

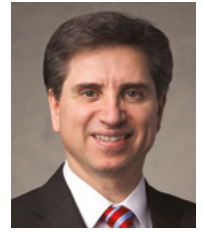
UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The Savior's Ministry and Our Ministry

Elder Massimo de Feo, Italy

First Counselor, Europe Area Presidency



Elder
Massimo
de Feo

At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of the Savior. We think of Him, we adore Him, we worship Him, and we ponder about what He did for us. Then when Easter comes, we remember Him again. We feel eternal gratitude for his Atonement and we happily and reverently celebrate His Resurrection.

As we think of the single events of the Savior's life, how do we focus more deeply on what happened between those most sacred events, His birth and His death? How do we celebrate His life, day in and day out, beyond just celebrating the single events that characterized the beginning and the end of His sacred mission on earth?

In His sermon to the Nephites, He taught: *"Ye know the things that ye must do . . . for the works which ye have seen me do that shall ye also do."*¹

The only true way to celebrate Christ is to follow Him in the ministry, day after day, not only at Christmas or Easter.

As I learn more about the Savior's ministry and try to emulate Him, I find that the three most important elements of His ministry are: *how He loved; how He served; and how He endured.*

Loving others is the beginning of our ministry as it was the beginning of the Savior's ministry. He came because He loved us and loved the Father more than Himself. Therefore, we show our love for the Savior and celebrate His ministry when we minister to all children of God with love, not because we have received an assignment as ministering brothers and sisters, but because we sincerely

love others as He did. We don't minister by assignment, but by love.

Serving in the kingdom is a crucial element of our ministry to establish the Church, administer the ordinances of the gospel, and allow all children of God to return to Him. The Savior served tirelessly in the kingdom that He organized, through the authority of the priesthood, showing how important it is to serve in the Church. Serving is the heart of our ministry as it was the core of the Savior's ministry. He started with the ordinance of baptism to fulfill the covenant through the proper authority, and then called His disciples to the ministry to serve tirelessly until the end, to establish the kingdom of God on earth.

Enduring to the end is the element of our ministry that ultimately shows our true faith. The Lord never quit, He never stopped, He never withdrew, or refused to serve. Of course, even the Savior had His moments when He felt alone or abandoned by all around Him. He was tempted but resisted. He became unpopular, mocked, and was insulted, but never stopped focusing on His eternal mission and never asked to be released from His sacred assignment. He gave to the Father the true sign of His faith by enduring to the end. Only then did He say: *'It is finished.'*²

How will we show our faith when we are tempted, tired, or mocked? When the influences of the world shake our lives, or when we are confronted with the storms of illnesses, or emotional or temporal difficulties?

Will our faith keep us strong? Will we endure like the Savior?

President Russell M. Nelson said: *"A commitment to endure to the end means that we will not ask for a release from a call to serve. It means that we will persevere in pursuit of a worthy goal. It means that we will never, no never, give up on a loved one who has strayed. And it means that we will always cherish our eternal relationships, even through difficult days of disease, disability, or death."*³

As we try to emulate the Savior's ministry, we will find power for our lives. As we *love, serve and endure* as He did, we will draw the power of the Savior himself into our lives.

As we minister as He did, His birth, death, and Resurrection will become more meaningful to us. We will come to realize that Christmas and Easter are not a *one-day commemoration*, but an *every-day celebration* of the life of the Savior.

Every day will be a new spiritual birth for us, even a new spiritual resurrection, as our natural man⁴ dies to be born and to live again in Christ.

May we celebrate Christmas by following Him in His sacred ministry to become more and more like Him every day of our life, one day at a time. ■

NOTES

1. 3 Nephi 27:21.
2. John 19:30.
3. Russell M. Nelson "Gratitude for the Mission and Ministry of Jesus Christ" [Brigham Young University Devotional, August 18, 1998], speeches.byu.edu.
4. See Mosiah 3:19.

