

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Inviting Our Friends to Experience the Blessings of the Gospel

By Elder Karl D. Hirst
Area Seventy, England



Elder
Karl D. Hirst

We love those times in life when we feel invincible. They are a stark contrast to the other, far less enjoyable times that we all experience. After a tender experience where I feel forgiven, when those I love make good choices, when I hear a great talk or lesson that speaks directly to my heart—it feels great!

As I reflected on one of those times recently, attempting to put the experience into words, I found myself describing it as feeling “lit up” inside. I felt brighter, lighter and more positive. I knew that my troubles wouldn’t go away, but I felt energized in facing them. I had found some encouraging happiness to punctuate my more ordinary experience of life, even in the presence of challenges.

In connection with the request to write this message, I remembered the Savior’s words to the Nephites: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the light of this people.”¹

The two thoughts connected in my mind. I was really being “lit up” by the joy of the gospel, as a divine tenderness, and I then had an obligation not only to enjoy the comfort that it gave but to allow the light to be seen by those around me. The Savior continued:

“A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

“ . . . Do men light a candle and put it under a bushel? Nay, but on a

candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house;

“Therefore let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”²

I can see that the happiness I receive from heaven is designed to be a blessing not only to me but to others too. I am to let them see the happiness I have been given and the good things that it energizes me to do.

Surely there isn’t a better way to share the gospel than to be visibly happy as we live it. It sounds like the perfect complement to the “great plan of happiness”³ that we should share the gospel most effectively by being happy. By extension, if we want to do our part in this great and final gathering, I am not sure that we could do any better than to spend our time pursuing happiness in the Lord’s way. That sounds like the kind of missionary work we should all be prepared to sign up for.

If we take the time to remember that we are happy, that our happiness

is a gift from God and that great happiness is always found in living as our Heavenly Father planned, then we will be “a peculiar people”⁴—and for the right reasons.

The Apostle Peter put these thoughts another way. He made the inspired suggestion that we “sanctify the Lord God in [our] hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh [us] a reason of the hope that is in [us].”⁵

The happiness of the gospel brings me hope in my challenges. It wouldn’t be wise simply to pretend that my challenges don’t exist, but I can plan to concentrate on those instances of happiness that come my way and avoid letting the trying bushels of life’s troubles hide them from my view and the sight of others. Instead, I can try and let the light of that happiness illuminate what I and those around me see. ■

NOTES

1. 3 Nephi 12:14.
2. 3 Nephi 12:14–16.
3. Alma 42:8.
4. 1 Peter 2:9.
5. 1 Peter 3:15.

Helping Hands Day—Paignton Ward

By Dorothy Martins

Saturday 30th June saw members of Paignton Ward with their Helping Hands T-shirts make their way to Young’s Park, situated near the local

chapel. The park is extremely popular all year round but even more so in the summer, when it is filled with tourists. The bandstand still exists, and from



Paignton Ward members

time to time brass bands play for the enjoyment of visitors.

Ruth Gorman, the chairman of the Friends of the Park, and her associate, Jenny Tozer, met us at the bandstand, with all the tools and rubbish bags needed for our service project. They informed us they used to have a good many volunteers to help with the park, but over the years these volunteers have become a little older and are no longer able to assist.

Our group separated into smaller working parties, covering different flower and shrub beds. Our aim was simply to make a difference by tidying up dead leaves and weed out as much as we could.

Ruth went around from group to group, checking that we were doing what was needed and giving us support and taking photographs. She was delighted at our efforts. We started off with ten members, but as the event got going, soon others joined in too.

We had a really lovely experience working alongside each other, from young children to older members. Throughout our period of service, people were very friendly towards us, and members of the public asked if we wanted to go home with them to tend to their gardens too!

