



A portrait of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout movement.

Londonderry service will mark 100th anniversary of founder of Scouting to city

A special scout service will take place on Sunday April 19, to mark the 100th anniversary of Lord Baden-Powell's visit to Londonderry. It

will take place in St Augustine's Church, when the preacher will be the incumbent, the Rector Rev Malcolm Ferry.



The late Rev. Canon Herbert McKegney, former rector of St Augustine's, Londonderry, receiving the Silver Wolf for outstanding services to scouting from the Chief Scout, Sir William Gladstone Bt. in November 1972. Included is the Chief Commissioner for N.I. Mr. Wilfred Brennan.

Londonderry Sentinel - Elements of the service will reflect Scouting as it was at the time of Baden-Powell's visit and also Scouting as it is today. It is hoped to have a leader, dressed in the uniform of the period, to meet and welcome members of the congregation as they

arrive and the Scout Law and Promise will be read and renewed both in their original and current forms.

All members of the Scout Movement, both present and past are most welcome to attend as are friends and supporters.

BP, or 'Stephe' as he was known as a child, was born in Paddington, London, on February 22, 1857. He was the eighth of 10 children of the Reverend Baden-Powell, a professor at Oxford University.



St. Augustine's Scout Troop circa 1909. The scoutmaster is Mr A A Algeo and the clergyman is The Reverend Thomas Baird, Rector of St. Augustines and later Archdeacon of Derry.

Baden-Powell preferred the outdoors to the classroom and spent much of his time sketching wildlife in the woods around his school. His irrepressible personality infuriated and impressed his teachers in equal measure.

After school, he went into the army, where he led a distinguished career through posts in countries including India, Afghanistan, Malta and various parts of Africa. The most famous event in Baden-Powell's military career was the defence of Mafeking against the Boers in 1899, after which he became a Major-General aged only 43. Baden-Powell retired from the army in 1910 at the age of 53, on the advice of King Edward VII, who suggested he could provide more valuable service to his country by developing Scouting and its sister movement, Guiding. In 1912, he married Olave Soames and had three children (Peter, Heather and Betty). Baden-Powell wrote no less than 32 books, the earnings from which helped to pay for his Scouting travels. As with all his successors, he received no salary as Chief Scout.

More at - <http://www.londonderrysentinel.co.uk/news/features/centenary-of-visit-by-baden-powell-1-6677327>

Major gathering of Catholic Church reform groups in Limerick next week

A major international conference of [Catholic Church](#) reform movements will take place in [Limerick](#) next week.



Fr Tony Flannery: will host the Catholic Church reform event. He has been forbidden by the Vatican to exercise his ministry as a priest following articles he wrote for the Redemptorists' Reality magazine

Irish Times - The International Network of Church Reform Movements conference is being hosted by Redemptorist priest Fr [Tony Flannery](#). Since 2012 Fr Flannery has been forbidden by the [Vatican](#) to exercise his ministry as a priest following articles he wrote for the Redemptorists' *Reality* magazine.

The conference will be the first time such a large gathering of leaders of Catholic Church reform movements has taken place and will be the first such event hosted in [Ireland](#).

The four-day conference will be facilitated by Austrian and Canadian leaders, with participants from 12 countries, including the US, [Canada](#), [Australia](#), [India](#) and various countries in [Europe](#).

Among those attending will be Fr [Donald Cozzens](#), Sr [Jeannine Gramick](#), Deborah Rose-Milavec from the US, Fr Helmut Schüller from [Austria](#), former priest [Paul Collins](#) and his wife [Marilyn Hatton](#) of the Australian Catholic Coalition of Church Renewal, Dr [Astrid Lobo Gajiwala](#) from India, [Christian Weisner](#) and [Martha Heizer](#) of We Are Church International.

Topics expected to be discussed include perceptions of the reform agenda of [Pope Francis](#); the future of parishes and communities; women's equality; and communicating with the Vatican.

The gathering will not be open to the media or the public but a press conference will take place at its conclusion next Thursday.

Members of the public may attend an open session at 8pm on Thursday in the [Radisson Blu](#) Hotel in Limerick at which some international participants will speak of their experience of church reform in their regions and how this can be moved forward.

