

Millennial Star

PAGEANT EDITION

31ST JULY - 10TH AUGUST 2013 PRESTON ENGLAND TEMPLE

“TRUTH WILL PREVAIL”

Welcome to The British Pageant: Truth Will Prevail. The pageant tells the story of the rise of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in these green and pleasant lands.

There are many people throughout the Pageant who can represent all of us as we strive to do God's will in establishing the cause of truth. This journey did not begin in 1837 when the first missionaries arrived, or even in 1830 when the Church was organised; rather it begins with the love of God being evidenced throughout history. As such the pageant builds on the story of people such as William Tyndale who did so much to lay the foundation of religious freedom.

The first missionaries arrive
For centuries, the people of the British Isles have been seekers of the truth. In 1837, an Apostle of God named Heber C. Kimball arrived in Liverpool to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ as taught in Saviour's Church. He could do this because he held the priesthood authority Jesus had given His first Apostles, which had recently been restored to the earth by John the Baptist and the Apostles Peter, James, and John.

Truth-seeking Christians immediately became interested in the restored gospel. They were thrilled to hear of prophets, of priesthood authority restored. Because this success made local preachers nervous, Heber was not allowed to preach in their churches. Even so, nine people were baptised in Preston in the River Ribble—like nine little seeds being planted. Thousands of people came to watch.

The meek and the lowly accept the truth
Since Heber couldn't preach in the city, he went out to the villages, including two that were thought to be unfriendly, Downham and Chatburn. As he preached, many individuals and families believed and were baptised and enjoyed the fruits of the Spirit. They came to love Heber, and many wept when



he had to go home. After he left, British members wondered what would happen to their growing band of believers and the restored Church in Britain.

By God's miracles the truth goes forth

Due to the faith and efforts of British members and by the miracles of God, the Church continued to grow. Two years later, God brought more Apostles to the British Isles, where they found more people—from Ireland and Scotland to England and Wales—who were prepared to hear the message of the restored gospel. Individuals, families, and in some places, whole congregations of Christian believers received the gospel and were baptised. They enjoyed blessings like healings. There were so many new members that the Apostles reprinted the Book of Mormon. By the grace of God, thousands joined the Church.

God gathers believers to establish the truth

Then, as He did with the Children of Israel, God directed His prophet to call the newly baptised members to go to a new land to establish the centre of the Church there. It was not easy to leave behind familiar and beloved lands for an unsettled frontier where the young Church could found new communities, build a temple, and prepare

their youth to take the restored gospel to the world. The British people had faith in the Prophet and Apostles. Though it required great sacrifice, they left their homes and travelled to America.

The story of faith and sacrifice continues

In America, the Church flourished in the tops of the mountains, as prophesied in the Bible. The British people brought their rich traditions, their gifts and talents, and their deep love of the truth, which blessed the Church in immeasurable ways. The church continued to grow in the British Isles until today where there are over 180,000 members of the Church throughout the land. The story of faith and sacrifice that we see in the Pageant evidenced in the lives of the early members of the Church in the British Isles continues today. Many thousands sacrifice much to be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in word and deed. The Pageant is not just a story of times past, but of the present and future.

Today, the Church and its temples have spread across the earth, with two magnificent temples in the British Isles—one here in Preston. The Church continues to flourish here, in part because for centuries the British people have sought and loved the truth, and, beginning in 1837, embraced it as they found it.

“WE’LL BRING THE WORLD HIS TRUTH”

Joseph Smith Jr. (December 23, 1805 – June 27, 1844)

Although not portrayed on the stage, Joseph Smith is mentioned and forms a backdrop to the events of the Pageant. Joseph Smith Jr was born in 1805 in Manchester, New York. During Joseph’s fifteenth year he records a search for which Church to join. As part of this search Joseph attended many of the churches and studied the scriptures including James 1: 5: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” He described his feelings: “Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the



heart of man than this did at this time to mine. It seemed to enter with great force into every feeling of my heart. I reflected on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God, I did...”

He came to the conclusion, guided by the Holy Ghost, that he must act upon the scripture and pray to know which Church to join. In response to his prayer he received The First Vision: “I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!”

Joseph was commanded to join

none of the churches and was also told that at some future point the Church of Jesus Christ would be restored through him. Over the coming years Joseph received the Priesthood of God from John the Baptist, Peter, James on John; organised the Church under the direction of Jesus Christ; called the first missionaries to preach the Gospel in the British Isles in 1837 and many more things described following his martyrdom in June 1844 it was said of him:

“In the short space of twenty years, he has brought forth the Book of Mormon, which he translated by the gift and power of God, and has been the means of publishing it on two continents; has sent the fullness of the everlasting gospel, which it contained, to the four quarters of the earth; has brought forth the revelations and commandments which compose this book of Doctrine and Covenants, and many other wise documents and instructions for the benefit of the children of men; gathered many thousands of the Latter-day Saints, founded a great city, and left a fame and name that cannot be slain. He lived great, and he died great in the eyes of God and his people; and like most of the Lord’s anointed in ancient times, has sealed his mission and his works with his own blood.”