At the end of the event, Ruth and Jenny were amazed at the amount of bags we had filled with weeds and dead shrubs (each of us cheerfully exhausted!). Ruth said she was particularly pleased because the following week they were having a committee

visiting from Britain in Bloom and she felt the park was in good order after our efforts of the day. We estimated that 40 hours had been spent on cleaning up the park, so it certainly made a difference. ■

Afterwards, Bishop Schofield announced that more hours would be donated more frequently, to help keep the park in good order. The full-time missionaries have also taken it upon themselves to help out regularly as part of their service opportunities.

We went home with a wonderful feeling that we had been able to serve our local community and build links with them for the future. ■

Mary Pochin

By Chris Wills

In the beautiful Staffordshire countryside surrounding the cathedral city of Lichfield lies the home of a very active octogenarian. A former librarian turned author, Sister Mary Pochin has spent decades researching the early history of the Church in the United Kingdom.

Every room in Sister Pochin's home is filled with books, files, papers, and pictures. Within her family, Sister Pochin is the only member of the Church, so her efforts at collecting and collating Church history have been a solitary labour of love.

Over the years, Sister Pochin became acquainted with, and a friend of, Arnold and June Jones, who for several years have served as assistant area Church history advisers, assigned to the United Kingdom and Ireland. When the first United Kingdom records preservation centre was established in March 2016, Brother Jones suggested that in order to ensure their long-term preservation, Sister Pochin might like to consider donating the many files of her research to the Church. After careful and prayerful consideration, Sister Pochin agreed, ■



and in the spring of 2018 the collection was transferred to the United Kingdom records preservation centre in Solihull, where they are stored in an environment where the temperature, light, and humidity are controlled. The Church History Department is in the process, worldwide, of digitising such records to ensure they will be available to researchers for decades to come.

The records preservation centre preserves not only documents but also significant artworks and artefacts. For further details, please contact your local Church history specialist. ■

Bristol Convention Service Project

By Paul Colbert

Sunday 6th May saw around 270 young single adults, attending the national YSA convention in Bristol, lovingly put together over 70 care packages and circa 4000 bags of spices for those in need of home comforts both in the UK and in refugee camps overseas. These packages were funded by the Church and created in partnership with Aid Box Community and People in Motion.

Aid Box Community Bristol, who provide support, supplies, and sanctuary to refugees and asylum seekers, advised on the contents of the packages designed to help such individuals integrate into life in Bristol. Each care package contained fifteen items, which included basic household items such as salt, sugar, and cooking oil, plus personal hygiene items such as soap, shower gel, and toothpaste.

Before engaging in the service, the young single adults watched a short video highlighting the work of Aid Box Community at home and abroad. Their CEO, Imogen Mackintosh, said a massive thank you to the “wonderful volunteers for the amazing Aid Boxes. We have already distributed some, and they have been so gratefully received. They just represent such hope and love.”

Almost 200 kg of various spices, including paprika, coriander, turmeric, and curry powder, were decanted into small bags to be shipped to a refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. People in Motion, a charity providing support and aid to displaced people—particularly those involved in the

refugee crisis—advised on the contents and importance of the spice bags.

Co-founder Elaine Fraser posted in their Facebook group, “Here’s to the lovely people from [The] Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who held an event packing and labelling spices to send to refugee camps. These spices will be sent to Lesbos, Greece.

Instead of just being given food to eat, people will be able to choose how their food tastes! . . . something many of us take for granted.” ■



PHOTOS BY ABI ABLEBY

11 Days of Remembrance—Update

The 100-year anniversary of the end of World War I falls on the Sabbath at 11 a.m. on the 11th of November, next month.

Many stakes and wards may choose to run a Remembrance Day sacrament

meeting on themes appropriate to the day, emphasizing the joys of the Resurrection. Bishops may plan a Sunday schedule that permits wards and branches to attend their local community’s morning memorial.





An inspirational and moving script has been written for the occasion, focussing on the themes of family, love, loss and redemption. This production of music and the spoken word may be adapted locally by stakes that want to stage it themselves and invite families, friends and local community leaders to join in an evening devotional on the weekend in November. Look for local information

as to what has been determined for your own stake.

