

# Church History and Britain's Victorian Century with the Interpreter Foundation

13-Day Land Tour

05/15/2025 - 05/27/2025

Join Nineteenth-century British, Religious, and LDS historian, Kristine Frederickson; local Blue Badge Guide and British Church historian, Peter Fagg; and Daniel Peterson, for an Interpreter Foundation tour that deep dives into the British Victorian Century, the early history of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Britain, and the goings-on in modern England and Wales.

You will spend your days exploring the rich and tumultuous religious, political and social conditions that led up to and produced "seekers" after gospel truth. You will visit important Church history sites, among them Preston, the River Ribble and surrounding environs, as well as Gadfield Elm Chapel and Benbow Farm—all locales where missionaries enjoyed a bountiful harvest in souls. You will visit 19th-century potteries, mines, villages, and Liverpool (where many hearty saints embarked on ships to America). Along the way there will be castles, sumptuous gardens, cathedrals, the Lake District, and picture-perfect villages. In London, professional walking tour guides will walk and talk you through the haunts and habitats of renowned British authors, religious icons, and inspired social reformers. Add in today's London and visits to theaters, museums, cathedrals, abbeys, and London's brilliant markets, shopping, and eating venues! Prepare for a spiritual feast and an unforgettable time as you immerse yourself in Britain's past and present.

## Headliners:



Kristine Frederickson



Daniel Peterson

## **Itinerary:**

### **Day 1: Depart Home**

May 15, 2025 (Thursday)

Depart for Manchester, England. Overnight on the trans-Atlantic flight.

### **Day 2: Liverpool**

May 16, 2025 (Friday)

Arrive at the Manchester, England Airport. We meet our local guide, Peter Fagg. Our luggage is loaded onto our coach and we head to Liverpool. Liverpool, the Gateway to the New World. Liverpool served as the arrival point for

hundreds of missionaries and the departure point for thousands of emigrants as they gathered to Zion throughout the 19th century. We take a tour around this famous city which, besides its LDS history, has had a long association with America (including slaves, cotton, and the claim that the first and final acts of the American Civil War took place here!). We visit the beautifully restored Albert Docks where we learn more about the life of an emigrant, see the Sea Trek monument, and discover a host of famous LDS names. After our visit to Liverpool, we drive to Preston and check into our hotel. We enjoy dinner there and rest up from our travels. (D)

### **Day 3: The Lake District**

May 17, 2025 (Saturday)

The Lake District is famous for its beautiful lakes and mountains, but today we discover it also provided the beginnings of a Toronto miracle, helped save the Doctrine and Covenants, and created some great forerunners: Quakers, Romneys, William Wordsworth, and John Ruskin. We start with a morning stroll through Grasmere village to see Dove Cottage where Britain's best loved Victorian poet William Wordsworth

began his married life, where three of his children were born, and where some of his best poetry was written. He is the last of the Romantic poets and had two direct links with the LDS church. We take a cruise on Lake Windermere - the largest of all the lakes - to see the beauty of this area from a different angle. We visit some John Taylor sites where he was born, christened, worked and lived, and get to see the Taylors' last home before the whole family emigrated to Canada. This is a valley of more than one Champion of Liberty. Overnight in Preston. (B,D)

## **Day 4: Preston - Ribble Valley**

May 18, 2025 (Sunday)

Our day starts on the immaculately landscaped grounds of the Preston Temple site where we learn of the tender mercies that made its construction possible. We wander the streets of the City of Preston - The birthplace of British Mormonism - to follow in the footsteps of the first LDS missionaries to Britain and discover Joseph Smith's dentist, the cursed stone, the 1842 riot, the powerful Reverend Wilson, Heber C. Kimball's amazing prophecy, LDS shorthand, and the Deseret Alphabet. We visit all of the well-known sites including their lodgings (a host of evil spirits attacked them), the River Ribble (where the first British baptisms took place, the Vauxhall Chapel Site (where they first preached) and the cockpit site (where the first British Conference was held in 1837). We explore some of the delights of the Ribble Valley - still looking much the same as Heber C. Kimball and Joseph Fielding saw it in 1837. We drive through beautiful English countryside and find the delightful villages of Ribchester, Chatburn and Downham and relive some of the most touching encounters of their missionary labours. These Quaint stone villages, and rolling green hills inspired J.R.R. Tolkien when writing The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings. Arthur Conan Doyle lived here as a young boy and his creation of Sherlock Holmes was influenced by these valleys and has an unusual LDS twist. We dine tonight in a favourite watering hole in the shadow of Pendle Hill. Overnight in Preston. (B,D)

