we believe. We are willing to stand alone if that's what it takes." ■

### NOTE

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, "This Is the Work of the Master," *Ensign*, May 1995, 71.



**"The time has come for us to stand a little taller."**

# Rugby Young Women Assist “Days for Girls”

By Des Waddington

Young women from the Rugby Ward recently completed a yearlong project to help girls of a similar age in less-developed countries have a better quality of life. The young women sewed 14 bags and filled them with sanitary and hygiene products for the international organisation Days for Girls.

Lynda Tatham, a Young Women leader, was motivated to help this organisation after she learned of the challenges faced by girls all over the world, she said. “We wanted to do a project that our girls could easily relate to. Realising that these girls from poor countries were missing school, and therefore life opportunities, helped our young women to appreciate how lucky they were.”

Days for Girls (DfG) is committed to supporting a girl throughout her entire life cycle, from providing her with a DfG Kit to teaching her health education to offering training for her when she grows older so that she too can produce DfG Kits and support hygiene needs in her local community. Since DfG began their work in 2008, more than 1 million girls in over 100 countries have received kits, which typically last two to three years.

Service projects are a regular feature of the Young Women programme in Rugby. Previously they have been involved in a shoebox appeal, collecting toothpaste for the local food bank and processing

stamps that would be donated to charities. Abby Platt, aged 14 said, “I really enjoyed doing the Days for Girls project. I was so glad that I could be a part of making the world a better place. I was able to help the girls in Africa so they can go to school while they grow into young women. I would recommend lots of people doing this because it was a wonderful experience.” ■

## Poem: The Heartbreak Kid

By Jason Gray

My name is Jason Gray, and I am a member of the Whitechapel Ward in London, England. I joined the Church a year ago and soon rediscovered my flair for poetry. With the recent calling of President Russell M. Nelson as the new prophet of the Church, I felt inspired to share some observations about his life in a poem. It's an acrostic poem, which means his name is spelt vertically in the first letter of each line. I hope you all find an uplifting spirit from reading this.

*Raised in Utah's famous Salt Lake  
City  
Utah was his home throughout  
his schooling  
Serving in the army was not pretty  
Seeing things we all would call  
appalling*



NATALIE CORBISLEY

Some of the Rugby young women creating the Days for Girls Kits.

*Even though the challenges were  
gritty  
Love for medicine became his calling  
Leading to a major overhauling  
  
Making progress in the field of  
surgery  
Advancing operations on the heart  
Remained part of very unique  
clergy  
Incorporating church right from  
the start  
Ordinations like a menagerie*

*New ones never making old ones  
depart  
  
Now God's prophet called through  
revelation  
Emerging at this general conference  
past  
Leading Saints throughout this  
dispensation  
So they can learn to pray, ponder  
and fast  
Once the Father gives him exaltation  
Never again will blessings be so vast ■*

a well-known poet and scholar, and he loved literature. He was also well known as a singer and musician and played the harp, piano and flute.

John, his wife Mary and sons William and Caleb sailed from Liverpool 25th February 1849 on board the *Buena Vista* with a company of 249 other Welsh Saints under the leadership of Dan Jones. On arrival in America, John lost his wife to cholera on board a steam-boat approaching Council Bluffs. John continued with the rest of his family in the George A. Smith Company, arriving in Salt Lake City 28th October 1849.

While crossing the plains, he organised the Welsh in singing. William Morgan, a member of this Welsh choir, recorded the following: "As we sang the first part of 'When the Saints shall come,' we saw the English and Norwegians and everyone, I would think, with their heads out of their wagons. . . . Some asked me where they had learned and who was their teacher? I said that the hills of Wales were the schoolhouse, and the Spirit of God was the teacher. Their response was, 'Well, indeed, it is wonderful; we never heard such good singing before.'"<sup>1</sup>

When the group of approximately 85 Welsh Saints reached the valley, John Parry was requested by Brigham Young to organise a choir to sing at general conference. The choir he directed became the nucleus of the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

John Parry died in 1868 at Salt Lake City in his 79th year. ■

#### NOTE

1. William Morgan, in Richard D. Dennis, "John Parry and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir," *Welsh Mormon History*, [welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource\\_Info.aspx?id=4077](http://welshmormon.byu.edu/Resource_Info.aspx?id=4077).

