

# UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

## AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

### Who Do You Think You Are?

Elder Tom-Atle Herland, Norway

Area Seventy

In many countries around the world, the documentary, “Who Do You Think You Are?” has both fascinated and engaged viewers and participants. Many celebrities joined the series and they have been emotionally touched as stories of their ancestors have been found, researched and presented. This fascination and being emotionally touched is interesting, especially in light of a gospel perspective. Without aid from competent genealogists, these celebrities would not have had such a powerful experience.

Who do you think you are? Who are your ancestors? I am the child of converts to the Church and to the gospel. My father and mother joined the Church in October 1971. In February 1972, my father baptized me after I had turned 8 years old. He began doing family history research early and has done family history work for many thousands of our ancestors. My father continues to work on his family history, even though he is 83 years old. I have just begun finding names on my mother’s side of the family. She died in 1998 and though much work was already accomplished, there is still more work to be done. My goal is to see my name as often as my father’s or my wife’s name on the temple ordinance cards when I go to the temple. But if I am to succeed in this, I must get help, just as we saw in the documentary, “Who Do You Think You Are?” My wife—a very eager genealogist—helps me find names. Without her help, progress would have been very slow. If you are like me and many others, find someone to help you with this work.

You will then accomplish more, you will see that your ancestors are found, and that the temple work of your own family is done. It feels wonderful to do temple work. It is extra special when I go through the temple for one of my own ancestors whom I have worked to find, or I have read about.

President Nelson gave an amazing talk during the April 2018 general conference. In his talk he said something very interesting which has mattered a great deal to me since, *“Nothing opens the heavens quite like the combination of increased purity, exact obedience, earnest seeking, daily feasting on the words of Christ in the Book of Mormon, and regular time committed to temple and family history work.”*<sup>1</sup> Let us follow the prophet. Let us take our ancestors to the temple.

Over the past few decades, there has been a strong growth in the construction of new temples. With the increasing access to temples, it is crucial that you and I go there often. A faithful woman in the Church came to me once when I served as a stake president and said that it had been a long time since she had been to

the temple. She had mixed feelings about going there. I told her this was not a problem. I knew others who had shared this feeling. I asked if she would join us on one of the weeklong trips from Norway to the Stockholm Sweden Temple, but just participate in one session. “Just one session per day?” she asked very surprised. “No.”

I said, “Just one session during the entire week! Identify the day you feel most attracted to the temple, and just attend one session that day. The other days, you can go on walks around the temple and do things which will make you feel close to Christ.”

She did so and this was the beginning of a change for her and the relationship she had with the temple.

Who can help you find your ancestors? What can you do to come regularly to the temple?

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). ■

#### NOTES

1. Russell M. Nelson, “Revelation for the Church, Revelation for our Lives,” *Ensign*, May 2018, 95, emphasis added.



Elder  
Tom-Atle Herland

## LOCAL PAGES

### Royal British Legion Awards

By Jeremy Kay

When serving as a grenadier guard, Brother Barry Kay’s duties included being posted to Egypt and guarding Buckingham Palace,

Kensington Palace, Windsor Castle and the Bank of England. Along with Sister Pam Kay, who holds a British Empire Medal, and Sister Tania Cains-Howarth

of the Chesterfield Ward, they attended the Royal British Legion awards ceremony on Thursday 28 March at Haig House in Chesterfield. The event was attended by representatives of many groups including veterans; air, sea and army cadets; bikers and many others involved in the 2018 Poppy Appeal.

Chesterfield Ward collected donations at the Tesco store for that Poppy Appeal, raising its highest ever amount of £10,768 over the two-week campaign. More than 305 hours of effort were contributed by 34 members and friends, working in shifts over 12-hour days. Many of the knitted poppies that adorned the Chesterfield Town Hall were produced and donated by sisters from the ward's Relief Society. Chesterfield's



**Barry & Pam Kay with the certificate of appreciation awarded to Church members.**



**The certificate and letter of appreciation awarded to Church members.**

beautiful and unique wreath centre-piece was specially created by artist Brother Simon Bagshaw to commemorate the centenary of the armistice.

