

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Strengthened through the Sabbath

By Elder Adonay S. Obando, Spain

Area Seventy

As we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, we wish to learn about Him and follow His example, hoping to develop in ourselves His character and attributes. We believe that once we have developed faith in Him and in His atoning sacrifice, some natural consequences will follow: we will wish to change our lives through repentance, our will and heart will turn to the Lord and we will accept making covenants with Him through ordinances.

The Lord has revealed that those who “truly manifest by their works that

they have received of the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of their sins, shall be received by baptism into his church.”¹

After baptism, we are confirmed members of the Church by means of the laying on of hands by the power and authority of the priesthood. The next step in our spiritual development will be to receive other salvation ordinances in the holy temple. Under normal circumstances, the ordinances of baptism, confirmation, endowment and sealing can only be performed once for oneself. Later, we may

continue learning from these ordinances as we perform them by proxy on behalf of deceased persons.

The Lord provided a way so that we, His children, may partake continually and individually of one ordinance, the sacrament.

The pattern established by the Savior is that His Church must meet on the Sabbath to partake of the sacrament “in remembrance of the Lord Jesus”² and “to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls.”³



Elder
Adonay S.
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In His infinite wisdom, He has given us the opportunity to pause from our daily hustle, enabling us to stop all worries and cares. As we leave the world behind, we are able to renew the baptismal covenant through the sacramental ordinance. The Lord promises in this ordinance that as they partake of the sacrament, those willing to take upon them His name and keep His commandments “may always have his Spirit to be with them.”⁴

As individuals and families, we would all profit much if every week we prepared with diligence and humility to partake of the sacrament. We prepare daily for this ordinance seeking to live “in righteousness on all days and at all times”⁵—for example, by studying the scriptures, praying privately and with our families. Additionally, if we plan Saturday activities so that we may go to bed early enough to wake up on Sunday with gratitude, cheerfulness and happiness, then we will be prepared to partake of the sacrament and

listen to the talks, being “nourished by the good word of God.”⁶ Then we will be able to grow and deepen our relationship with the Savior and increase our knowledge of Him.

At this point, it’s important to highlight the parallelism between the holiness of the temple and the holiness of the Sabbath. When we prepare to visit the temple, we start with sufficient time for our preparation. We not only dress with clothing showing respect and reverence for the temple and what it represents, but while inside or in its surroundings, we behave likewise. We whisper and we teach our children that in this place we keep the utmost respect. As we sanctify the Sabbath by being reverent and respectful during Sunday meetings and all the time that day, we develop the holiness and divine nature that we find in our Heavenly Father: “And he rested on the seventh day from all his work. . . . And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.”⁷

If we try the virtue of the word of God, we will not only abound in the knowledge of Christ, but our testimony of its truth will not be founded on faith alone; it will be founded on the miracles and wonders which we will experience in our lives and families. ■

NOTES

1. Doctrine and Covenants 20:37.
2. Moroni 6:6.
3. Moroni 6:5.
4. Doctrine and Covenants 20:77; see also John 14:16.
5. Doctrine and Covenants 59:11.
6. Moroni 6:4.
7. Genesis 2:2–3.

LOCAL NEWS

Garden Tours at the London Temple Visitors’ Centre

By Sister Anne DeArden

The visitors’ centre at the London temple is in rural England. It is a ten-minute drive from the closest railway station. There are no bus routes that take you there. It is surrounded by 28 acres of beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers. Next to the visitors’ centre is the London temple, an iconic landmark.

In April 2016, Martin and Jan Lock, directors of the London temple visitors’ centre, were looking for ideas to bring people into the centre. Remembering that this area is referred to as the garden of England, they wanted to encourage more people to visit the centre and see the gardens and the temple for themselves. Elder Lock planned a six-month advertising campaign with a local publisher, offering free guided tours, free parking, free admission, and a free buffet lunch for groups with 10 or more people. Fourteen groups came in for tours in 2016. The groups included women’s institutes, horticultural societies, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Rotary clubs, and U3A groups, to name a just a few.

Realizing that many groups formulate their plans a year in advance, Elder Lock advertised in December and January for tours in 2017. From April to October 2017,

68 groups scheduled tours, resulting in approximately 1,700 people coming to the temple grounds with 1,200 copies of the Book of Mormon being handed out.

During the tour, the scheduled group meets in front of the *Christus* statue in the visitors' centre. One of the senior couples assigned to the visitors' centre introduces the volunteers working there. The couple then explain that Mormons are Christians, that the name of the Church is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and that members believe in the Bible and the Book of Mormon, which both testify of Jesus Christ. After this introduction, Nick Palmer, the head gardener, talks about the plants and the trees on-site and answers questions. He and his staff plant about 7,000 plants each season.

The group then goes outside, where participants learn about the Prophet Joseph Smith and the early days of the Church in England. In 1856 there were 34,000 Church members in Great Britain and 12,000 Church members in the United States. Most of the British Saints immigrated to the United States to build up and establish the Church. Their contribution to the growth and stability of the Church is beyond measure. The tour guide explains that the Church architect, knowing the history of the Church, decided to plant a replica of the Sacred Grove found in the United States. The tour stops at the reflection



▲ *The London England Temple Visitors' Centre missionaries, with directors Elder and Sister Lock pictured centre on the back row*

▼ *A group on a recent garden tour of the London temple grounds*



ELDER AND SISTER LOCK

pond, where participants can see how the temple is reflected in those waters, much as our lives reflect the covenants we make.

