



CAMP REFLECTIONS FOR THE CENTENARY OF SEA SCOUTING



A Prayer for the Centenary of Sea Scouting

Loving God, in this centenary of Sea scouting we remember the words of the psalms in Sacred Scripture, "Some sailed over the ocean in ships... They saw what the Lord can do, his wonderful acts on the seas. We thank you that through Sea Scouting we have been enabled to have a share, through our water activities in seeing a little of your wonderful deeds on the seas.

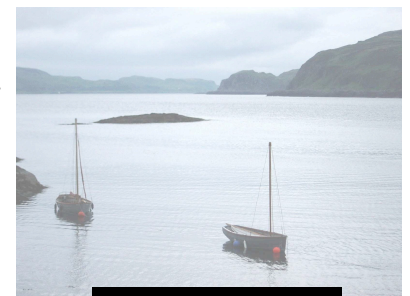
We thank you for our Founder, Lord Baden-Powell and his brother Warrington Baden-Powell who did so much to help set-up Sea Scouting. We thank you for all those leaders and volunteers who have made these last one hundred years possible. And, we pray for all those, past and present who have benefited and are benefiting from Sea Scouting. Amen.

Written by Fr John Seddon

(The prayer for the centenary of Sea Scouting may be said everyday in addition to the prayer for the day or instead of. The Lord's Prayer is put in for Christians but can be omitted by other faiths or mixed faith groups)

Day 1 - An Island nation

Input - The United Kingdom is often referred to as 'an Island Nation' and is in fact surrounded by over 1000 smaller Islands and Islets. We therefore rely heavily on the sea for our livelihood, for food and other goods brought in by ships, and for our sport and recreation. In scouting for boys BP stated that "...A scout should be able to manage a boat, to bring it properly alongside a ship or pier...". We have, because of our situation, a strong maritime history, with both Royal and Merchant navies, hence the song, 'Rule Britannia, Britannia rule the waves'.



**Barnacarry Bay
Nr. Oban**

Prayer - Frail is our vessel, and the ocean is wide; but as in your mercy you have set our course, so steer the vessel of our life towards the everlasting shore of peace, and bring us at length to the quiet haven of our heart's desire, where you, O God, are blessed, and live and reign for ever and ever. AMEN.

Lord's Prayer

Action - Take time today to think about the Sea and all it means to us here in the UK. Thank God for the Sea.

Day 2 - The First Sea Scout Camp, 'The Beaulieu River Scout Camp'

Input - This camp is situated at Buckler's Hard the site where the ships were built for Nelson's Navy, it is in the New Forest and has access to the Solent. BP had this camp organised in 1909 to engage in the water activities not done at the Humshaugh camp in Northumberland. This is the date taken for the start of Sea scouting although Sea scouts hadn't yet started. It was the last scout camp organised and led by BP. Present at this camp was John Kipling son of BP's friend Rudyard Kipling, writer of the Jungle book. Sadly John Kipling died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916, his body was never found which was a source of great sadness to his Father.

**Prayer - Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Action - The story of John Kipling reminds us of the horrors of war, try your best to be a peacemaker today.



**'The Beaulieu River
Scout Camp'**

Day 3 - Genesis of Sea Scouting, 'TS Mercury'

Input - Originally BP had intended to hold the whole camp on the Training Ship TS Mercury, but it could only house 50 people and the camp was for 100. This being so 50 boys camped on the Hard and 50 on the ship and after a week swapped round. BP thought this was splendid given the naval history associated with the Hard. The TS Mercury coupled with the camp on Buckler's Hard are said to be the Genesis of Sea scouting. Amongst the gear issued for the camp was a knife and belt and a cap and cap tally with Sea Scouts on it, requested by BP.



Prayer - A prayer for a new beginning

Dear God, I ask for a new beginning today. Help me take new strides and hold my hand through this tentative time. Whisper encouragement in my ear and guide my soul. Let me feel your presence and strength. Help remind me that I am courageous. I deserve a new start. I can be all that I wish. No dream is too big or too small.

Lord's Prayer

Action - The word Genesis means the beginning. The first Book of the Hebrew Scriptures is called the Book of Genesis. Begin something today that you can carry on throughout the rest of your lives. A good habit such as 'time for prayer' 'always putting others before yourself' 'being polite' etc.

Day 4 - Warrington Baden Powell

Input - Known as Warrington within the family, he was B-P's oldest brother. Early in his career he qualified as a Master Mariner and was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy Reserve. Interest in small boats (as described by B-P in his autobiography, *Lessons from the Varsity of Life*) led him to a fascination with canoes. In 1871, at the age of 24, he paddled and sailed a canoe on a cruise around the Baltic Sea that included stops in Germany, Denmark and Sweden as described in his book, *Canoe Travelling*, published in 1871. Baden-Powell asked his brother Warrington to head up the first specialized branch of the Boy Scouts. Warrington Baden-Powell agreed, and Sea Scouting was officially organized in England in 1910. Warrington then wrote the first official Sea Scout manual. It was called Sea Scouting and Seamanship for Boys. The manual sold well and Sea Scouting flourished.