Hustings on election issues and questions

The Evangelical Alliance and CARE are organising a number of hustings events “to help you think through the issues and ask questions”:

East Belfast - 7:30pm Monday 13 April at Willowfield Parish Church, Woodstock Road, Belfast

North Down - 7:30pm Thursday 23 April at 1st Holywood Presbyterian Church, Holywood County Down

North Antrim - 7:30pm Tuesday 28 April at High Kirk Presbyterian Church, Ballymena, County Antrim

South Belfast - 7:30pm Thursday 30 April at Windsor Baptist Church, Malone Avenue, Belfast

Potential for Lagan Valley - To be confirmed.

Church of Scotland appoints its first Gap year students



Five gap year students are set to become the first people to take part in a ground-breaking volunteer programme run by the Church of Scotland.

The aim of the Volunteering Vocations programme is to encourage young people taking a gap to consider serving the Church as a career, and even to look at Ministry as an option. The volunteers will participate for 10 months and during their 'gap year with God,' get an idea of what it is to be involved in the life of the church and its congregation.

Aged from 17 to 23 years old, the three female and two male applicants, will be placed in

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groups of two or three with churches in the Presbytery of Angus and the Presbytery of Glasgow, from the beginning of September. During their ten month voluntary work they will be living in the community they are serving, which will include some of the most deprived areas in the country.

Three of them will be based at St Andrew's Church in Arbroath. The other two will be sent to Glasgow as volunteers and will work alongside four young adult volunteers from the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America.

Reverend Martin Fair, who's minister at St Andrews's Church in Arbroath, said it would help the volunteers decide what to do with their lives and hopefully lead them to think about whether or not they are called to serve the church. Mr Fair said "We are looking forward to welcoming these bright young people into the congregations and the communities they will be coming to. We are looking forward to what they will bring with them and it is also about what we can offer them as well. There is no other way than by tasting and seeing in helping you decide whether your vocation is calling you and our volunteering programme will help them all to hopefully realise their calling."

Volunteers will work with children and young people, getting involved in community and outreach projects helping those with addiction and alcohol problems and mental health issues, as well as the more generalised pastoral work of the church, during their ten months.

The Volunteers Programme has been funded by the Sir Duncan Carmichael Trust.

Archbishop of York focuses on "Fresh Expressions" of church ministry

The Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu opened Bishopthorpe Palace before Easter for a Fresh Expressions Learning Day for parishes in the North of England.

Speaking on the day, the Archbishop said: "Fresh expressions of Church ministry put Jesus Christ at the centre of our planning and it's all about new life. The good news is God's grace and generosity is infectious. We must be open to the Holy Spirit who allows transformations to happen!"



Tim Sanderson from Holy Trinity Jesmond speaking at the Fresh Expressions Learning Day

The Revd Malcolm Macnaughton, Chief of Staff at Bishopthorpe, said: “It was wonderful to hear from church leaders who brought with them such a variety of experiences of fresh expressions in Church and how this is building up followers of Jesus Christ”.

Canon Phil Potter, the leader of the national Fresh Expressions Team said: “Evangelism has become a much more natural and organic process, as people are grafted in these areas. We talked about different ways of serving and showing love in communities and also about

setting responsible boundaries. The testimonies and transformations shared were amazing!”

Gareth Robinson from ‘Glo Church’ Stockport spoke about how they began with play equipment and baby clothes recycling exchange in his garage and how this led to growing a community in Christian faith; Diane Kershaw and Toby Bassford – both Mission Priests in Sheffield spoke of the need to be intentional about the allocation of resources and time; Andy Milne from ‘Sorted’ in Bradford talked about the long, patient journey of growing young people’s faith, and mentoring and developing Youth Workers; Tim Sanderson from Holy Trinity Jesmond revealed just how messy Messy Church can be - but also, using the ‘Gray Scale’ to plot spiritual growth, how it helps to encourage a spirit of openness and faith development.

The University of Cumbria’s Chaplaincy team shared insights of growing faith in higher education and the importance of a one to one encounter to encourage individuals to find faith.

Video at -

<http://www.anglicannews.org/news/2015/04/archbishop-of-york-focuses-on-fresh-expressions-of-church-ministry.aspx>

Archbishop of Canterbury opens nominations for 2016 Michael Ramsey Prize

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has announced the opening of nominations for the 2016 Michael Ramsey Prize.

The prize, which was founded in 2005 by Archbishop Rowan Williams, is awarded every three years to the best theological writing in the service of the Church.