## Church History Story of the Month: John Parry, Welsh Musical Conductor

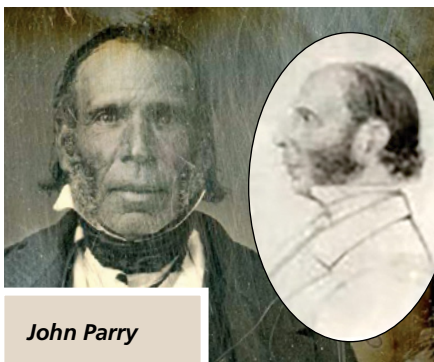
By Arnold Jones

John Parry was born 10th February 1789 at Newmarket (now Trelawynd), Flintshire, North Wales, and was a stonemason by trade. In the 1841 Wales census, he, his wife Mary and their 2 sons were living at Ochr-y-gop Newmarket. John was 52 years old, Mary was 55 years, William was 20–25 years and Caleb was 15–20 years. John, having an enquiring,

religious nature, was a lay preacher in the Anglican Church but was not satisfied with its doctrine. He considered the Baptists closer to the truth and became a Baptist preacher. However, when the Campbellites came along, he considered their organisation closer to the primitive church and joined with them, eventually organising his own church: John Parry's Association.

On hearing of Mormonism, he was, at first, prejudiced towards the restored gospel and warned his sons against it, but after careful investigation and weeks of prayerful deliberation, he became convinced of its truthfulness and was baptized 12th September 1846 by Elder Thomas Wilson at the age of 59 years.

In North Wales, John Parry was



John Parry

# Chelsea Craven Called as New Local Pages Editor

By Chelsea Craven

After serving faithfully for many years, Sister Debbie Twigger was released as editor for the UK *Ensign* pages. Sister Chelsea Craven has been called as the new editor.

The most rewarding thing I think I have gained in this life so far is what I have learned about life and myself through service.

I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, but have grown up with an English point of view, as my father was born in Worcester. We've lived in the United Kingdom for more than 5 years now.

These 5 years have involved major life-changing moments for

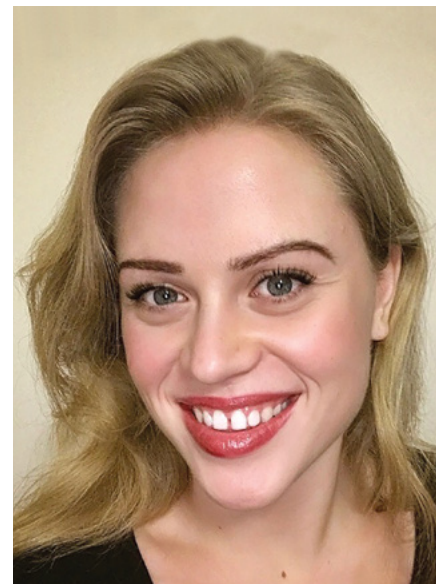
me. I've had to adjust and change uncomfortably, but I know the Lord helped me the whole time.

I was blessed to serve in the Brazil Campinas Mission and have been home about 18 months now.

Through these 5 years I've come to know that it is through service that we really connect with the Saviour's teachings and, by doing that, come to know Him.

With this new calling I hope that I can grow closer to the Saviour and that His hand will be in the process of creating the UK local pages.

Although this isn't a Sunday kind of calling, there are great



Chelsea Craven

CHELSEA CRAVEN

opportunities for all of us members to serve one another and to teach as we all participate in sharing the gospel through this medium. ■

## Editor's Note

The editor, **Chelsea Craven**, invites all news stories, articles and photographs to be sent to [ukiensign@ldschurch.org](mailto: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 and the names of both the photographer and the author are required for the Church to use the article.

## Local Editorial Committee

Shawna Denny, Debbie Singh-Bhatti, Jonathan McColgan, Jessica Chapman

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We now have a new Instagram account to follow: **#ldsuk**. ■