Tour members learn about the history of the temple and why Church members were so anxious to have their own temple here. The guide

explains the relationship between family history and the sacred ordinance work performed in the temple. At the end of the garden tour, the group enters the foyer of the temple and meets President and Sister Otterson, the temple president and matron. They explain why people are dressed all in white and what happens in the temple. They answer every question.

Tour members then return to the visitors' centre for lunch, followed by a short film, *God's Plan*, in the theatre, which has touched many hearts. On their way out of the visitors' centre, the tour guide gives them a Book of Mormon.

Many people commented that they now understood more about the Mormons and the temple. They felt comfortable returning again with their families to walk the paths and spend time on the grounds. People said that they had driven by the temple hundreds of times, but they never knew what happened in the temple or that they could come on the grounds and enjoy the peace found here. Some comments from participants include:

"This has dispelled all the misconceptions we have had about the Mormons."

"We were most interested to hear about your religion and thank you for answering our many questions, and for the gift of the Book of Mormon." ■



PETER TAYLOR

Lord Mayor of York Barbara Boyce and Sheriff of York Gill Brian open York Interfaith Week with Rachael Maskell MP and leaders from the LDS Church and other faiths.

York Interfaith Week Opens

By Mark Cosens

One Sunday evening in November there was a large gathering at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Acomb, York, when around 70 guests gathered for the opening event of Interfaith Week titled 'Who Is My Neighbour?'

The Lord Mayor and Sheriff of York opened the week, and then York residents of diverse faiths heard inspirational talks from the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire (Barry Dodd CBE), the York Central MP (Rachael Maskell), the Vice Chair of York Interfaith Group (Imam Abid Salik), and LDS Church leaders (President Bill Kimberling and Mark Cousins).

Building good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs is part of the year-round work of many people and organisations across the UK. Having a special week provides a focal

point, so that more people are made aware of the importance of interfaith efforts and are able to participate.

There was also a beautiful cappella musical performance by an LDS missionary choir.

Events were held across the city throughout the week, with Church members also reaching out to visit and attend those events put on by friends from the other faiths. As always, all members of the public were welcome to attend all events.

Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has taught that "becoming partners in the defense of shared moral principles starts with sincere efforts by religious faiths to understand and learn from each other."¹ ■

NOTE

1. Quentin L. Cook, "Partnering with Our Friends from Other Faiths," Aug. 9, 2010, patheos.com.

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Edinburgh Saints Participate in Scottish Interfaith Week

By Carole Sneddon

Scottish Interfaith Week takes place in November each year. This year Latter-day Saints in the Edinburgh Scotland Stake made a concerted effort to get involved. Early in the week, youth from the Dalkeith Ward visited the local mosque and enjoyed a guided tour and introduction to Islam for their weekly youth activity.

As the week went on, the Church held an ‘Interfaith in the Community Award’ ceremony at the Scottish Parliament, headed by Evelyn Liston, director of public affairs for Scotland, where two exemplary women were honoured for their contribution. Maureen Sier, director of Interfaith Scotland, and Trishna Singh, founder of Sikh Sanjog, a charity and social enterprise that supports Sikh women in Edinburgh, received the award. They were praised by Daryl Watson, GB national director of public affairs, who felt prompted to sing ‘Have I Done Any Good?’ as a tribute to these ladies during the award ceremony, probably the first time an LDS hymn has been sung in the Scottish Parliament! Evelyn Liston commented, “The world needs more women like Trishna and Maureen. I am grateful for their example and support to all of us.”

The final weekend of Scottish Interfaith Week saw two performances

of the wonderful LDS production *Our Story Goes On*—one at the Edinburgh stake centre to an audience of nearly 300, and a second hosted by Fife Interfaith Group at the Old Kirk in Kirkcaldy. Many people expressed what an incredible experience they had as they watched the show. Penny

Casey of the Alloa Ward remarked, “The standard of the musical performances was superb! It was very moving at times. A fabulous evening.” Julie Beveridge, who had also travelled from Alloa to see the show, said, “It was a wonderful evening—beautiful music set to an amazing script.”

Since then, Edinburgh Interfaith Association, impressed with the high attendance at the show, have agreed to host a return visit from the cast at EIFA’s 30th anniversary celebrations. ■



ELDER RONALD PARTRIDGE

▲ **Interfaith awards recipients and guests (left to right):** Nick Sier; Anne Edwards, Church public affairs, government relations, Scotland; Maureen Sier, recipient, director of Interfaith Scotland; Evelyn Liston, Church director of public affairs, Scotland; John Mason MSP; Sharon Kusbia, recipient’s daughter-in-law; Neelam Singh, recipient’s daughter; Daryl Watson, GB national director of public affairs for the Church

▼ **Members of the cast of *Our Story Goes On* at the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy**



MARK BEESLEY

Buchan Sisters Sew Clothes for Local Maternity Ward

By Linda Beverley

Many of the sisters in the Buchan congregation know the pain and grief of miscarriage, losing a child soon after birth or having a stillborn child. For the past five months, Maureen Dunbar taught and encouraged women to knit and sew tiny silk-lined blankets, knit tiny cardigans and sew tiny white dresses that were delivered to Rubislaw ward of the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital.