Bishop David Lawrance commented, "The kindness of the people of Chesterfield has been truly inspiring. As a congregation, we are really pleased to help this great cause, raising the bar by collecting more than ever before since our first involvement in 2013. Thank you for every penny and every minute donated by all those involved. Charity is the pure love of Christ and this is one way we can truly show love for, and share with, others."

Sister Tania Cairns-Howarth was one of the 95 less-active members who were invited to help with the collection. She, along with her non-member husband, Andrew, donated more than 30 hours to the campaign. Fifteen less-active members and nonmembers helped, which relieved the time involvement for busy ward members and leaders. This campaign has proved a great way to minister to less-active members, by inviting them to assist in a cause which means so much to so many. ■



**Sister Tania Cairns-Howarth and her husband, Andrew, at the Chesterfield Town Hall on Remembrance Sunday.**



**Brother Ian Geddes with certificate and special badge.**

## Daughter Inspires Father to Achieve 50 Donation Award

By Linda Beverley

It was when Ian saw how many pints of blood were used to help his young daughter Sky, and the other children in the hospital ward, that he decided to be a blood donor. So, at age 40, Ian began donating as much as three pints of blood annually.

A certificate and special badge were presented to Brother Ian Geddes of the Buchan Ward, Aberdeen Stake, at the awards ceremony dinner hosted by the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service to mark his remarkable 50th blood donation.

The certificate includes the text, "In recognition of your generosity and commitment . . . the patients who receive your blood cannot thank you personally, so on their behalf, thank you." Each pint of blood can save or improve the lives of up to three people.

Brother Geddes and his wife, Elayne, currently serve as youth Sunday School teachers in their ward and are always actively involved in giving service whenever and wherever it is needed. Members of the ward sent messages of support and congratulations to Ian. ■

## A Missing Piece of Me

By Julia Calvert

For some months I'd experienced the feeling of missing something. It wasn't a feeling of "I forgot something", it was deeper. I thought long and hard about what it could be and came up with a plan; it was to find a hobby and try and see if that would help me feel at ease.

Discouragingly, whatever hobby I started I could never finish and that was hard to deal with. The missing feeling would return, and I knew what I was doing wasn't going to fill the empty void. I tried to occupy my mind by thinking of

something else I could do to keep myself busy, but the feeling was always there in the back of my mind.

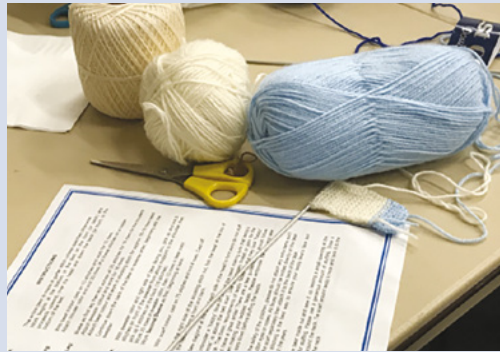
I told my husband and we both struggled to understand it. Was it something I needed to do? Was it something that my children needed? I tried to make sense of it, but I just couldn't figure out what I was missing. The confusion at times led me to tears; I didn't know how to make this feeling go away.

One evening my bishop visited my husband and me at our home. Towards the end of his visit, I told him what I had been feeling for the past few months and was surprised at the answer. In the conversation, one thing my bishop quoted really

stood out, "We are not earthly beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having an earthly experience." (Attributed to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, French philosopher, 1881–1955.)

We discussed this and concluded that the missing feeling may never leave; earth is our temporal home, and we yearn for our spiritual home where we can be with our Heavenly Parents and our Saviour. I never thought about it that way before. Could it be that my spirit was missing my heavenly home? Was I missing my Heavenly Parents and my Saviour? Was that what I needed to hear? Is that what my Heavenly Father wanted me to know? I believe it was. To my absolute surprise the very next day, the missing feeling had disappeared!

