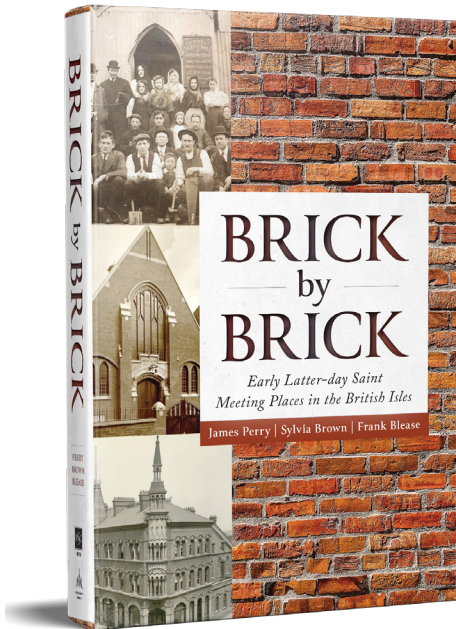


NEW FROM THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER

# BRICK BY BRICK

*Early Latter-day Saint Meeting Places in the British Isles*



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

JAMES PERRY holds a PhD in history from Lancaster University, where he won the M. F. Howson Prize for local history. He has authored various publications on the Latter-day Saint experience. He is a fellow of the Higher Education Academy and an Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. In 2020 he joined the Church History Department, where he worked as a historian and general editor of the *Saints* series. He is the Europe North Area Church History Manager and serves as a branch president in Northumberland, England.

FRANK BLEASE began a building mission at age sixteen, serving in Manchester, England, and Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales. He later qualified as a schoolteacher. Over the years, Frank has served in a variety of Church callings, including as a stake executive secretary, bishopric counsellor, stake high councillor, and stake president.

SYLVIA BROWN pursued a career in financial services until her retirement. Passionate about preserving both local and Church history, she became deeply interested in the stories of friends who had served as building missionaries in their youth. Inspired by their experiences and the contributions of everyday Church members, she recognized the urgent need to capture and preserve first-hand accounts from that era. Sylvia and her husband, Alan, have served in many Church callings, including as mission leaders in the Scotland/Ireland Mission (2012–15). She serves on the UK and Ireland Church History Council.

PROVO, UTAH—In the early 1960s, scores of construction sites across the British Isles hummed with activity that turned heads. At work were youthful Latter-day Saint missionaries known as “Church builders.” Young men could be seen digging trenches, mixing concrete, trowelling mortar, erecting walls, climbing scaffolding, and painting rafters while their female counterparts performed crucial support tasks in the administration offices. Adding to the spectacle were local members eager to offer help and thrilled to engage in a sacred cause—to see a chapel of their own arise and take shape, brick by brick.

*Brick by Brick: Early Latter-day Saint Meeting Places in the British Isles* tells the story of the beginnings and expansion of the Church in the British Isles through a unique lens: the places where its members worshipped from 1837 to 1965. Personal writings and oral histories highlight the lived experience of early British Isles Saints as they sought to build Zion in a very literal way.

*Brick by Brick* reviews the history surrounding that culminating moment. Part I recounts how the Church became established in England, Scotland, Wales, and the Island of Ireland, where for decades

fledgling branches had met in subpar conditions. The interruption of two world wars posed additional challenges before the London England Temple was built.

Part II tells how in the mid-twentieth century, the Church reined back on renting or renovating older buildings in favor of constructing purpose-built chapels to support larger congregations. It focuses on the Church Building Programme of 1961–65, which oversaw a surge in chapel building throughout the Isles to serve rapid membership growth.

The blend of historical research with moving elements of human interest gleaned from oral history interviews and archival research presents a unique perspective on how the Latter-day Saint faith community has grown, expanded, and developed over almost two centuries in the British Isles.

*Brick by Brick: Early Latter-day Saint Meeting Places in the British Isles* is copublished by the Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University and Deseret Book. Visit [rsc.byu.edu/book/brick-brick](https://rsc.byu.edu/book/brick-brick) for more information.

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## MEDIA CONTACT

For more information, please contact

Marketing: Leigh Ann Copas 801-422-6975, [leighann\\_copas@byu.edu](mailto:leighann_copas@byu.edu)

Social Media: Devan Jensen 801-422-9304, [devan\\_jensen@byu.edu](mailto:devan_jensen@byu.edu)