## **Day 5: Middleport - Ironbridge**

May 19, 2025 (Monday)

We pack our bags and head to the Potteries. In the heart of the Potteries we visit Middleport and experience the world of china with working workshops and giant bottle kilns - and discover the horrors of a Victorian potter's life. We learn how Wilford Woodruff's china gift for his wife Phoebe

was not quite as perfect as he had hoped. Of particular note is how this area was the springboard for the United Brethren story we experience tomorrow. We go to Ironbridge and visit Blists Hill. We step back in time to explore this late Victorian town. Overnight in Ledbury. (B,D)

## **Day 6: United Brethren - Gadfield Elm**

May 20, 2025 (Tuesday)

We discover sites made famous by Wilford Woodruff and the United Brethren. We visit Benbow's farm and Castle Frome, and learn of the faith and sacrifice of John and Jane Benbow and the lesser-known Kington family. This is a tale of miracle after miracle. We visit the medieval market town of Ledbury where we meet William Carter - Utah's first ploughman, and a welcoming Baptist church. We follow in the footsteps of Wilford Woodruff, Willard Richards and Brigham Young to the top of the Herefordshire Beacon for a very important meeting. We get a sense of the influence of these early converts after they emigrate to join the saints in Nauvoo. We meet up with the likes of Thomas Kington - the head of the United Brethren, William Pitt, the musical convert, James Palmer, a remarkable missionary, and many others. The stories on this tour demonstrate the faith of these early converts as they witness miracles and persecutions unfold in their tiny villages. Included is a special visit to the restored Gadfield Elm chapel - Britain's first LDS owned meeting place and an iconic symbol of the United Brethren's story. Overnight in Cardiff. (B,D)

## **Day 7: South Wales**

May 21, 2025 (Wednesday)

South Wales was once a massive coal and iron producing area, and the scars of that industry are only gradually starting to fade. This as the backdrop for "How Green Was my Valley" and we witness how this industrial landscape provided a fertile ground for the Restored Gospel message. We begin our day with a visit to Big Pit OR the Iron works where we sense how men, women, children and pit ponies dug for black gold. We follow in the footsteps of Dan Jones and a host of Welsh converts. We continue with a drive through the Merthyr Tydfil area on route to St Fagans National History Museum where we visit the whole of Welsh history in one spot! Over 40 original buildings from throughout the nation has been carefully reconstructed and preserved allowing us to walk through the wide spectrum of Welsh history. One of Europe's leading open-air museums and Wales' most popular heritage attraction. Here we see non-conformity,

industry and rural life merged as a backdrop to our story. Overnight in Cardiff. (B,D)

## **Day 8: Oxford, England**

May 22, 2025 (Thursday)

We explore Oxford. This tour winds its way through the streets of Oxford, through stately colleges and grassy meadows, to discover some of the Noble and Great Ones. We track the history back to the beginnings of Oxford, to the time of the miraculous Frideswide, and then build layer upon layer of famous name after famous names including Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, Lewis Carroll, C.S. Lewis, John Ruskin, J.R.R. Tolkien, Thomas More, Samuel Johnson and many more. We learn the history behind the iconic images of the Radcliffe Camera, the Divinity School, Bodleian Library, and the Ashmolean Museum and discover the influential John Wycliffe and his nemesis Richard Fleming, the tragic ending of the Oxford Martyrs, and the founding of Wesley's Holy Club. Throw in some Hobbits and Orcs, Lions and Wardrobes, Green Eggs and Ham, and tonnes of pilchard; mix in a plethora of Prime Ministers, a remarkable balloon flight, a penicillin breakthrough, a four-minute mile, the King James Bible, Halley's Comet, Harry Potter, My Fair Lady and you have the beginnings of a splendid stroll through the city! Overnight in London (B)

## **Day 9: London, England**

May 23, 2025 (Friday)

"This morning we thread our way into a Victorian London of nooks and crannies, alleyways, gas lamps and 18th & 19th-century houses. We see the places where Dickens lived and worked and we will eat where Dickens purportedly ate, ending up at the Dickens Museum. The afternoon offers two options: Option #1: Learn about and experience the transition from specialty shops to grand department stores with a visit to Harrod's followed by free time to explore Oxford Street, Europe's busiest shopping street. Option #2: Learn about and explore Bible and ancient faith traditions and artefacts in the British Museum with free time afterward to explore nearby museums or join others on Oxford Street.