Between now and November, perhaps you will consider seeking out WWI ancestors from your own family tree. In addition look for social media posts on the first 11 days of November, which have been reserved for “11 Days of Service”—an opportunity to perform acts of kindness and do good to friends, families and strangers.

Follow our Facebook (@ldsuk) and Instagram pages (@ldsuk) for regular updates, including daily themes, scriptures and service opportunities. Each day will draw upon inspiration from themes of love, hope and courage found in letters sent home from the front. Samples of these letters, videos and other resources will be part of a social media campaign. ■

History Is Found in Stirling, Scotland

By Mandy Watson

Months of painstaking historical research by Mandy Watson of the Alloa Ward and working closely with her local MP, Stephen Kerr, recently resulted in a visit of Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles to Stirling.

At the presentation to the Smith Art Gallery and Museum of the ‘What-E’er Thou Art, Act Well Thy Part’ stone, Elder Holland said, “I am delighted for the invitation to be with you today for such a significant moment in my own history as well as in the history of beautiful Stirling. I

want you to know that I stand before you as a bona fide son of Stirling, the shire if not the city proper. I am very proud to have Scottish blood flowing through my veins.” He added, “Today’s unveiling really has great personal resonance. I feel very blessed to be part of the ceremony. This is one of my most memorable visits to Scotland.”

‘What-E’er Thou Art, Act Well Thy Part’ is a familiar phrase to Latter-day Saints in Scotland and globally. Its significance stems from David O. McKay, ninth President of the Church,

who served a mission in Scotland 1897–99. While experiencing a period of discouragement and homesickness, young Elder McKay took notice of an engraved stone on a building in Albany Crescent, Stirling, with this inscription. In his journal he recorded, “I accepted the message given to me on that stone, and from that moment we tried to do our part as missionaries in Scotland.”

John Allan, a 19th-century architect known for his use of symbols, designed this particular ‘magic square stone’ (where the sum of the numbers is the same in any direction). When Albany Crescent was being demolished in 1965, two local missionaries asked the demolition company to save the renowned stone. The Scotland

mission president bought the stone for £30 and displayed it in the mission home in Edinburgh. It was later moved to the Church History Museum in Salt Lake City. Today, a replica is displayed in the garden of the mission home in Edinburgh.

The stone's significance continues, as this new replica was recently made for the people of Stirling by local stonemasons James Innes & Sons. Receiving the exhibit on behalf of the museum was director Dr. Elspeth King, who said, "We are pleased to be chosen to display the exact replica of this stone to

preserve the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Scotland. We offer our gratitude to the Church for their contribution. We also express thanks to Stephen Kerr MP and Mandy Watson, who worked closely with the museum on the project and were instrumental in making it happen." ■

Moroni and Charles England: Brothers in the Gospel

By Jill Morgan

According to the 1891 census, brothers Charles and Moroni England were living together in no. 1 Julian Street, Heigham, Norfolk. Both of them were married, but neither of them had their wives or family with them. Moroni (age 40) was born in Norfolk, but Charles, listed first and age 27, was born in the USA. This is

somewhat puzzling but explained by the fact that the occupation listed for both of them was *Latter Day Saint (missionary)*. These were men who had left their young families behind in order to serve a proselyting mission in their homeland. They belonged to a family in which the older generation converted to Mormonism in Norfolk



Moroni England



Charles England

in the 1850s and then emigrated to be with the Saints in Utah Territory.

