

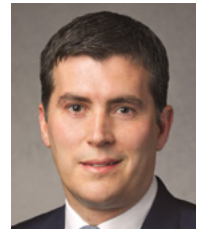
UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Peace, Be Still—Finding a Safe Harbour in the House of the Lord

By Elder Alan T. Phillips

Area Seventy



Elder
Alan T. Phillips

Mary Ann Baker lost both her parents to tuberculosis while living with her sister and brother in Chicago. When her brother contracted the same terrible disease, she arranged for him to travel to a warmer climate in the southern part of the United States. Sadly, within weeks, his health worsened and he died. Mary Ann and her sister were heartbroken. They could not afford to claim their brother's body or to finance its return to Chicago for burial. Mary Ann experienced what was for her one of the darkest and most challenging times in her life. She wrote: "I said in my heart that God did not care for me or mine."¹ For her, it was more than she could bear.

All of us have experienced storms in our lives. Times of mourning, loss, fear, illness, financial pressures, uncertainty, and turbulence in all its forms. These storms are challenging and can test us to the very core. Like the disciples on the Sea of Galilee, there can be moments when we feel as if we are about to capsize or sink and we cry out, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?"² On that stormy night on the Sea of Galilee, the Saviour "arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still.

And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."³ For Mary Ann Baker, during her darkest hour of mourning and loss, the Saviour stilled the tempest in her heart and "brought it to the calm of a deeper faith and a more perfect trust."⁴ With this new restored peace and stillness, she penned the words to the treasured hymn "Master, the Tempest Is Raging":

Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea



BRYAN MCNEIL

*Or demons or men or whatever
it be, . . .*

*They all shall sweetly obey thy will:
Peace, be still; peace, be still.⁵*

We have a loving Father in Heaven, who understands that during the storms of our lives, we need a refuge or safe harbour we can go to—a place where we are protected, safe, and secure.

The temple can serve as an important safe harbour in our lives. Everyday life brings with it challenges, uncertainty, conflicting voices, and turbulence. In the house of the Lord, we find answers, strength, and the peace the Lord promised. We are reminded that we are not alone. We are reminded that God loves us, guides us still, and provides a way in which we can return and have peace.

Heavenly Father knows you. He loves you. He understands your needs and challenges. By attending the temple and participating in sacred ordinances, we find the clarity we need to navigate through uncertainty and the various storms we face in life.

President Boyd K. Packer (1924–2015) instructed: "There is something cleansing and clarifying about the spiritual atmosphere of the temple. Sometimes our minds are so beset

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with problems, and there are so many things clamoring for attention at once, that we just cannot think clearly and see clearly. At the temple the dust of distraction seems to settle out, the fog and the haze seem to lift, and we can 'see' things that we were not able to see before and find a way through our troubles that we had not previously known."⁶ From the hymn "How Firm a Foundation":

*Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand.⁷*

Whatever the storms, whatever the demons or men, or whatever it may be that troubles you, there is no need to fear. Our loving Father in Heaven has provided us with a safe harbour. In the temple, He will bless you. In the temple, He will strengthen and protect you. In the temple, you will more fully understand the words "Peace, be still." ■

NOTES

1. Mary Ann Baker, in Karen Lynn Davidson, *Our Latter-Day Hymns: The Stories and the Messages* (1988), 134; see also Ernest K. Emurian, *Living Stories of Famous Hymns* (1955), 83–85.
2. Mark 4:38.
3. Mark 4:39.
4. Mary Ann Baker, in Davidson, *Our Latter-Day Hymns*, 134.
5. *Hymns*, no. 105.
6. *Preparing to Enter the Holy Temple* (2002), 36; adapted from *The Holy Temple*, by Boyd K. Packer.
7. *Hymns*, no. 85.