Latter-day Saints recognise Joseph Smith as a prophet of God, who taught the truths of Jesus Christ and restored Christ’s Church to the earth.

John & Jane Holmes Benbow (John 1800-1873, born in Herefordshire) (Jane 1847, born in Worcestershire)

Prosperous farmers at Castle Frome, John and his wife Jane were introduced to Elder Wilford Woodruff by John’s brother, William. Two days later they were baptised. They invited Elder Woodruff to meet with the United Brethren, who had been seeking to find the light and truth. All 600, (except one) were converted to the Gospel. The Benbows paid for Books of Mormon and hymnbooks to be printed in the UK.

Elder Holland, on speaking of John Benbow, said: “No one has ever been as close to gentry as

John Benbow. . . . I’m grateful that he would give and give and give, and gave everything for the Kingdom of God.”



Ellen Benbow Carter (1825-1901, born in Herefordshire)

Ellen and her brother Thomas, were the fostered children of their aunt and uncle, John and Jane Benbow; she was aged age 11 at the time. Ellen too was baptised by Wilford Woodruff and set sail for Nauvoo in 1840. The sailing was rough and they were caught in a fierce storm, however following a prayer that was offered they arrived safely in the USA.

George Q. Cannon

(1827-1901, born in Liverpool) Son of Captain George and Ann Callister Cannon, and the nephew of Leonora Cannon Taylor (wife of John Taylor). While serving a mission in the UK, John Taylor preached to the entire Cannon family, who were all converted, George joining at age 13. At age



15, George and his family set sail for Nauvoo. His mother, Ann Quayle Cannon had previously had a dream in which she knew she would die whilst on the crossing, however she did so anyway,

showing incredible courage, faith and dedication to the gospel for her family.

George would eventually go on to be First Counsellor in the First Presidency.

Mary Alice Cannon (Lambert), 1828- 1920, born in Liverpool, Lancashire)

Mary was the younger sister of George Q. Cannon. She made the trip across the ocean with George and the rest of her family. Upon



seeing the Prophet Joseph Smith for the first time, she said: "I knew him the instant my eyes rested upon him, and at that moment I received my testimony that he was a Prophet of God. ... He was not pointed out to me. I knew him from all the other men, and, child that I was (I was only fourteen) I knew that I saw a Prophet of God"

John Wycliffe, (or Wyclif) c. 1320-December 1384)

Master of an Oxford college and a popular preacher. John Wycliffe was an opponent of the authority of the Church, preferring the authority of the Bible. He was known as an early dissident in the Roman Catholic Church during



the 14th century. His followers were known as Lollards, a somewhat rebellious movement, which

preached anticlerical and biblically-centred reforms. The Lollard movement is seen as a precursor to the Protestant Reformation (for this reason, Wycliffe is sometimes called "The Morning Star of the Reformation").

Wycliffe was also an early advocate for translation of the Bible into the common language. He completed his translation directly from the Latin Vulgate into vernacular English in the year 1382, now known as Wycliffe's Bible. Manuscript copies of the work had a large circulation, until the government suppressed it. Wycliffe was not molested in life, but denounced his teaching and ordered that his bones should be dug up, burned, and cast into a stream.

Heber C. Kimball (June 14, 1801 - June 22, 1868)

Heber was called to be an Apostle in 1835, later serving in the First



presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1847. He was baptized on April 16 1832 by Alpheus Gifford. Shortly after his baptism, Kimball was ordained an elder by Joseph Young, and began proselyting in the neighbouring areas with Joseph and Brigham Young. They were met with great success, baptising many and building up churches. He was later to be called to lead the first group of missionaries to the British Isles. The missionaries began work in Preston in 1837. After the initial baptisms in Preston the missionaries expanded their efforts to the Ribble Valley. By the time Kimball left to return to the United States in 1838 about 1500 people had been baptized.

John Taylor (November 1, 1808 - July 25, 1887)

He was the third president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1880 to 1887. He is the only president of the LDS Church to have been born outside of the United States (having been born in Milnthorpe, Westmoreland). He was baptised in 1836 after meeting Parley P. Pratt in Canada, where he lived with his wife. Taylor was ordained an Apostle on December 17, 1838. He returned to England with other Apostles to further the missionary work in 1839.