Scottish MP's Early Day Motion

By Harry Burnside

The bishop of East Kilbride Ward, Alan McArthur, decided to hold a fireside in November 2018 to celebrate the chapel's opening 50 years earlier. Local dignitaries Colette Stevenson, deputy provost for East Kilbride, and Linda Fabiani, member of the Scottish Parliament for East Kilbride, attended. And, unexpectedly, Dr. Lisa Cameron MP for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow also attended.

The fireside consisted of talks and a slide showing the work the ward had done in the area over the previous 50 years. Members were asked to present pictures and musical items. Several rooms in the chapel were used for displays of members' family histories and the missions some had served, Church history, missionary material, and service projects undertaken through Helping Hands and other community work.

Among its many contributions to the community were: helping prepare

75,000 bags of dehydrated food for Rise Against Hunger, to be sent to famine-stricken countries; assisting the Rotary Club in tidying up the war memorial garden in Cumbernauld; and fundraising for the Royal British Legion through selling poppies. Additionally, the ward's Relief Society continues to liaise with Women's Aid in East Kilbride to provide help, donate items and visit care homes in the town (something it has done for the previous ten years). On May 11th the ward helped in the stake's Helping Hands day in Kirkintilloch. The Church has laid a wreath at the East Kilbride Memorial Service on Remembrance Sunday.

Both Colette Stevenson and Linda Fabiani spoke at the fireside. Dr. Lisa Cameron was very impressed and said that she intended to present an early day motion to the House of Commons, which she did on 12 December 2018; it was entitled



Remembrance Day wreath

50 Years of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in East Kilbride.

Its text reads: "That this House recognises the work of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in East Kilbride for over 50 years of service since Elder John Longden, an assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, performed the dedication while the church was led by Branch President Frank Sommerville; acknowledges the community spirit and dedication that they have shown; further acknowledges the hospitality



Taken at the fireside with Linda Fabiani and Collette Stevenson, 2nd and 3rd from left on front row and Harry Burnside standing beside them on the right.



Dr. Cameron with our bishop, Alan McArthur, and our Relief Society president, Ishbel Munro, on 21st April with the framed Early Day Motion.



Some ward members at Rise Against Hunger and Peace Garden Events

shown to all at their fireside events; and wishes them all the best in their endeavours.”

On Easter Sunday in April 2019, Dr. Lisa Cameron MP attended the sacrament meeting at the ward to

present a framed copy of her early day motion. She stayed for the second hour as well. ■

'I Have A Voice Too!' Charity is Honoured

By Andrea James

Something rather uplifting has been happening in the backwaters of Buckinghamshire. At the end of March 2019, Aylesbury Ward



72-old member Diane Hands was chosen by a lucky dip to cut the tape to open the National Paralympic Heritage Trust's display in Stoke Mandeville Stadium near Aylesbury. She shared

this honour with John Harris, a Paralympic medallist in several sports.

Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire is known throughout the world as a centre of excellence for spinal victims; the Heritage Trust was set up to honour and celebrate this excellence. The National Spinal Injuries Centre was established in 1943 by Dr Sir Ludwig "Poppa" Guttman CBE FRS, at the request of the British government. When the centre opened on 1 February 1944, Guttman was appointed its director

(a position he held until 1966). He believed that sport provided effective therapy for injured military personnel that helped them build up physical strength and self-respect.

Diane was invited to participate in the lucky dip because she runs the local charity, 'I Have A Voice Too!' (IHAVT), which provides educational drama experiences for people with learning disabilities. To mark the occasion, IHAVT performed a short play, *Dr Guttman's Journey – Germany to Stoke Mandeville*, in the Olympic Lodge at Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

IHAVT grew through Diane's desire to make a difference when she saw the lack of opportunity for people with



learning disabilities over the age of 21. In 2012 and 2013 she was part of a training programme with Landmark Worldwide. Here, she both gave training to others and received it. What motivated her was the challenge of setting up a project that would make a difference, and so IHAVT was born.