We have busy lives and our minds are drawn to many things. I have two small children and am expecting a third, so my life gets pretty busy. But, at times we need to slow down and remember that we are all children of our Heavenly Father and we have a heavenly home. ■



## Relief Society Birthday Celebrated by Helping Others

By Carole Burden

The Billingham England Stake celebrated the Relief Society's birthday in March this year with an evening of service in behalf of the Blue Light Babies charity.

It felt exciting and so good to be unitedly working together to provide items for worthwhile causes, knowing that every item would be carefully washed, sealed in a bag, and given with love to someone who would need and appreciate it.

Sisters could choose to work at any of four stations, each manned by one or two "champions"—sisters ready to teach, explain and support.

At one station, sisters carefully and securely sewed items, including zips, beads, buttons, bells, keys, etc., on to knitted or sewn twiddle muffs for those living with dementia. There is a constant waiting list for these much-appreciated visual, tactile and sensory stimulators.

At a second station, small baby

blankets were knitted and crocheted for carrying in ambulances. They are used, along with tiny hats, to warm brand-new babies born in unusual circumstances.

Colourful little trauma teddies were knitted at the third station, ready to be slipped into drawstring sleeping bags to be carried by traffic police. They are used to bring comfort and reassurance to little ones caught up in awful circumstances.



At the fourth station, beautiful felt-fabric hearts were made and decorated for inclusion in a local hospital's comfort packs. These are given to children with parents in end-of-life care. Many stories are told of the comfort that such items bring.

Sisters were generous in donating not only their time and skills but also fabric, wool and items for the twiddle

muffs. There was something everyone could do. Hot chocolate was sipped, and homemade cookies nibbled between stitches. Everyone enjoyed being together. Some sisters learned how to knit and crochet, going home that evening with a new skill and a firm determination to make something useful. Many sisters happily continue to knit, make and donate. ■



## Trusting my patriarchal blessing

By Mitchell Greengrass

When I was 16 years old, I received my patriarchal blessing. I remember initially being very excited to receive it. However, after reading through the paper copy a few weeks later I became a little disappointed. I remember thinking, "It's so generic and vague" and, "I bet the patriarch says these things to everyone".

But as the years have passed, I have discovered that my patriarchal blessing is neither generic nor vague. The patriarch does not say the same thing to everyone because the words of the blessing are not his; they are from a loving Heavenly Father who knows us individually and perfectly.

Is my patriarchal blessing really specific revelation for my life? In my blessing it states that "I must choose, but I would serve a mission." As I grew up and began to drift away from the Church in certain aspects of my life, those words didn't mean much to me. I was faced with a very real and unavoidable decision; leave the Church and live the life that I was heading towards or do a spiritual U-turn by planting both feet firmly in the gospel and giving up my own desires to serve a mission.

I prayed to Heavenly Father and told Him that, if I found out the Church was true, I would give up my

sins and serve a mission for Him. But if I did not receive an answer, I would leave the Church and move on with my life. I was completely serious about this and fully expected to receive an answer.



I started diligently studying, and willingly humbled myself before God. After a few weeks of effort, and making significant changes in my life, I received an undeniable witness that Jesus is the Christ, Joseph Smith was His chosen prophet and that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does indeed contain the fulness of the gospel. Like King Lamoni's father in the book of Mormon, I was willing to give up all my sins to know God (See Alma 22:18), and He blessed me with an undeniable witness of the truth.

Throughout my teenage years I had trained to sing classically. I slowly came to love music, exploring different genres and playing in various rock and pop bands. As much as I enjoyed music, I did not think that it was a practical career option. I always

thought it would be difficult to raise a family whilst pursuing a musical career.