Moroni England was born in North Walsham in 1850 and was just six years old when his family—father Daniel, mother Mary Ann (nee Melder) and two older brothers, William and John—emigrated, setting off to join the growing church in America. The family crossed from Liverpool to New York in the ship *Thornton* with almost 500 other new converts under the leadership of James Willie. Financial assistance from the Perpetual Emigration Fund helped them on their way. The voyage took six weeks and was followed by a train journey to Iowa City, where the group became the Willie handcart company for the trek west. However, the England family left the company in Florence, Nebraska, and stayed there for four years, working to get enough money to continue their journey. Their stop was a lucky one, as the fate of that handcart company is well documented. Leaving rather late in the season, the emigrants were caught in early, severe snowstorms as they crossed Wyoming. Rescue parties had to be sent from Salt Lake City, with 77 of the company perishing from hunger and cold. Moroni's family did not leave for the Salt Lake Valley until July 1860 and on arrival settled in Tooele, some 35 miles to the south and west.

Charles England was born in Tooele in 1863 but not to Daniel and Mary Ann. He was the son of William England, Moroni's older brother, who had followed the family to Utah Territory with his new wife, Eliza (nee Seamons). Charles was born, in fact, when his mother was visiting the grandparents, Daniel and Mary Ann.

Otherwise the William England family had settled in Hyde Park, some 85 miles north of Salt Lake City. So Moroni was in fact Charles's uncle, not his brother as stated in the 1891 census.

A generation but only 13 years apart, these two 'brothers' each learned about hard work through their experiences growing up in Utah Territory. The 1870 U.S. Census shows Moroni, age 20, a farm labourer, living at home with his parents in Tooele. Charles's father died when Charles was only 12, so he became the breadwinner for his mother, three sisters, and three infant brothers. He paid for his 12 weeks of schooling each winter by working for the school janitor. During the months when outdoor work could be done, he gradually learned to farm. Charles received his missionary call in 1889; his uncle Moroni received his call the following year. Both were called to serve in Great Britain and were assigned to work in Norfolk. By 1891 they were living and working together in Heigham. In the letter he wrote accepting his call as a missionary, Moroni states, "*Although I feel my*

incompetency [I] will cheerfully respond and do the best I can to promulgate the gospel wherever I may be assigned to labor, trusting in the Lord for strength to perform a good labor."

By 1900 Moroni was again settled back home in Tooele with his wife and a seven-year-old daughter. He became the first mortician in the county and remained in Tooele until his death in 1935. The younger Charles trained as a teacher through a scholarship from the University of Deseret in Salt Lake City. After a few years in the classroom, he changed to book keeping and later became the editor of the *Logan Daily Herald*, a county newspaper for northern Utah. Both men lived into their eighties. Moroni is buried with his wife in Tooele, Charles more than 100 miles to the north in Logan. Whether their paths crossed very often after their missionary service we don't know, but for a short time in Norfolk, Uncle Moroni was to his nephew Charles—as he signs his acceptance letter for his missionary call—'*your brother in the gospel.*' ■

One-Minute Videos

Over the last 12 months, a few members from around the United Kingdom and Ireland have shared their personal stories, which have been captured in one-minute videos.

In each video, a story is shared about a specific real-life challenge or dilemma. The videos address current concerns that many of us will be able to relate to as we journey through life and may have experienced similarly

ourselves. Despite facing some very difficult issues, every individual who shares their story has a message filled with real encouragement, faith and hope, that no matter the difficulty or challenge, answers can be found in the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

One participant, Stacey Martin, a young single adult from the Dunfermline Ward, shares the story of her conversion and said, "I was



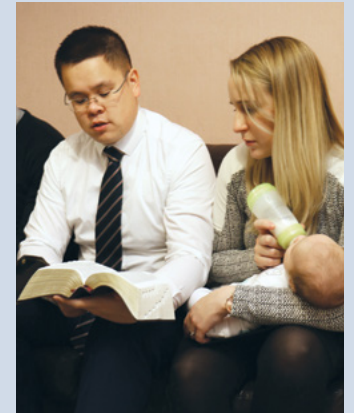
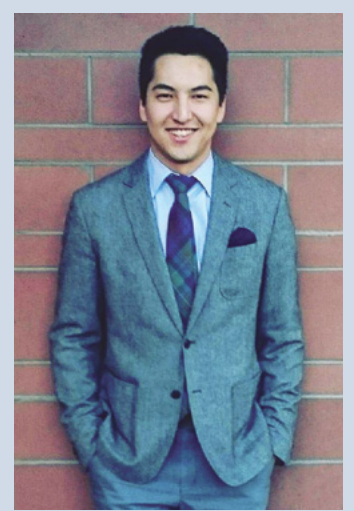
a little nervous sharing some of my feelings but felt at peace when I was able to share my testimony.” Stacey, an army reservist, has recently been called to serve in the Canada Winnipeg Mission.