Diane was adamant that there should be no auditions and no exclusion on grounds of capability. Through contacts in Landmark Worldwide, she recruited a pair of theatre professionals prepared to work with a group of people with various forms and degrees of learning disability.

The professionals decided to show the group a Swedish folktale called *The Christmas Mission*. After a couple of months of practice, the group performed this short play to a small audience of friends, relatives and care staff. It was very well received but most enlightening were the responses of the actors: “They treated us like real actors”, “I’ve always wanted to perform on stage and now I’ve done it”, and “When can we do this again?”

Responses from care staff over the ensuing weeks and months, indicated that the learning experience had entered into the private lives of the actors: “The performance was weeks ago, and she still remembers all her lines perfectly. She’s so much calmer.” Another said, “He’s quieter and more relaxed since being part of your production.”

Under the current director, Sebastian Lister, IHAVT actors have performed a number of productions including an adaptation of *Treasure Island* from the novel by R. L. Stevenson and a theatrical collage about time travel. On market days



in Aylesbury, they have also been involved in charity collections on its streets and promoting the opening of the National Paraplegic Heritage Trust.

Sebastian Lister does not give the IHAVT actors scripts to work from. Instead he involves them in writing them. He believes this enables the actors to put their voice into the work. In doing this he has found that some in the group have the potential to work as professional actors.

IHAVT was also invited to perform at the opening of the county museum’s Community Voices Exhibition; once more it received very positive feedback.

As a result of these recent experiences IHAVT may be asked to perform at the flame-lighting ceremony in Stoke Mandeville Stadium for the 2020 Olympic Games.

Every year an IHAVT group undertakes a sponsored circular walk from Aylesbury Market Square of over four miles. Last year the group asked, “Could we go further?” The group more recently chose to walk almost six miles. Some weeks ago, Diane was asked by IHAVT

actors if they could do the same walk this year. Now they’re asking for the sponsorship forms. They also want to host a charity dinner and auction, something successfully done the previous year. The enthusiasm from the group is uplifting.

Diane’s vision is to form an academy of drama where all aspects of performing arts are offered, enabling people with learning disabilities to become the people they really want to be.

IHAVT actors meet every week in the Aylesbury chapel, enjoying their Saturday afternoon drama activity, bonding and making new friends. Bishop David Day has been delighted to facilitate this, and several other ward members are now involved, both in acting and in making costumes and props. ■

Watford Stake Hosts School Heritage Boxes

By Andrea James

Sister Margaret Montgomery, working in the family history centre from Watford Ward, Watford Stake was approached earlier this year by Marisela Gonzalez-Brew, a Spanish subject leader and international projects coordinator based at Holywell Primary School, Watford—just around the corner from

the chapel. Marisela asked for the opportunity to display a project about heritage boxes that she was organising.

Heritage boxes are part of an Erasmus+ project called ‘Who do we think we are?’ (Erasmus+ is a European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport). Marisela thought



A box showing family treasures

More family treasures

of the idea in February 2018. She and colleagues from Bromet, Oxhey Wood, Hollywell and Parkgate primary schools in Watford, and The British School of Tenerife and CEIP Victoria Díez in Hornachuelos-Córdoba in Spain, wrote a proposal and applied for Erasmus+ funding to develop the project.

This was the first time that Erasmus+ had offered funding for exchange trips for primary school children. They received an answer to their proposal in August 2018; heritage boxes funding was provided for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 school years.

The intent of heritage boxes is to encourage primary-age children to search for family photos, speak to different generations of their families to obtain stories, and compile as much as possible within a shoebox to display to others. As well as capturing family history for posterity, the project enabled young people from migrant backgrounds to better understand their heritage and to enhance their own skills in media creation, potentially also boosting their employability. It also sought to improve

intergenerational connections and community cohesion—both within ethnic and linguistic subgroups and the wider community.

Marisela was delighted to know that she could use the Watford chapel on two different dates in May and June for displaying the children's work.

Margaret Montgomery advertised these events across the stake. She also ensured family history specialists would be available to talk to visitors, as well as full-time missionaries to answer any questions about the Church; she also organised refreshments.