However, three months into my mission, whilst washing up the dishes in my apartment, I began singing some of the classical songs I had used for my Grade 8 vocal exam. This was strange as I had not even thought about classical singing since entering the mission field. As I sang, the words of my patriarchal blessing came to my mind, "Develop your talents, especially your talent for music." My heart suddenly filled with joy, the Spirit rushed over me and I knew that the Lord wanted me to study music.

However, when I returned home, I began to seriously doubt my singing abilities. When I tried to sing classically, I felt that my voice was nothing like what it had been before my mission. It felt like a tired old car. I thought to myself, "You won't be able to get into any of the music



universities. You may as well not waste your money on the auditions.”

Discouraged and severely lacking self-confidence I decided to review my patriarchal blessing. As I read, I remembered the direction which the Lord had given me on my mission, “Develop your talents, particularly develop your talents for music.” I committed to give my auditions my very best efforts; I would soon find out if I was not good enough.

As I committed to rehearsing and training my voice on a daily basis a much deeper, richer tone began to bloom. My range increased and I found myself singing with a voice which was vastly better than I had before my mission. I continued to diligently work, audition and pray for strength, always keeping the Lord at the centre of my life. I was humbled when I received unconditional offers from each of the four universities to which I had applied. Through the process I realised that it wasn't about me—singing was about developing my talents for the benefits of others.

I am delighted to begin my studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in September 2019. I never would have imagined, after stepping off the plane from my mission, that I would receive an opportunity to study at such a prestigious college.

The Lord's ways are much higher and much wiser than ours. Through every experience in my life I am constantly reminded that God is at the helm. Patriarchal blessings are true indicators of God's plans for us. They are unique and contains specific council for our lives. If we choose to “be not faithless, but believing” (John 20:27), every single blessing promised will be fulfilled. Through Christ we can become who we are destined to be. God loves us and is aware of our lives, perfectly, specifically and individually. ■

## Theme for FSY 2019

By Chelsea Craven

*The theme for 'For the Strength of Youth' (FSY) 2019 is John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."*

**Directing Couple Allan and Colette Freed**  
Leeds Mission & Scotland session

We're looking forward to meeting you in Nottingham and we're grateful for your decision to join us. You'll have your own personal reasons for coming this year and your own individual story. We hope we learn more about you when we're together. Regardless of what's bringing you to FSY we're determined to help you draw as much strength from the week as possible. We have an incredible team of counsellors who'll create a unique environment designed to fuel your growth and to present you with opportunities to learn of, and deepen your faith in, Christ. We hope you'll choose to embrace the FSY environment and accept each invitation you receive to follow the Master. We're coming determined to make new friends. We're coming seeking answers. We'll be there with a determination to enjoy and to make

the most of the week. We want to learn more of Christ, and we want to figure out how we can love Him more than we already do. We invite you to join us on what promises to be a great week.

**Directing Couple Adrian and Jenny Bettridge**

Manchester Mission & Ireland session

Thank you for choosing to attend the Manchester Ireland session of FSY 2019. We're looking forward to meeting you in Nottingham and we're grateful for your decision to join us.

Never has there been a more exciting time to be alive, to be venturing into this world and to be making your mark. FSY is designed to help you on that journey, whoever you are and whatever background you come from. We invite you to join us for a fun-filled week with the opportunity to make great new friends, be spiritually nourished and better equipped for the journey of life ahead of you. We have an incredible







team of YSA counsellors. We're looking forward to learning together what the theme means and how it can help us in our everyday lives.

Our invitation to you is to come and see. Come and make new friends. Come and learn about Jesus Christ and why His teachings are so relevant to the world you live in today. Come and invest a week of your life in building up your spiritual strength. We are looking forward to enjoying this incredible week together at FSY. So please sign up and we look forward to seeing you in August!

*Isabella F.*

For me, FSY is a little bit of heaven on earth. Every year that I go, I grow closer to Christ and my testimony strengthens: FSY recharges my spiritual battery. The friends I make there are friends for life. Each and every person is so different, yet together, we are one big army gathering Israel and learning more about the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is so wonderful to be able to see that there are people just like me all over England with the same goals, standards, and love of the gospel. I'm so grateful for FSY and everything that it has taught me and continues to teach me.