In an announcement in the *Church Times*, the Michael Ramsey Prize's media partner, Archbishop Justin Welby said:

"It gives me great pleasure this month to open nominations for the 2016 Michael Ramsey Prize. This will be my first occasion to preside over a process which, thanks to my immediate predecessor Archbishop Rowan, has now become well-established as a prize for recognising the best theological writing in the service of the Church.

"As I do so I am deeply conscious that I am walking in the footsteps of another much-

esteemed predecessor, Archbishop Michael Ramsey. At his memorial tablet in Canterbury Cathedral are inscribed the words: "The glory of God is the living man and the life of man is the vision of God." It is clear to me that the glory of God was tangible in the person of Ramsey; and that through his work a vision of God was conceived profoundly and communicated effectively. For myself I was first inspired by Ramsey through Chadwick's biography while at theological college, and I have continued to be inspired by Ramsey's writing ever since. Best known is probably his *The Christian Priest Today*, written in 1972 and still in print; but there are so many others to commend, not least his exposition of an Anglican method in theology, in *The Anglican Spirit*.

"The Michael Ramsey Prize aims to celebrate the most promising contemporary theological writing and to help more people to enjoy it. I am looking forward to seeing the books that will be nominated this year and to exploring how they can help the Church in thinking more deeply, acting more wisely and witnessing more effectively to the glory of God. Along with a team to help with short-listing as well as a panel of judges who make the final call,

"I am particularly eager for books that will help the Church to grow in the areas of my three ministry priorities: of prayer and religious life, of reconciliation, and of evangelism and witness. We are especially keen for nominations from new authors, as well as books written or published in the global south.

"If you have read a book which meets these criteria, published between 2012 and 2014, I warmly encourage you to make a nomination online."

www.michaelramseyprize.org.uk/nominate

Number of RC ordinations in the US to rise by a quarter in a year

The number of men expected to be ordained to the priesthood in the United States has increased by almost 25 per cent in a single year.

According to data released by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 595 men are expected to be ordained to the priesthood in 2015, an increase of 24.7 per cent compared with last year's figure of 477.



Priests lay hands on candidates during their ordination at the Co-Cathedral of St Joseph in Brooklyn last June

The number of men ordained to the priesthood in the US fell steadily from 994 in 1965, to 771 in 1975, 533 in 1985, 511 in 1995, and 454 in 2005, according to the Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

The survey also reported that the average age of those graduating in 2015 was 34 and that a quarter of them were born outside the United States, with the greatest numbers coming from Nigeria, Poland, Vietnam, Colombia, Mexico and the Philippines.

Most ordinands are cradle Catholics, although seven per cent became Catholic later in life. Eighty-four per cent said that both of their parents were Catholic and 37 per cent were related to someone who is a priest or a religious.

About 70 per cent said that they prayed the Rosary and participated in Eucharistic adoration before entering the seminary. Almost half said they were discouraged at some point from joining the priesthood.

Media focus - celebrating the Easter Rising

Independent

Taking pride in a troubled legacy - Diarmaid Ferriter

Critics say the Easter Rising was a disaster and costly mistake. But people shouldn't be bullied out of a sense of pride in the revolutionary generation

As we mark the 99th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, questions that have long been asked about the necessity, impact and the

legacy of the Rising will, once again, come into sharp focus. Unsurprisingly, given the role of violence in 1916 and subsequent decades, these questions have been a feature of debating the Rising, the War of Independence and civil war, for decades.

One of the most contentious assertions associated with these controversies is the idea that the Free State could have been achieved without the Rising and that it was therefore completely unnecessary.

With the backdrop of the Troubles in Northern Ireland from the 1970s to the 1990s, 1916 and its legacy were scorned by some. For historian and Labour Party politician Conor Cruise O'Brien, for example, it was the origin of all later ills.

In the 1970s, O'Brien described 1916 leader Pádraig Pearse as "a manic, mystic nationalist with a cult of blood sacrifice and a strong personal motivation towards death".

More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/life/taking-pride-in-a-troubled-legacy-31115274.html>

Don't make a politically correct version of the Proclamation - David Quinn

The 'Road to the Rising' is going to be a long one, I'm afraid. It will be tortuous and full of politically correct pieties. It already is.