Rubislaw ward is a dedicated ward of 7 single rooms where women are cared for with early pregnancy complications, early pregnancy loss and late pregnancy loss. The staff

are very experienced in looking after women and provide a caring and safe environment during this difficult time.

"It was not the easiest project we have undertaken," said Sandra Coull, Relief Society president, adding that many stories were shared and tears shed as they worked together to produce the beautiful items that would clothe stillborn babies and newborns who had died soon after birth. ■

Linda Beverley pictured with some of the knitted baby items



COURTESY OF LINDA BEVERLEY

Edinburgh Latter-day Saints Celebrate Their Chapel's 50th Anniversary

By Carole Sneddon

The Edinburgh chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints celebrated the 50th anniversary of its dedication on November 10th, 2017. To mark the occasion, Bishop Tyler Haws and his congregation hosted an evening of entertainment,

history and food. Many of the Latter-day Saints living in Edinburgh in the 1960s were involved in the building work in some way, and several travelled from far and wide to join the Church members in Edinburgh in celebrating this milestone.

The Edinburgh Ward has used the building since 1966, but it was completed and dedicated as a chapel in 1967. Prior to having the chapel to meet in, the ward met in various locations in the city. Leith Theatre was one of the venues used

for larger conferences, and around one hundred members of the Church recently volunteered their time in helping with its renovation in preparation for the Hidden Doors Festival.

Peter Thompson was the first person to be baptised in the new chapel's font on 20th February 1966 and remembers the excitement of having a purpose-built chapel in Edinburgh. The first LDS baptisms to occur in Edinburgh were on 2nd February 1840, when two young men from Leith were baptised, having accepted the gospel preached by the first Church missionaries to arrive in Scotland at the end of December 1839. Twenty-three new converts had been baptised in Edinburgh by the end of that summer.

The following decades saw thousands of baptisms throughout Scotland, though membership in Scotland remained fairly low due to many converts choosing to emigrate to join the body of the Church in Utah, USA. It would not be until the 1960s that numbers here would increase and there would be a need for a church to be built in Edinburgh.

Today the Edinburgh Ward is a busy congregation made up of families, many students, a high proportion of Chinese members, and a good number of the original families who were around 50 years ago and participated in the construction of the chapel. The building has a family



Brother Peter Thompson, the first person to be baptised in the Edinburgh chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with his father, Jimmy. Both have been active members of the congregation for the past 50 years.

history centre within it which is open for public use several times a week. It is also used for community service; for social, cultural and sporting events; and for various Church-sponsored

programmes during the week, such as the addiction recovery programme, self-reliance classes, scripture study classes for teens and young adults, and the weekly youth club. ■

Miracle Girl Stars in National Musical—a Story of Faith

By Sister Marie Partridge

Eleven-year-old Madison Faith Wright, from Stocksbridge near Sheffield, is a miracle. Because she was born with severe complications, the doctors did not expect little Madison to survive. Her first surgery took place when she

was just two days old. The Wright family belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Madison was cast in the role of Ellie Ashton in last year's British pageant, a theatrical musical performance

depicting the early Mormon missionaries' arrival in the UK to preach a message of hope. It took place on the grounds of the Preston England Temple in Chorley, Lancashire, last August. Says Madison, "The reason I wanted to be in the British pageant is I thought it would be a good way to show other people how I feel about the Church. During the auditions, I got this warm feeling—like this is where I want to be." Her mother, Rachel Wright, adds, "Her middle name, Faith, is no coincidence. It is through the faith and prayers of so many people that Madison is here with us today."

Rachel continues, "As the surgery was about to begin, the doctor came to us and said that even if she lived through the surgery, life would change for all of us. The doctor told us she would live most of her life in a hospital, and maybe we should consider not doing the surgery." She adds, "The decision was not difficult for us. We knew we had to give her every fighting chance to live. Our faith made it possible for us to believe that God was in charge and whatever happened after the surgery we would accept."

At seven months old, Madison's liver failed. She was put on the transplant list for a new bowel and a new liver with little hope of receiving them. A miracle happened when she was 13 months old; she received both. She did well after the transplant until her body rejected the bowel when she



Madison Wright, miracle girl

was four years old. The family felt that through the faith and prayers of many, Madison was healed once again. At eleven years old, Madison is a normal, happy 'miracle girl' who lives each day to the fullest despite a handful of pills she takes daily. She discovered a love of entertaining people when she spent so much time in hospital. "She would always want to sing a song or do something fun when visitors came, and it has carried her now to her love of drama," says Rachel. "It is wonderful to see her so happy." ■



COURTESY OF MADISON WRIGHT

Editors' Note

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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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