Church Representative Joins Theresa May, Faith and Government Leaders in National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

By Julie Jones and Marie Partridge

Faith and government representatives joined together at Parliament in London for the 2018 National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast chaired

by Ian Blackford MP (June 19). Among attending government leaders was UK Prime Minister Theresa May. The event was introduced by House



Julie Jones with her local MP, Gerald Jones

of Commons Speaker John Bercow. He expressed his thanks for living in a country where we have the freedom to practice our faith. He added, "We live in a world where billions of others don't have the freedoms we have." Over 140 government and faith leaders were in attendance.

The keynote address from Rev Dr Timothy Keller focussed on the topic of "What can Christianity offer our society in the 21st century?" Keller is an American pastor, theologian, and Christian apologist.

In a written statement, Rt Hon Theresa May MP said, "The Christian gospel has transformed the United Kingdom, with its values and teachings helping to shape the laws, customs and society of the country,"

adding that the event was "an excellent opportunity both to celebrate the Christians' ongoing contribution to this country and to reflect on the role Christianity can play in contemporary public life."

Representing the Great Britain National Public Affairs and Communication Council for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was Julie Jones from Merthyr

Tydfil, Wales. She also invited her local MP, Gerald Jones of Merthyr and Rhymney, to join her at the breakfast. Julie said, "It is a wonderful opportunity to attend events like this with members of many different faiths as well as our government leaders, and come together in prayer." She added, "It was my pleasure to have my local MP there with me as we discussed how we can help those in our local area." ■

YSAs Meet Elder Christofferson in Parliament

By Luke Kerr

Each Tuesday morning, institute students gather for a breakfast class at 7am in Manchester to study the scriptures together. This, however, was not the case on the morning of the 1st May 2018. Instead of the class, the students were invited to travel to London for a special institute outing to Parliament.

On the steps of Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament, eight students from the Manchester England Institute, accompanied by Luke Kerr and Mark White of Seminaries and Institutes, climbed these steps to witness another moment of history.

As you walk towards St. Stephen's Hall, there are a collection of plaques and each pays tribute to moments of history that have taken place in

that location. William Wallace stood trial in 1305 on one spot, Winston Churchill lay in state nearby in 1965, and Nelson Mandela replied to questions close to the place that Queen Elizabeth the Second stood on her silver jubilee in 1977.

They made their way to a committee room in Parliament, where they listened to an Apostle of the Lord, Elder D. Todd Christofferson, address parliamentarians in the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Following the Parliamentary Group meeting, the students visited the House of Commons and the House of Lords, concluding their visit at the



Julie Jones with Rev Dr Timothy Keller



Manchester YSAs with Elder Christofferson

evening song service at Westminster Abbey.

Elder Christofferson was introduced to several MPs and was given a tour of Parliament by Stephen Kerr MP, who felt it “a wonderfully significant thing for our country to have an Apostle stand at the Treasury despatch box in the House of Commons.” Stephen Kerr requested that a new copy of the Book of Mormon be presented to the House of Commons.

Students had the opportunity to meet and talk with Elder Christofferson before and after the event. One of the students, Antony Deighton, who studies aerospace engineering at the University of Manchester, felt particularly impressed by the way Elder Christofferson interacted with each of the people there. “You could tell that he had spent time getting to know individuals and their lives and that he really cared for each of them. I won’t forget this experience anytime soon,” Deighton said.

Leaving Parliament that day, Calum McNally, who was baptised

in December 2017, pointed out a large mural depiction of Moses holding the tablets with the commandments high on one of the walls. We truly felt

blessed to have been able to see a latter-day Apostle in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland! ■



Mormon Scholars Meet in Oxford

By James Perry

The second symposium of the British and European Association of Mormon Scholars, also known as BEAMS, met together at Corpus Christi College, Oxford University, on Saturday 2nd June 2018.

The event was funded by the Neal A. Maxwell Institute and the BYU London Centre.

LDS scholars from Green Temple College, Oxford University; Lancaster University; Cambridge University; Corpus Christi College, Oxford University; Saïd Business School, Oxford University; and Pembroke College, Oxford University, spoke at the event.