Prayer - Dear Lord

We pray for the people at this camp.

We pray that you will help us through the coming day.

We pray for all the leaders and helpers.

We pray that our tents won't fall down!

Amen

Lord's Prayer

Action - Baden-Powell, who founded scouting owed much of his love for the outdoors and boating to his elder brother Warrington. Different leaders and perhaps elder scouts will teach you much during this camp. Go out of your way to thank them, today and everyday.

Day 5 - Admiralty Approval

Input - On March 25th, 1911, B-P wrote a letter to the Admiralty asking for permission to establish sea scouts as Seamen, and Coast Watchers.

Approval was given. Coast Watching was, as far as B-P was concerned, not a 'time-filling' activity, but a real need. Since then, in recognition of these deeds, sea scouts were formally recognised by the Admiralty

Board in 1919, this allowed them access to Naval equipment and facilities whilst still remaining independent of any Naval control.

During World War II the scheme was converted so that Sea Scout groups who show themselves able to reach certain levels of proficiency could apply for stores and grants to help train young men in basic seamanship.

Although there are some 425-450 Sea Scout groups throughout the UK, the MoD recognises a maximum of 101. In order to remain in the scheme groups must maintain high standards..

Prayer

Action - The RN recognition scheme is about attaining and maintaining high standards. Try to achieve a high standard in everything you do today.



Day 6 - Sea Scouting and Seamanship for boys

Input - Written by BP's brother Warington, the manual appeared in July, 1912. Warington had a forthright style, which was not as easy to relate to as that of his more famous brother.

In his preface he writes:

"I have difficulty in writing on such wide and technical subjects as pertain to the sea and ships, in a manner of sufficiently elementary treatment and condensed form as is necessary for young boys and a small book. What older boys 'don't like they can lump', and what any boy does not understand he can ask his Scout Master, and what the Scout Master wants - he can ask me."

However, like Scouting for Boys before it Sea Scouting and Seamanship for Boys lays out a complete and coherent philosophy and training plan, some of which is still in evidence today. Rules, organisation, badges, ranks, uniform, and advice on training are clearly stated.

Warington concluded his book with a chapter called Pipe-down. In it he wrote:

"This little ship [Sea Scouting] is well underway; and, so far as can be judged without actual trial, appears to be in every way fully found and fit for her first cruise."

Prayer - Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve;

to give and not to count the cost,

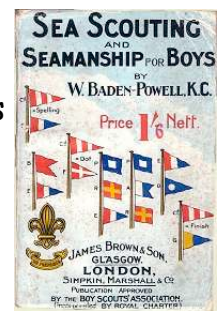
to fight and not to heed the wounds,

to toil and not to seek for rest,

to labour and not to ask for reward,

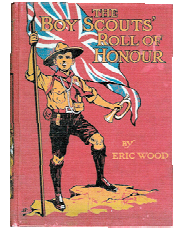
save that of knowing that I do your will.

Action - In the preface to the manual Warington quotes Nelson's flag signal, "England expects that every man will do his duty"....The reason of this book (and sea scouting-my quote!) is to help boys to be prepared to do their duty. Go out of your way to do your duty, today and everyday.



Day 7 - 'For those in peril on the sea', Disasters & Life saving

Input - From the early days of Sea scouting through to today there have been boating disasters and great acts of heroism by scouts and leaders as the boy scouts roll of honour will testify. We can avoid many disasters and accidents by good training, following the proper procedures and keeping a cool head about us when anything goes wrong. But boating is an adventurous activity and from time to time things will go wrong. Early set-backs included the Leysdown tragedy on the River Thames in 1912, when 9 scouts lost their lives, William Beckham, 12. Patrol leader. (A distant relative to David Beckham of Football fame) was among those lost, William Beckham had two brothers in the boat and they were saved, David Beckham might not be here if they weren't. Lives were also lost on the Sea scout Ketch the 'Mirror' again on the River Thames in 1913. Another tragedy with loss of lives was on the River Waveney, Oulton Broad in 1914.



Prayer - Loving God, The Scout Law tells us that a scout has courage in all difficulties. Help us to be brave in all our undertakings and to face those things that we are afraid of. Amen.

Action - A twofold action for you today, firstly following the scout motto 'Be prepared', make sure you are properly prepared for any activity you undertake today, especially if it is adventurous. And, 'Be Brave' don't be afraid to face your own fears, it's the only way to conquer them.