As to the Easter Rising itself, I tend to agree with John Bruton. I'm not convinced it was necessary. Home Rule was on offer. In time, that would have evolved into full independence. We might have avoided a civil war. We certainly would have avoided a war of independence. Violent republicanism would not have been re-energised by the Easter Rising with disastrous consequences down the decades.

But we are where we are. America might as well debate whether its war of independence was necessary or whether it should have followed the example of Canada, which won independence peacefully.

The fact is that the Easter Rising is as much a part of our national story as the War of Independence is a part of the American story.

The question now is how should we mark its looming centenary?

More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/opinion/columnists/david-quinn/dont-make-a-politically-correct-version-of-the-proclamation-31130904.html>

Irish Times

Role of Catholic Church in Easter Rising should be remembered - Eamonn McCann

There has been little mention in discussion of next year's 1916 centenary of the role of the Catholic Church in the Easter Rising and in the shaping of the State which was to emerge just six years later. This should be put right. There is a case for a separate strand on the church.

It is a curious fact about Ireland that a violent uprising against imperialism brought about by forces including avowed Marxists and others who saw themselves as abreast of radical thinking across the world gave rise in short order to an ultra-conservative confessional State.

The power of the church did not come about through ideological struggle over the content of the new state. Belief in social as well as political transformation was not entwined with anti-clericalism, as in the Catholic countries of

southern Europe. The state born from the Rising was a cradle Catholic.

Oppression of Catholics since the Penal days meant that freedom to be Catholic had become an important component of the idea of national freedom. History had built in a role for religion. Wolfe Tone believed that one of the “great ends” of the fight against England lay in “the emancipation of mankind from the yoke of religion and political superstition”. He regretted that Bonaparte had missed a chance to “destroy forever the papal tyranny”.

There was little acknowledgment in 1916 of that element in the legacy of the “Father of Irish Republicanism”. (Never rates a mention at Bodenstown today, either.) In the minds of many who took part in the Rising, the fight was for faith as well as fatherland.

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/eamonn-mccann-role-of-catholic-church-in-easter-rising-should-be-remembered-1.2168941>

**Government is afraid to speak of the
challenge of Easter week
Gerry Adams**

When the Government first unveiled its commemoration programme for 1916, it was widely viewed as short-term, shambolic and superficial.

Since then a former leader of Fine Gael put forward the view that the Rising was not needed and was a civil war.

Following widespread criticism, and in the run-up to the elections, the Government has brought forward a more fitting commemoration. This is to be welcomed

However, there remains vacuity at the centre of the plans. This Government just doesn't get 1916. It is an inconvenient issue and you get the impression that it just wants the commemorations to be out of the way and to return to business as usual.

Its approach has been to strip away any politics and context to the Rising: to reduce it to a tragedy in which death and injury was inflicted equally on all sides, and so all sides must be equally remembered.

This is a shallow and wholly self-serving approach to our history. Devoid of context or politics, the Rising is portrayed as a moment in history that should be kept in a little glass case

and studied; or, in the view of some in the Redmondite wing of Fine Gael, an unnecessary moment of madness.

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/gerry-adams-government-is-afraid-to-speak-of-the-challenge-of-easter-week-1.2170595>

Media digest

Irish Times

Continuation of ‘Catholic first’ school policies criticised

Multi-denominational school patron [Educate Together](#) has criticised the Government’s failure to stop State-funded religious schools from giving preference in admissions to children of one faith.

The organisation acknowledged that the Admission to Schools Bill, published this week, was “as a step forward for Irish education in clarifying the enrolment process”.

However, “Educate Together is very concerned that it does not address the issue of religious discrimination in access to schools, nor does

there seem to be plans to remove Section 7 3 (c) of the Equal Status Act in the lifetime of this government”.

Chief executive [Paul Rowe](#) said: “The fact that an increasing number of Irish parents consider that it is necessary to get their children baptised in the Catholic faith in order to access publicly funded schools, rather than out of personal religious conviction, is a shocking alarm note for a modern democratic state.”

Campaign groups the Humanist Association of Ireland and [Atheist Ireland](#) [have also strongly criticised the protection](#) of “Catholic first” admissions policies under the bill.

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/continuation-of-catholic-first-school-policies-criticised-1.2169998>

Belfast Telegraph

Kincora: Calls to add child abuse at Belfast boys home to Westminster VIP paedophile probe

Liam Clarke - Child abuse at Kincora boys home must be investigated by an independent inquiry set up by Westminster into VIP paedophile rings

after the general election, Alliance and the DUP have said.

