

# UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

## Following the Living Prophet

**Elder Torben Engbjerg**

Area Seventy, Denmark



**Elder Torben Engbjerg**

After having been baptized in San Leandro, California, USA, at age 20 and after two semesters at Brigham Young University, I was sitting on a transatlantic flight in the spring of 1977 bound for Copenhagen. I was going home for the summer to earn money for the next semesters at BYU. So I thought!

During the long flight, I made the attempt to sleep so I would be rested to meet my family—now as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Rest *would not* come. I kept hearing the voice of the prophet, President Spencer W. Kimball (1895–1985) at the time, saying, “Every worthy young man should fill a mission.”<sup>1</sup> “I am too old”, I kept convincing myself. “I will be 22 by the time I can go, three years older than most elders going on missions.” I kept hearing President Kimball, almost as if he sat right next to me. He kept me awake, and I could *not* ignore him.

Finally, for fear of not getting any sleep at all, I said to Heavenly Father: “OK, then, if You will inspire someone to ask me to go on a mission—then I will go.” That did it. I fell asleep and slept until the plane landed, no longer thinking of what I had promised the Lord or President Kimball.

Only four days after arriving in Northern Denmark, I attended church in the Aalborg Branch. I did not know anyone there. Immediately following

the sacrament meeting, the branch president, Johannes Vestbø, came straight to me and said: “I do not know you, but dressed in a white shirt and a suit, you look like a member of the Church. Are you a member?” This I could confirm, and he continued, “Can I invite you to my office so I can get to know you better?” Our meeting must have lasted only ten to fifteen minutes. Even after the first few minutes he said: “This is very strange. Although I do not know you, I have the strongest feeling that the Lord is telling me to ask you if you will go on a mission. Will you do that?”

The Spirit increased and tears started flowing for both of us as I remembered and shared my promise to the Lord only four days earlier. I knew what

I had to do—follow the voice of the living prophet. Soon after, my mission papers were submitted, and instead of going to BYU, the money I earned that summer went to my mission. I left for the England London Mission in November that same year.

As we begin this new year and set our personal goals for the 2019 Area Plan, with the top one being “Follow the Prophet”, I know from personal experience that this will bring the greatest blessings in life. Following the living prophet in all he counsels us to do “will strengthen [our] faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.”<sup>2</sup>

The living prophet is the Lord’s mouthpiece on earth. “A prophet does not stand between you and the



**Elder Torben Engbjerg,  
England London Mission, 1979.**

*I will strengthen my faith in  
Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ as I*

**Follow**  
THE PROPHET

**Invite**  
A FRIEND TO  
SACRAMENT MEETING

**Take**  
AN ANCESTOR  
TO THE TEMPLE

Savior. Rather, he stands beside you and points the way to the Savior.”<sup>3</sup> As stated in 3 Nephi 20:24, “All the prophets . . . have testified of [Christ].” The prophet will speak eternal truths to us and will give us sound counsel. “Every time that I have listened to the counsel of prophets, felt it confirmed in prayer, and then followed it, I have found that I moved toward safety.”<sup>4</sup> The prophet will encourage us to follow the commandments, which lead to happiness, peace, and eternal life.

For four decades now, I have chosen to *follow the living prophets*.

Innumerable blessings have come to not just me but my whole family from making that decision of following the prophet in 1977. I challenge us all to set personal goals and make commitments to follow the prophet. In doing so, we can obtain immeasurable blessings both in this life and the life to come. ■

#### NOTES

1. Spencer W. Kimball, “It Becometh Every Man,” *Ensign*, Oct. 1977, 3.
2. “My Goals” card, Europe Area Plan, 2019, [lds.org.uk/theplan](https://lds.org.uk/theplan).
3. Neil L. Andersen, “The Prophet of God,” *Ensign*, May 2018, 27.
4. Henry B. Eyring, “Finding Safety in Counsel,” *Ensign*, May 1997, 25.

## LOCAL PAGES

# Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration in Liverpool

By Yang Li

“It has been the first time in my life to be in a church, and the activity was so well-organised, I felt it was like a big family, and I felt so warm and touched.” Wendy Wang, a nonmember from Beijing, China, left this message for the missionaries after she and her friend attended the Mid-Autumn Festival on the 15th of September in the Liverpool stake centre. “We definitely want to come back in the future,” Wang said.

Elder Li, a missionary from China, observed, “The Mid-Autumn Festival is the second most important festival

in China after Chinese New Year. To the Chinese, the festival means family reunion and peace. Families get together, and people will also eat tasty pastries called mooncakes.” Elder Li continued, “It is also a great opportunity to help the Chinese know about the gospel based on their knowledge about families and love.”

There were over 120 people present, many of them being of Chinese as well as English heritage, with at least 30 people being nonmembers. Most of them were from Liverpool and Manchester.