She said, "The last Saturday in June started slow, but had a fast and furious finish with families coming in to see their children's boxes and visit others.

"We looked up a couple of obscure countries to see if there was any information available for several people, and there were two very keen families (who were related) looking up their families and we found information that has given them the 'finding their families' bug.

"The teachers from the schools presented me with a huge bunch of flowers, and a card that read . . .

"Dear Margaret and team,

"From our four schools in Watford we wanted to express our gratitude to you.

"You have made possible the exhibition in the way we wanted it to be.

"It has not been only the space—which is great—but your kindness and support which have made the show a very positive experience for all colleagues, families and children.

"Many thanks!

"Oxhey Wood School, Bromet School, Parkgate School, and Holywell School"

One teacher said, "I had a priceless moment when a child in my class . . . was holding the census in his hands from a hundred years ago of the people who lived in his house . . . that kind of link has been really good for them to think, 'Wow, this was in my house'."

This project provided a perfect opportunity for members of the Church to share their passion for family history. Sister Margaret Montgomery's action in enabling the project, and making welcome the school children and their families, has gone a long way in building good relations with the community. ■

Best Education Project Award

By Pat Wilkinson

Claire Holcombe, a member of Cardiff Ward, received an enormous surprise one day when Welsh singing superstar Katherine Jenkins walked into Thornhill Primary School where Claire is a teacher and the school music coordinator. Katherine had come to inform Claire and the schoolchildren that the school had won a Best Education Project Award for an armistice cantata that Claire and the children composed to commemorate the centenary of the ending of World War I. Claire directed the production and encouraged the children to write their own lyrics to existing WWI songs after learning about the sacrifices made by soldiers and their families during that war.

The project was done in collaboration with Goldies Cymru, a charity that encourages older and isolated members of the community to join together and sing songs from the past; this helps to improve mental health and well-being, particularly for those suffering from conditions such as Alzheimer's. A Goldies group visits Thornhill Primary School regularly; the children sit and talk to them about their past and sing songs with them, building relationships between the generations.

Two of the children involved in writing and performing the songs in the cantata are members of the Church. Twelve-year-old Owen Holcombe from Cardiff Ward wrote the theme song of the cantata, "Over Now," and Elinor Maizey, also aged 12, from Bridgend Ward wrote the



song "Life in the Trenches." Elinor researched her own family history and found several ancestors who had fought and died in WWI and, with her family, visited their memorials in France—which they found to be a very moving experience.

Claire, who serves as the director of public affairs in the Cardiff Wales Stake, said, "Being given the opportunity to work with the children on a project that has enabled them to connect with the past, with their ancestors, and appreciate the sacrifices made by people not much older than



themselves so that they can live in a peaceful land today, has been incredibly moving and rewarding." ■

Keeping to the Covenant Path

By Sylvia Anderson

On Wednesday 10 July 2019 members of the Wandsworth Stake in London were treated to an evening of spiritual music and words. The event was entitled Keeping to the Covenant Path and was a family fireside hosted by Jenny Oaks-Baker & Family Four (her four children).

Jenny Oaks-Baker, a daughter of the Apostle Dallin H. Oaks, is a

Grammy-nominated American violinist who began playing the violin at age four. Having graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia and the Juilliard School, New York, she has been a solo artist for a number of years, but also collaborates with other musicians. She also performs with her children, Hannah (piano), Laura (violin), Sarah (cello) and Matthew (guitar).