Optional Evening Activity (Not included in the tour) This evening we have the option of attending a Shakespearian play at the Globe Theater. Overnight in London (B)"

## **Day 10: London, England**

May 24, 2025 (Saturday)

This morning we are joined by a Jane Austen expert who leads us on a walking tour highlight the sites

of London that are connected to Jane Austen. We see her publisher's building, the site of her brother's bank and see parts of London that still look as they did in Austen's day. We go to Westminster Abbey and have time on our own to explore the well known sites in the area such as the House of Parliament, Westminster Bridge, St. James Park, Buckingham Palace, The London Eye and much more. This evening those who wish can opt to attend a candlelight concert at St. Martin in-the-Fields church.  
Overnight in London (B)

## **Day 11: London, England**

May 25, 2025 (Sunday)

We walk to the Hyde Park chapel and attend Sacrament meeting with a local ward. Afterwards, we head to the Leighton house and learn of his passion for creating artistic beauty. We follow in the footsteps of Wilford Woodruff, Heber C. Kimball and George A. Smith as we see the exterior of St. Paul's Cathedral and go to Bunhill Fields. Here we see the home of John Wesley who is well know for establishing the religious movement in England know as Methodism. We learn about some of the experiences of the first LDS missionaries in London.

Overnight in London (B)

## **Day 12: London, England**

May 26, 2025 (Monday)

Today we leave the great metropolis of London and venture again into the countryside. We tour Winchester Cathedral, one of Europe's finest medieval, and one of England's largest and grandest, cathedrals. We visit Chawton where we find Jane Austen's home, the place she wrote her eight novels. We go to Arundel Castle and admire this medieval structure including its 11-century Norman Keep and its lavish state rooms. If the weather patterns favor us, we may be able to enjoy the last vestiges of the annual Tulip Festival. Nearly 100,000 tulips are on display in the nearly 40 acres of glorious gardens.

Overnight in London (B)

## **Day 13: Arrive Home**

May 27, 2025 (Tuesday)

Board your flight in London and arrive at home. (B)

## **Information:**

INCLUDED

11 nights hotel accommodations

Meals as specified in the itinerary

Deluxe air-conditioned motor coach transportation

Taxes on included services

Entrance fees for items not listed as optional

## NOT INCLUDED

Airfare

Transportation from London hotel to airport at end of the tour

Meals not specified in the itinerary

Items of personal nature

Trip cancellation and baggage insurance

Bus Driver & Tour Guide gratuities

## Pricing:

Price

\$3,850 per person based on double occupancy if paying with cash, check or ACH payment.

\$3,965 per person based on double occupancy if paying by debit or credit card.

\$5,663 for single occupancy if paying with cash, check or ACH payment.

\$5,833 for single occupancy if paying by debit or credit card.

Tips

Tips are required for the bus driver and guide and should be paid on the last day of the tour.

You should plan to tip at least 40 GBP per person for the driver and a minimum of 65 GBP per person for Peter Fagg, our LDS tour guide.

Payment Schedule

- \$500 per person due at time of booking (deposit is non-refundable â€“ it can be transferred to another person on a new booking on the same tour date. We will attempt to find someone to take your spot if you cancel but we cannot guarantee it).

- Final Payment: Final payment is due three months before the tour departure date.

Cancellation Policy

- If you cancel: Deposit is non-refundable; however, it is transferable to another guest on a new booking, traveling on the same tour date. After final payment, the full amount is non-refundable. If you cancel and you can find someone to take your spot, we will refund the deposit. If we have a waiting list, we will refund your deposit by placing someone in your spot.
- If we cancel the tour: Deposit is non-refundable if we cancel due to a pandemic or political unrest; however, it can be transferred to any other land tour or kept as a future tour credit to be used at any time on one of our advertised tours (cannot be transferred to a cruise). The balance will be refunded or applied to a future tour as a credit. If we cancel for any other reason, the deposit will be refunded.
- The only way to avoid trip cancellation penalties is to buy trip cancellation insurance. If you are interested in the insurance, we can help you purchase it.

A minimum number of 20 passengers is needed for this tour to depart.

**Check Your Invoice Names:** Please check to see that your names are spelled correctly. Your first and last names must appear as they appear on your passport for International travel and Driver's License for domestic tours.

**PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED** and should be valid 6 months after the end of the tour.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Due to the nature of this tour, you must be able to climb stairs and walk unassisted at a moderate pace. We will be walking 4-6 miles per day.

Please note that minor changes to the itinerary may occur due to local conditions and to better accommodate our group.