The theme of the symposium was “Continuity and Change in the Mormon Community.” Speakers discussed such topics as the New Testament, the building of LDS churches in the British Isles, and faith.

The event provided Church members with the opportunity to engage with LDS scholars and to present on their current research and interests in relation to Mormonism. The audience had the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss the research further. It is an opportunity for LDS academics and scholars to meet. ■



Scholars gathered at Corpus Christi College, Oxford University, for the second symposium of the British and European Association of Mormon Scholars (BEAMS).

Preston Temple Celebrates 20 Years

By Chelsea Craven and Katie Siswick

In June, local stakes celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Preston England Temple, which was dedicated on June 7th, 1998.

On the 9th of June, members spent the day at the temple working and sharing the blessings they had received through their temple worship. The following evening, the Chorley England Stake hosted a special testimony meeting to mark the anniversary.

President Pattenden opened the meeting by sharing how God will do some of His greatest work between now and the Second Coming. He quoted part of the dedicatory prayer saying that God has “smiled upon England” for centuries and shared blessings such as the translation of the Bible into English.

People bore their testimonies about temples and particularly about the Preston temple. Brother Peter Trebilcock spoke about his involvement with the architecture of the temple and how it was opposed by the Chorley community. He told the congregation how he once wrote to the prophet at the time, President Gordon B. Hinckley, and told him that there was much opposition

to building the temple. President Hinckley replied, "We have every confidence in you."

Sister Lees, former temple matron, also shared stories from the building of the temple and how she watched the golden statue of Moroni be craned onto the steeple. The next day the newspaper printed a headline saying, "Chorley's Angel." She added how on the day that

the official photographer came to take pictures of the temple, the stake was asked to fast for good weather. That morning was grey and miserable, but as the photographer drove over the bridge of the M6, the skies cleared.

"The temple impacts us as individuals and families. It changes our lives for good and for eternity," said President Rigby. ■

Society General President, in her address at the general women's session of the April 2016 general conference: "What you have done is a very good thing. Now go home, walk across the street, and serve your neighbor!"¹

Sisters across the Norwich stake were invited to donate sanitary products for the Norfolk Libraries initiative and to bring them to the service activity. During the activity, the items were bagged up for delivery. Sister Butcher took the donations to her local library after the activity, and staff there were surprised to see just how many bags she brought!

The second area of focus for the service activity was knitting hats for premature babies and bonding squares for use in neonatal units. Bonding squares are knitted in pairs. One square is placed in the incubator with a premature baby; the other is worn next to the mother's skin. The squares are swapped over when the mother visits the baby, and this can

Norwich Relief Society Provides for Women in Need

By Anne Murray

Relief Society sisters from the Norwich England Stake met at the stake centre on Saturday 10th March 2018 to join together in efforts to provide for women in need. The service activity comprised two areas of focus: (1) a collection of sanitary products for girls and women in the local area and (2) the collection and creation of hats and bonding squares for premature babies.

Initially, members of the stake Relief Society presidency were going to prepare reusable sanitary protection for girls in developing nations. However, stake Relief Society president Joy Butcher discovered that her local branch library, along with other branches of the Norfolk Libraries

service, was collecting and distributing sanitary products to those in need locally. It was decided that the Norwich stake Relief Society would support this initiative.

This is in keeping with a message shared by Linda K. Burton, then Relief

Sisters from the Norwich England Stake Relief Society with hats and bonding squares for premature babies, spring service activity 2018



CAROLINE KEVP

help the two to bond as they become familiar with each other's scent. Many sisters across the stake had prepared both hats and bonding squares before the service activity, and time was also spent creating these items as the sisters gathered together.