He preached in Liverpool and was responsible for moving the work forward in Ireland and the Isle of Man. After the death of Brigham Young, John Taylor was called to be President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



Elder John Taylor preaching the Gospel in England

"PAGEANT PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES"



Before the Pageant begins take part in all the activities around the Temple site, get in the mood for your trip back to 1837...

You may firstly reserve your seat in the show marquee (blankets, jackets etc. No valuables please) then come join the fun on our version of Preston Market square 1837 and also inside the cultural hall in the Stake Centre where the Family History Booths, Indexing and free period photographs are. Meet the cast members and their families as they encourage you to take part in these activities;

FREE PERIOD SEPIA PHOTOGRAPHS

Studio quality photographs will be offered to families and groups. Costumes are available. The photographs will be available to download free of charge on the Pageant website as a souvenir of your evening.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Children can make and take away traditional spinners and wooden dolly pegs as a souvenir of the event.

This will be alongside arm-wrestling and walking on stilts. There will also be small competitions- sack and wheelbarrow races with free traditional sweets for participants. Traditional Crafts Come learn how and have a go at quilting, rag rugs, darning, tatting, tole barge painting and many more

traditional crafts. Adult competitors can all try the 'stick pull' and arm wrestling or 'splat the rat' or throwing horseshoes.

FAMILY HISTORY FOR BEGINNERS

Ever wondered where to start? Our consultants are here to help you register for Family Tree or to help you with computer skills regarding family history or just to help!

DANCING

Dancing Scottish Country Dances, Irish Ceilidh, children's dancing and English Square dances will welcome guests as they enter the site. Please join in with our dancers and have fun!

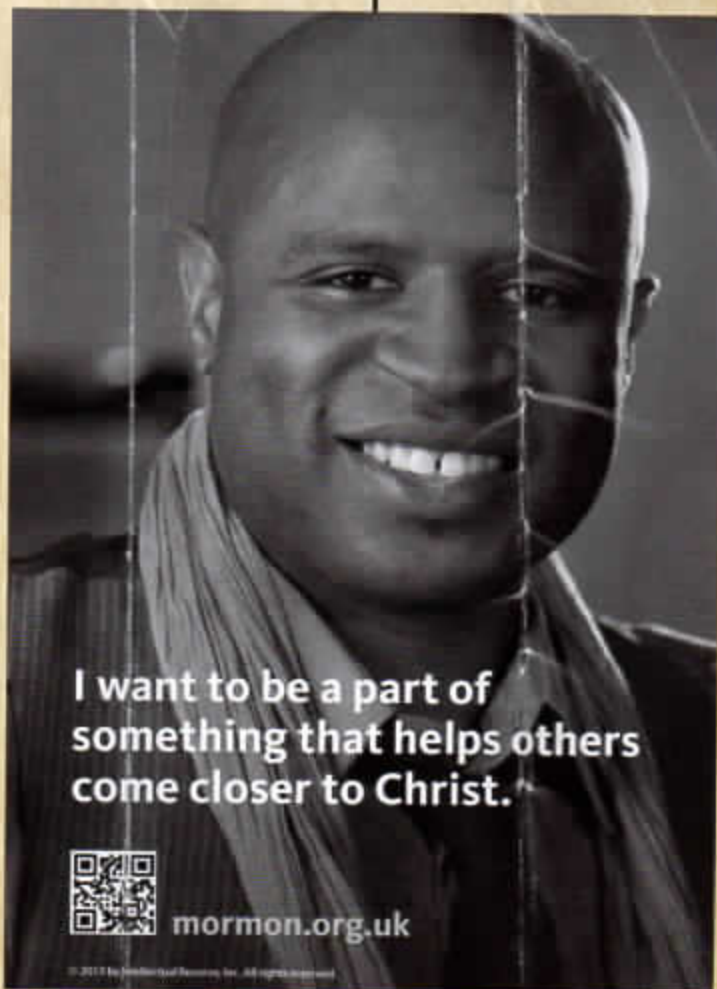
INDEXING

Indexing Take part in the largest UK service project. We are taking information from World War One Army records and inputting the data online so that they will be available for the whole world to search. We will be keeping a record of the numbers transcribed during the Pageant event

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Around the pre-show site will be photo boards depicting families in the 1800s. Take your camera and one of the cast will take your picture as you pose behind them.

The pre-show starts at 7pm with activities for the whole family until 8.15pm when a children's parade will lead everyone back to the seats they 'reserved' when they arrived, ready for the show to start at 8.30pm.



I want to be a part of something that helps others come closer to Christ.



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