The calls follow revelations in the Belfast Telegraph and later on Channel 4 News by Richard Kerr, a former resident in the notorious east Belfast boys home, that he was trafficked to London to be abused by senior figures.

The current plan is to deal with allegations of sexual abuse at Kincora at Sir Anthony Hart's inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse in Banbridge.

But there are growing calls urging the claims to be dealt with by a more powerful inquiry into abuse in England and Wales headed by New Zealand High Court judge, Justice Lowell Goddard.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/kincora-calls-to-add-child-abuse-at-belfast-boys-home-to-westminster-vip-paedophile-probe-31125476.html>

Times

Diary piece on how the Archbishop of Canterbury was briefly in the Cambridge boat race crew for three days a month before the race in 1975 when the cox fell ill. Another oarsman

recalls: "He had nerves of steel, which he used to lure a chasing boat into the bank by deliberately cornering at the last possible moment."

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4406675.ece>

Metro/Sun/BBC

Reports on how terminally ill child Corey Edwards saw his parents get married at his bedside in Bristol hospital's paediatric intensive care unit, fulfilling his dying wish. They state the Archbishop of Canterbury gave special permission for the hospital's chaplain, Rev Stephen Oram, to marry them in the hospital.

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/04/10/terminally-ill-boys-dying-wish-fulfilled-as-his-parents-get-married-at-his-bedside-5142590/>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6405234/Couple-marry-beside-dying-sons-hospital-bed.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-32238472>

Tel

Report on comments by the Bishop of Buckingham, Alan Wilson saying the Church of England should be forced to drop its [ban on gay clergy marrying their partners](#). It states he raised the issue with the Nick Clegg during a [question and answer session with the gay website PinkNews](#) and urged politicians to intervene to

end what he said was a "manifest injustice" against clerics who he said had suffered "harassment and victimisation".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11526563/Let-gay-clergy-marry-says-Church-of-England-bishop.html>

Guardian

A new study from Oxford University shows that austerity policies such as cuts to welfare and local services are driving the rapid spread of food banks in the UK. Similar reports by charities, universities and a coalition of UK churches are referenced.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/apr/09/food-banks-linked-benefit-sanctions-government-cuts-oxford-university-study>

BBC

Report that anglicans are to hold a cathedral service in a Roman Catholic Church in what is thought to be a first in the UK. It states Derby Cathedral is to have an £800,000 refurbishment and will be closed during the week until the end of August, so some services will be held at nearby St Mary's church, starting on Thursday evening. An Association of English Cathedrals spokeswoman said she believed this had not happened before in the UK.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-32231472>

Mail/Tel/Times

Reports on how the choir at St Peter and St Paul Church in Lavenham, Suffolk, have resigned in 'solidarity' over the dismissal of music director Stephen Hogger. They state it will be the first time in 200 years that the church will be without a choir. Church warden Graham Patrick is quoted saying the church very much regret the choir's decision and a spokesman for the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich said they wish Mr Hogger well in the next phase of his career.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3032912/Entire-church-choir-quits-protest-organist-fired-following-clash-personalities.html#ixzz3WsY55zgE>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4406630.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11524243/Church-organists-sacking-strikes-a-sour-note-as-choir-walk-out-en-masse.html>

Tel

Opinion article on problems of health and safety over the vicar refused entry to a pub because he was wearing open sandals.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11523430/More-health-and-safety-vicar.html>

Times

Review of 'Sacred Spaces: Contemporary Religious Architecture' by James Pallister which it says takes a detailed look at some 30 religious buildings which have been completed in the past decade. The result is a fascinating introduction to the architecture of churches and chapels, synagogues and temples, mosques, mausoleums and memorials across the globe.
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/visualarts/architecture/article4406281.ece>

Ekklesia

New research published by False Economy, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) backed anti-cuts campaign website, has uncovered a huge surge in low-income families being summoned to court for non-payment of council tax.

The research finds that there has been an annual increase of more than 500,000 court summonses in England, largely driven by low income working-age households affected by a £490 million cut to council tax support. (2013/14).

One in seven local authorities are set to further increase the size of cut to council tax support in the new tax year, which commenced on 6 April.

This will subject many of the poorest families to even higher council tax demands, which the

TUC believes will result in the numbers summoned to court continuing to grow.

<http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/21583>

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