The format for the evening involved each member of the group relaying a personal experience, followed by a piece of music, as well as, relevant scripture passages. Through their stories, the audience learned about the miracles each had experienced in their lives and how their faith in God has been reinforced. They spoke about things that helped them stay on the covenant path, such as, honouring the sabbath, ministering to and serving others, and following the counsel of the prophet. Their gift of music serves as a testimony of their faith, love of Heavenly Father, the Saviour and the gospel, which in turn helps to inspire and uplift others. The musical pieces performed



Left to right: Hannah Baker, Jenny Oaks-Baker, Matthew Baker, Laura Baker, Sarah Baker

included: *“Amazing Grace,” “I Am a Child of God,” “Abide with Me,” “Never Alone”* and many others,

ending with *“The Spirit of God.”*

The audience clearly enjoyed and were uplifted by the fireside. ■

Republic of Ireland’s First Church History Specialist

By **Arnold Jones**

Brother Thomas Holton has recently been called to serve as the first Church history specialist for the Republic of Ireland. His responsibilities lie within the Dublin Stake and the Limerick Ireland District.

Brother Holton was born in 1973. His mother joined the Church in Dublin shortly before his third birthday, when she was a single mother with three boys; she presently serves as a Preston Temple ordinance worker.

Brother Holton has loved being a part of the restored Church of Jesus Christ since his childhood; he served a full-time mission in the England Birmingham Mission from 1991 to 1993; “It was a life-changing experience,” says he.

He married Veronica Carmel Holton in 1999, who was baptized in the Atlantic

Ocean in Galway, Ireland in 1991. She served in the England Manchester Mission from 1996 to 1998, and currently serves as Dublin Stake Relief Society president.

The Holtons have a son named Thomas David who is preparing to serve a mission.

Brother Holton has university degrees in taxation, social science and international relations. He loves education in all sorts of fields. After spending a couple of years in financial services, he has been a civil servant for 18 years, mainly dealing with financial and legal administration.

In the Church he has served as a gospel doctrine teacher, elders quorum president, a bishop’s counsellor and as

a branch president for 10 years. He is presently serving as a stake high councillor, stake Sunday School president and a branch young men president in the Dublin Stake.

His passions include studying Church doctrine and history, reading widely, writing on various topics, watching epic movies and keeping fit.

Brother Holton will represent the Republic of Ireland on the UK and Ireland Church History Committee. ■





Celebrating 20 Years of the Scottish Parliament

By Evelyn Liston

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Rothesay addressed members of the Scottish Parliament and guests to commemorate two decades of the Scottish Parliament. The presiding officer, the Rt Hon Ken Macintosh MSP, extended a formal invitation to the multi stake director of public affairs and communications of the Church in Scotland, Evelyn Liston. After many years of service and involvement in the Church's parliamentary government and religious affairs, and being personally acquainted with Mr Macintosh, Evelyn

was delighted to receive the invitation. It was a marvellous opportunity to speak with many religious, political and business leaders in Scotland.

A year of commemoration has sought to reflect the positive influence that the Scottish Parliament has made on the lives of the people of Scotland. After the televised ceremony, the doors were open to the public for an afternoon of activities including live music, dance and theatre.

"It was an honour to be a part of this historic occasion and meet with so many influential leaders in our country," says Evelyn. ■

Bandstand Painted by Members in Lancing

By Sharon Yorston

Steve Bills, Brighton Ward, was jogging past the Beach Green bandstand in Lancing, Brighton some months ago and saw the need for it to be repainted. He asked Lancing Council if it would like the Church to do this.

Steve asked Andre Pallat, a member of the Worthing Ward of the Church, to provide a design, which the Council

subsequently approved. With the help of full-time missionaries, the Worthing Ward spent three weeks repainting the bandstand.

The previous design was based on poppies that commemorated the Armistice; to continue the theme, the new design illustrates conflict leading to a brighter dawn. ■



Light the World: One by One Campaign

By Chelsea Craven

The theme for 2019 initiative will be #LightTheWorld: One by One.

A letter sent to General Authorities, General Officers, Area Seventies and mission presidents explained "the renewed focus is on 'who can I serve' (rather than 'how can I serve'). Church members will be encouraged to think of individuals they can minister to just as the Savior did, one by one."

The objectives of the initiative are:

- Testify to the world of the reality and importance of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
- Provide missionaries and members with normal and natural conversations and invitations.
- Encourage believers, seekers, and members to "light the world" through acts of service.

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 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. ■