*Nichola J.*

I love FSY. It's a very spiritually uplifting week with people who share the same standards as I do. I like hearing the choir because they sound amazing; they really invite the Spirit. It's great to see the different talents of those attending. There are a lot of youth who are very strong in the gospel and FSY helps me to see that. It is not just six days; there are many activities after FSY where you can meet up with friends you met there. I'm so grateful for FSY because I learn a lot. It can prepare you for the future, especially if you are considering going on a mission.



*Ethan S.*

At FSY I felt the Holy Ghost strongly; I met new friends and I could not have felt the Holy Ghost as strongly as I did without them. My faith grew at FSY. My testimony of the Saviour and my love for Him grew and I received an answer to a question I had been struggling with.

*Co-Organizer Counsellor, Felicity Dick*

This inspired programme feels to me like an extensive and transitional closure to my fulltime mission. By closure, I refer to the ability to reflect on the things I learnt whilst serving as a full-time missionary and being able to share and pass that on. Yet above all, not only did FSY teach me that my ministry forever continues on in my service to the Lord, but it allowed me to persist in seeking purpose and perhaps 'small missions' wherever I go. Through serving within the FSY programme I have been blessed with inspiring relationships that have been forever forged with youth who seek humble role models of those who have stood where they now stand, as well as other YSA and leaders, with a common commitment to serving and becoming more like our Master, Jesus Christ. ■

## Lizzie Thomas Edward: from Wales to the White House

By Jill Morgan

The Tabernacle Choir was first established in 1847, Welsh immigrants forming its nucleus and John Parry, from North Wales, was its first conductor.

Mary Elizabeth (Lizzie) Thomas was born in 1866, the youngest of four children born to stonemason Thomas and Sarah Thomas, who were both baptised in Wales. In the 1871 census the family were living in Swansea but only weeks later they left Liverpool on the *Wyoming*, bound for New York and then Salt Lake. By the 1870s, Salt Lake City was a well-established and fast-growing town, with a population of about 13,000, served by the transcontinental railroad. The Thomas family crossed to the west relatively quickly by train.

Lizzie showed an early aptitude for music: by the time she was 15 she was a member of the Tabernacle Choir and singing soprano with them. Lizzie also participated in historical events.

The Columbia Record Company was the first to record a large group of performers. Tabernacle Choir members had to stand in front of large flared horns that focused their sound into a recording device. It was a major challenge to place horns to pick up the sound of 300 voices. Soloists Lizzie Thomas Edward and Horace Ensign each stood with their faces literally in one of the horns. Six of the twelve recordings made were discarded due

to poor quality, but the experiment was considered a great success.

In 1892 Lizzie sang solo at the capstone ceremony for the Salt Lake Temple and then a year later at the temple's dedication.

Another historical event involved the president of the United States. Two hundred members of the Tabernacle Choir took a trip from Utah to the east coast in October 1911 to sing at the American Land and Irrigation Exposition in Madison Square Gardens. They gave four concerts a day for 10 days. But along the route they stopped in 25 other cities to give performances, including Washington D.C. United States President William H. Taft was scheduled to be away on the day the choir was in the city, but at the last minute it turned out that President Taft was at home. He, his wife and 50 guests requested the choir perform in the East Room of the White House. A programme was quickly put together. Soprano soloist Mrs. Lizzie Thomas Edward sang 'The Kiss' by Luigi Arditti.