Sister Westover, one of the missionaries serving in Liverpool who speaks Mandarin, said, “We want to help the Chinese community to know more about our Church and introduce the Chinese culture to our local members as well.” Miki Dong, a Chinese member from Manchester YSA Ward, also said, “When I heard about this festival in Liverpool, I had a sincere desire to bring my friends.” Dong continued, “It’s not only a fantastic opportunity to make lots of new friends but also to help them know better about my country and my culture.”

Food was prepared by Sister Sam Perrie, a local member from Liverpool Ward, and senior couple missionaries. One senior missionary, Sister Quinn, made mooncakes from scratch. “The mooncakes were impressive,” Danny Wilkinson, a member of Liverpool Ward, said.

The activity also included some performances, mainly from the missionaries. There were Chinese traditional



given by President McReynolds, the mission president of the England Manchester Mission. People closed with singing the hymn “Families Can Be Together Forever,”<sup>1</sup> which left a sweet and happy spirit with everyone. Liverpool England Stake has a long history of having Chinese-speaking missionaries, and the universities in the northwest also have many Chinese international students. Over many years, many Chinese people have joined the Church whilst traveling or studying here in the UK. ■

**NOTE**

1. “Families Can Be Together Forever,” *Hymns*, no. 300.

songs and magic tricks as well. Sister McFadden, a senior missionary from Utah, USA, performed a beautiful piece with her violin whilst accompanied on the piano by a nonmember.

The evening concluded with a

gathering in the chapel for the final scores and a testimony meeting. People shared in both the Chinese and English languages how the gospel of Jesus Christ had blessed their lives. Closing remarks were then

## The Cage at Tate

By Stefan Rossbach

An interactive artwork that was on display at the Tate Modern museum in London was created by Church members Matthew Hunt and Stefan Rossbach.

The display was part of the Tate Exchange initiative, which enables Tate to invite external organisations and individuals to display work on Level 5 of the new extension to the museum, the Blavatnik Building. The inaugural year of this new initiative was 2016/17, and it had ‘Exchange’ as its overall theme.

Brother Hunt and Brother Rossbach designed and built a cage-like structure which worked in such a way that visitors who entered the cage could only

get out again if someone else—another visitor—would enter the cage and take their place. The idea was to create an occasion for interesting encounters between strangers, who would exchange their ‘freedoms’ as one enters the cage in order to release the other.

Over 4,000 visitors saw the display at Tate in April 2017, and hundreds of them went through the cage, learning that freedom is a collective achievement where people gain and maintain their freedom as a result of the sacrifices that they make for each other.

Brother Rossbach summarised the expe-

rience: “Our cage attracted a lot of attention. We witnessed many moving encounters between strangers, who fully understood and appreciated the dynamics of the cage. Those who were released would express their gratitude, shake hands with





their liberators, and sometimes even exchange contact details! A typical question we were frequently asked was: ‘What will happen to the last person in the cage when the museum closes for the day?’ This, of course, was the key question. Who will bail everyone out at the end? Who will pay the price for the freedom and the agency we enjoy? The question reveals the underlying spiritual dimension of the project: at its limit, it points towards redemption and Christ’s Atonement, it points towards the Saviour. It was a coincidence that the work was on display just before the Easter weekend, but it made perfect sense.” ■

## New Area Church History Advisers

By Arnold Jones

### Welcome to our new area Church history advisers, Elder and Sister Feil!

Elder and Sister Lear have returned to the United States and completed their mission. They have been a wonderful support to us over the past two years, and we wave goodbye to them with a mixture of emotions—sad to see them leave yet delighted that they have completed honourable missions.

Elder and Sister Feil, pronounced ‘File,’ come from Sandy in Utah, USA. They have seven children: six girls and one boy. Five of their children are married, and they have been blessed with 21 grandchildren. The most recent arrival was this past June with their 15th grandson to go along with their six granddaughters. All the children live close by, so they typically see each other at least once each month for a family dinner and to celebrate any birthdays that occur in the month. What a great tradition!

Elder Feil was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Sister Feil was raised in Maryland. They met at a singles ward in Washington, D.C., while Brother Feil was in the military. They

married in the Salt Lake Temple. Elder Feil worked in sales, and Sister Feil was blessed to be able to stay home to help raise the children.

We look forward to serving with Elder and Sister Feil and in particular to the day when they will be able to make a visit to the UK. There will be a warm welcome waiting for them.

Elder and Sister Feil have extended their greetings as they begin their service as area Church history advisers for the Europe Area. In that greeting, they expressed their love and appreciation for all the work that has been done and promised to do their best to help us in any way they can. ■



# How I Found My Great-Great-Grandfather

By Kieren Cassey

One side of my family history has always been a great mystery. My father's side has a lot of names. Due to my father and uncle, we can trace his side of the family back to the 1100s. But my mother's side has always had an air of mystery to it.