Leanda Hall of the Leeds 1st Ward expressed her feelings as follows: “I am so grateful for the opportunity that I had to bear my testimony of the gospel in this unique and special

way. This experience will serve as a constant reminder to me of the way that I feel about my Saviour Jesus Christ and will be a beacon that I can look upon when times are tough. In the time that has

elapsed since this experience, the trials in my life have continued to grow, but this has been proportionate to my growth in faith and understanding. I know that my Saviour lives and that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds the restored gospel.”

The videos are filled with powerful messages, personal testimony and moving experiences. Over 100 videos have been filmed and will be appearing on our social media sites here in the UK. Look for them soon. You can find them on www.facebook.com/LDSUK. Remember to please share! ■



Solihull Chapel Hosts Ramadan Worship

By Jessica Chapman

Local Muslims were able to worship in Solihull chapel during their holy month of Ramadan this year. Through the ward’s membership in the Solihull Interfaith Forum, Bishop Hesekeia Fakatou became aware that the Solihull Muslim Community Association (SMCA) had no premises

large enough to accommodate their members for prayers during Ramadan. Following agreement from stake president Paul Wilkinson and the area office, Bishop Fakatou offered the use of the chapel during the evenings from 9.30pm onwards. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise

to sundown and break their fast with prayers and readings from the Quran. Bishop Fakatou and President and Sister Wilkinson were invited to join them one evening to break the fast with an iftar meal, and relationships were built between Muslim and Latter-day Saint leaders.

Sabir Hussain, the chairman of the SMCA, commented: “We were welcomed with open arms by our Christian brothers and sisters in the true spirit of humanity, for which we are very grateful. . . . By working together we can truly understand each other’s faiths and thus build bridges and better communities.” The SMCA made a substantial donation to LDS Charities and sent a thank-you card to the ward. Bishop Fakatou said, “We were happy to serve our Muslim brothers and sisters by sharing our chapel with them and we hope it is only the start of a special relationship.” ■



Bishop Hesekaia Fakatou (right) and Sabir Hussain, chairman of the Solihull Muslim Community Association, outside Solihull chapel



PHOTO BY MARIE PARTRIDGE

PHOTOS BY THE PARTRIDGES AND SOLIHULL PA TEAM

New *Ensign* Article Submission Website

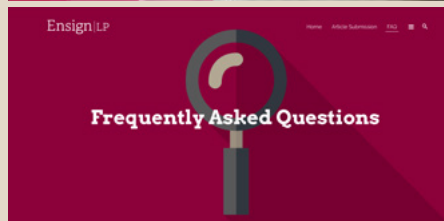
By Chelsea Craven

We are introducing a new way to submit stories to be published in the *Ensign* UK inserts. This will make sharing your stories more fun and simple.

The website was created by Jason Watling after requests to make the process of submitting stories easier. On the home page towards the bottom are all the required forms to download and upload with your submission. This keeps everything in one place, and with one click all attachments are sent to the editing team all in one go.

The *Ensign* UK inserts are for your stories to be shared with your own voice to tell them. Please use this tool to uplift each of our brothers and sisters in our faith within the UK.

We will post how-to videos to help you navigate through the website.



The URL for the website is ldsuk.co.uk

If you have questions, contact us through the LDS UK Facebook page (www.facebook.com/LDSUK) or by email: UKIEnsign@ldschurch.org. ■