Lizzie died 23 July 1936 in Salt Lake City, Utah, aged 70. She was survived by her husband of 45 years, John Taylor Edward, her foster daughter Margie, and several grandchildren. Her musical career had spanned 55 years, not only with the Tabernacle Choir but also as a chorister,



a music teacher, and a conductor of a women's choir. She was a soloist at more than 3,000 funerals as well as hundreds of musical performances. ■

## Miracles from Munich

By Jill Morgan

Mary Lawrence, of the Aylesbury Ward, has been a member of the Church and interested in family

history for more than 40 years. Mary's Ukrainian parents met at a displaced persons (DP) camp in Augsburg,

Germany at the end of World War II. She wanted to go to Augsburg, and Pfaffenhofen where her mother had been forced to work on a farm when she was only 18. The 'Iron Curtain', which had separated Eastern Europe from Western Europe, had prevented



access to family and other information. Even after a visit to the Ukraine in 2005, with much filling of forms, deciphering of gravestones with Cyrillic script, and questioning family members, it had not been possible for her to complete four generations of her family history.

This year she felt strongly that she must go, and her children helped her get there.

Finding information about the DP camp and forced-labour arrangements, in preparation for the trip, proved extremely difficult. There were literally hundreds of camps at the end of the war, including several near Augsburg. Emails to archives in both towns provided no helpful information.

Regardless, Mary booked tickets to Munich and arranged her accommodations, praying for help and inspiration, but anxious about how she could possibly find what she was looking for.

The first day, Mary felt impressed to go to Pfaffenhofen. Thinking the local tourist office might help her, she tried but couldn't find it but—she later discovered the building was being repaired and its sign had been removed!

After trudging unsuccessfully up and down the main square, she went into a bookshop. A very helpful assistant, who spoke excellent English, showed her a book which had a short paragraph about forced labourers working in the area during the war. More importantly, the assistant said the book's author, Reinhard Haiplik, lived locally, had been in the bookshop the previous day, and provided his phone number.

Attempts to find the tourist office had also paid off. The member of staff knew little English, but Mary managed to convey that she'd like to speak to Mr Haiplik. A phone call established that he would be happy to come along to the office. He spoke good English

and he was very pleased to tell Mary about her mother's likely experiences and to see her mother's photograph, taken in Pfaffenhoffen during the War.

Hardly believing that the next day would live up to first, the next morning Mary set off for Augsburg, praying for help and inspiration. Her first stop was at the local tourist office where she was given two possible DP locations. Mary was warned to expect very little, as both sites were now housing estates.

Mary selected Reesepark, which the United States Army had taken over in the post-war years. There were three long, tall buildings around a large, open central area—buildings resembling barracks. They now appeared to house artist studios and small businesses, but as it was a Saturday there was no one to ask for information. But another smaller building nearby was very busy, and enquiries revealed that the site was indeed an arts centre. They were holding a children's art day, and the director, Gerald Fiebig (who wouldn't normally work on the weekend), was present.

Gerald made time to talk to Mary, enough to confirm that the arts centre had once been a German barracks and then a DP camp. It had housed only Ukrainians (some 6,000 of them) and had been known as Somme, a word that had appeared on Mary's father's identity papers but had meant nothing to her until then.

They met again at the end of Gerald's working day. He told her he wished to document the history of the camp, as the old barracks were due for demolition in 2019. The information and photographs Mary could give him would contribute greatly. He also put Mary in touch with Canadian Roman Korol, who had lived at the camp for some years as a child and who posts information about the camp on a website—he is hoping to organise a reunion before the demolition.

Her second day had proved to be every bit as miraculous as her first. There were so many instances of Mary's prayers being answered. Family history research is about the places where people have lived as well as names and dates. Although Mary's efforts to find dates and names seem to be blocked, she feels closer to her parents by having been to places that were important in their lives. Her faith has been greatly strengthened by the answers she received to her prayers. ■

## New *Ensign* Article Submission Website

By Chelsea Craven

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

The website was created by Jason Watling after requests to make it easier to submit stories. 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. 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 <http://ensignsubmissions.co.uk>. If you have questions, contact us through the LDS UK Facebook page ([facebook.com/ChurchOfJesusChristUK](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchOfJesusChristUK)) or by email at [UKIEnsign@ChurchofJesusChrist.org](mailto:UKIEnsign@ChurchofJesusChrist.org).