Currently, I am the only active child from my parents' marriage, and no one from my mother's side is a member of the Church. This makes getting the names to the temple from my mother's side a task completely up to me. I have often asked my maternal grandfather for some details of his grandparents, but the answer he would always give is, "I don't know." There have been years of searching. No records. No information. Nothing. I have asked multiple times, and I have even asked different relatives to ask him just in case he was being difficult for me. Either way, same answer. Then I went to FSY.

FSY had a real focus on family history work, and during our lunch-times, I took it upon myself to get on the computers and research my family history. I was still looking for those elusive great-great-grandparents.

On arriving back home, I got in contact with my mother once more and asked her to ask my grandad one more time. I hoped something would be different after all these years of

chasing him. About a week later, she called me.

She told me that she had contacted my uncle who lives in Ireland again (I had asked him many times before too). He told my mother that a few months previously, a lady whose surname was Mckenna (my mother's maiden name) contacted him and told him that they were related. Those discussions helped to unearth a whole host of information about my great-grandfather Patrick Mckenna—my grandfather's father. It was quite a story since my great-grandfather was raised by many different aunts and uncles and subsequently didn't know who his parents actually were.

Shortly thereafter, my mother went over to Ireland to meet my uncle, and together they explored the graves and talked with quite a few people from Trim.

After so many years of searching, I finally had some information. So I asked my mother, "Where did this lady live?" Sheffield! I was amazed—I live in Sheffield! As a Scot, I came to study at the university and work. She lived less than 10 miles away from me. I immediately called her. A few days later, I went over to her home, met her family (my family) and immediately had about 30 new names to take to the temple.

I never thought I would find these members of my family. I am especially amazed that she lived so close to the only person who could do the work for her ancestors. God's work really is truly marvelous. ■

## First Member Fireside Inside UK Prison

By Yvonne Runcie-McMahon

Recently, the first Latter-day Saint fireside inside a UK prison was held. Twenty-one Church members attended the evening, initially meeting in the Hindley Multi-Faith Chapel of Her Majesty's Prison and Young Offenders Institution. Previously, all managing chaplains had to be Anglican, but more recently, the opportunity for all faiths—as well as people of faith with no particular religious affiliation—to

be represented has become available throughout the UK.

During the fireside, a short presentation was made by a prisoner named Marcus. He was humble and candid in his attitude towards his sentence and relayed to the visitors how he came to be at HMPYOI Hindley. He explained how he had been trained as a "Listener" by the Samaritans and how he is able to help other prisoners

during times of crisis. He hopes that upon his release in the near future, he will be able to continue offering such support by returning to work with Chaplain Jay Marshall as part of the chaplaincy team.

Elder Roy Tunncliffe, the Area Seventy attending, also spoke of an example from Matthew 25:42–45:

“For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

“I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

“Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

“Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.”

He went on to say that there is always hope for Heavenly Father’s children. We as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can be disciples of Christ in the darkest of places to bring light, hope and purpose for the future to those we serve in prison.

A short tour of the prison was made by the visitors before everyone returned for a final presentation on the chaplain application process, which was shared by Anglican chaplain Alan Pierce-Jones. He commented that if there was one thing we could take away from our visit, it would be “to pray for us as a

chaplaincy team.” He went on to commend members of the Church for their Christlike attitude and experiences in ministering to others, making them ideal candidates for a chaplaincy role, which involves compassion and listening to the needs of others.

Church member Clare observed: “I think many were surprised at the peace felt in that small chapel as we gathered together to hear about the opportunities available and how we could play our part. I’m grateful for all the work that Jay and his colleagues have done in laying a foundation to create better links between the Church and the prison service. I’m sure it will be a rewarding and enriching journey and perhaps even break down some barriers and perceptions around who we are, what we believe and what we do.”

Graham Gifford, Liverpool England Stake director of public affairs, commented: “It was an interesting night, and Jay has given us lots to think about

in terms of what we can do to support the chaplaincy work. The Saviour said, ‘I was in prison, and ye came unto me’ [Matthew 25:36]. As members of the Church, we have a wonderful opportunity here to extend our ministering skills to serve the people who live and work within our local prisons.”

All this was made possible through the patient work of Jay Marshall, Latter-day Saint managing chaplain and member of Wigan Ward. Jay has served as prison officer and senior officer since 1995 at various establishments around the country.