The stake Relief Society presidency thanks all the sisters who contributed to

the service activity in any way. Although we were few in number at the stake centre, the efforts of all who made donations combined to bless the lives of other daughters of God. What a blessing to use our hands to do His work! ■

NOTE

1. Linda K. Burton, "I Was a Stranger," *Ensign*, May 2016, 15.

11 Days in November

By Chelsea Craven

This November marks the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War I. Nearly 800,000 British young men and women gave their lives. Traditionally, we lay a wreath and offer two minutes of silence, but this year we have the opportunity to mark this important date through service also.

From 1st November all the way through to the 11th, members in the UK have the opportunity to perform small acts of service and remembrance. As a way to remember those who gave their lives 100 years ago, some may choose to demonstrate kindness and do good for friends, families and neighbours.

Daily themes, scriptures and service opportunities will be suggested for each day, drawing inspiration from themes of love, hope and courage. The 11 days of service is similar to the LDS Christmas campaign called Light the World.

Stakes and wards may choose to run a Remembrance Day sacrament meeting on themes appropriate to the day,

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OF REMEMBRANCE

emphasising the joys of the Resurrection, or hold a special devotional, encouraging members of the Church, their friends and families to participate in a special commemorative programme.

Bishops may plan a Sunday schedule that permits wards and branches to attend their local community's morning memorial.

Youth and young single adults will be encouraged to seek out WWI ancestors from their family tree.

Learning of these brave ancestors and performing their saving ordinances in the temple before November 11 can add a deeply spiritual and personal significance to this Remembrance Day.

Follow our Facebook and Instagram @ldsuk or email UKIEnsign@gmail.com for updates. ■

11days
of Remembrance

Get to Know the New Scotland/Ireland Mission President and His Wife

By President Mark Macdonald

Editor's note: President Mark Macdonald was recently called to serve as the new president of the Scotland/Ireland Mission. Below, President Macdonald shares a bit about himself and his wife, Denise, and what they look forward to in their new responsibilities.

I was raised in a small coal mining town in Price, Utah. My father is Ramsay Alaster Macdonald. My mother, Ann Dart, is a convert and a wonderfully strong woman who raised us after my father was killed in a coal mine accident when I was 12. Both of my grandparents were born and raised in Scotland.

Sister Macdonald is the oldest of six girls. She has Scottish, English and Welsh ancestry. She is the love of my life and enjoys her grandchildren, organising and serving in the Church. She has served as ward Relief Society and Primary presidents, as a stake Primary counselor and as a seminary teacher.

I was baptized when I was eight years of age, but because my father was not a member of the Church and my mother was not active at the time, I was not active until around the age of 15. The first book I ever



President and Sister Macdonald

read in my life was the Book of Mormon. It touched my soul in a way and at a time of life that caused me to desire a closer proximity to God and the Saviour Jesus Christ. I served in the Mississippi Jackson Mission from 1983 to 1984. Denise and I have known each other from the time we were in fourth grade. We dated a bit in high school but didn't date again until I got home from my mission. Sister Macdonald was born and raised in Utah.

Much of my growth in the gospel and Church can be attributed to the good friends that I had growing up. These young men were active, and mischievous in a good way, and included me in Boy Scouts and other activities and eventually as a member of the Church. Each of them served

missions, and they remain good friends today.

My love for the Saviour Jesus Christ is the reason I served a mission. As a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, I learned that I loved teaching the gospel and seeing growth in the lives of those who accepted the truth. It is also a reason I enlisted in the United States Air Force, where I served four years of active duty.

Sister Macdonald and I have six children and 8.7 grandchildren (a granddaughter will be born a month after we leave for Scotland). My greatest passion is teaching. I also love to cook and bake, which feeds my habit of eating.

Right now, my goal for the next three years is to follow the lead of the great President George Donaldson. ■

CLARIFICATION NOTICE

Please note the following clarification for last month's local pages article "JustServe Arrives in the UK." In the UK, JustServe is a pilot initiative limited to a selected number of stakes. No decision has been made yet to expand it further.

Editor's Note

The editor, Chelsea Craven, invites 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 and the names of both the photographer and the author are required for the Church to use the article.

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