In 2015, Jay transferred over to the chaplaincy team at Hindley and became the managing chaplain. Jay oversees all aspects of religion, welfare support to both staff and prisoners, and family engagement at the prison. He has been a member of the Church all his life and served in many different callings. ■

*Please contact Jay at  
jason.marshall@hmps.gsi.gov.uk  
for more details on positions available.*

## The Bardic Circle at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff

By Jill Morgan

**O**n Friday 10 August 2018, emeritus professor Ronald Dennis of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, USA, was inducted into the Gorsedd of Bards, the “Bardic Circle” at the National Eisteddfod<sup>1</sup> in Cardiff, Wales. Becoming a member of the

Gorsedd of Bards is a great honour awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to the Welsh language, literature, and culture.

While working on his family history many years ago, Professor Dennis came upon a pamphlet written by

his great-great-grandfather Captain Dan Jones in support of his faith. Dan Jones had been born near Halkyn in North Wales. He emigrated to America and, while a steamboat captain on the Mississippi River, became converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1843. He returned to his native Wales in 1845 and became a renowned missionary and prolific writer in defence of the faith.

Professor Dennis, a professor of Portuguese, learnt the Welsh language in order to translate the pamphlet and

further pursue his research. This has led to the publication of 14 books and the website [welshmormon.byu.edu](http://welshmormon.byu.edu), making him the foremost historian of 19th-century Welsh Latter-day Saints and opening up access to an important part of early Church history, for scholars and family historians alike. ■

#### NOTE

1. "The National Eisteddfod of Wales is one of Europe's most respected cultural festivals and an icon of Welsh arts and culture. The Eisteddfod is a competitive festival which encompasses all aspects of the arts in Wales: music, dance, drama, literature and fine art" (Betsan Williams, "Partying Druid-style," *The Guardian*, Aug. 1, 2007, [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)).



## A Journey of Faith from China to Ireland and Back Home Again

By John Connolly

*When Sister Vivian Jiang accepted the gospel in Ireland, she had no idea that one day she would interpret for Sister Wendy Nelson, wife of the future President of the Church.*

Since the turn of the century, many of the people joining the Church in Ireland have been from other countries, reflecting a trend found elsewhere in Europe.

Some of these good people eventually leave Ireland and continue to serve the Lord faithfully in their home nations and elsewhere.

One of these is Vivian Jiang, who was born and raised in Shanghai, China. Her parents did not come from any religious background, and her view is that she really had no solid spiritual foundation before her conversion.

However, in her own words, "Somehow I always believed and felt there was a God. I felt that His presence was somewhere watching over me".

In 2001, Vivian arrived in Ireland to study at the Waterford Institute of Technology. There she met the missionaries when one of her friends Jamie Ng invited them all to dinner. She found it curious when these two young men introduced themselves by the name "Elder".

Vivian takes up the story:

"They explained to me their message was on the purpose of life and

the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What really touched my heart was their invitation to read passages from the Book of Mormon and then to ask God through prayer to know if it was true.

"Shortly thereafter, I was invited to attend Sunday meetings. The people I met, the Ryan family and others, were very kind and friendly. It was a small group of members back then. They rented a tiny house for Sunday meetings and weekday activities, yet the feeling of love among us was really overwhelming. A few months later, at the end of August 2003, I finally got to join the Church. Getting baptised in the river in Tramore was just so cool!"

Vivian returned to Shanghai in 2005. In 2015, the current Church President, Russell M. Nelson (then President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles), and his wife, Wendy, visited China. Whilst there, they attended Sunday meetings at the Shanghai Branch. Somewhat to her surprise, as she was not the only bilingual person in the congregation and felt there might be others whose English was more fluent, the stake president asked Vivian to act as interpreter for Sister Nelson. She still feels that this was both a rare privilege and a great blessing and wonders if perhaps this was a reward for her service in the Church over the years. Apart from being the stake Young Women president for some time, she

also helped local Church leaders organise annual nationwide youth camps and taught early morning seminary for nearly half a decade.

Vivian now lives in California, USA, and is married to Philip. They had a long-distance relationship for about five years. He was living in the San Francisco Bay Area whilst she was still in Shanghai. They got married towards the end of 2016. In the early stages of this new chapter in her life, Vivian reflects on those special times she spent with the faithful members of the Waterford Branch.

“I think because of their love, I felt a strong presence of God. I had a strong feeling that I knew this Church was true.” ■



## 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 that you need to download and then upload with your submission. This keeps everything in one place, and with one click, you can send

all attachments to the editing team in one go.

The *Ensign* UK inserts are for your stories shared in your own voice. 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 (**facebook.com/LDSUK**) or by email at **UKIEnsign@ldschurch.org**. ■

## Call for Articles

The *Liahona* magazine is looking for submissions from young adults! If you have a story to share, please submit it at **liahona.lds.org**. The magazine is also looking for young adults (ages 18 to 30) worldwide who are interested in giving feedback and helping with the young adult planning team. Please email **liahona@ldschurch.org** with the subject line “YA Feedback” if you’re interested. ■