

# 'EMBRACING CHANGE'

## SCOUTS' OWN

Gilwell Reunion 2014

### Opening Welcome

There is nothing more constant than change. It is happening all around us, every day, all of the time. Yet, why is it that so many people fear change? One of the biggest reasons is we get comfortable in the way we're doing things.

A pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty. There is always something valuable that can be derived out of difficulty, adversity or change; we just have to look for it with open minds. In Eastern thinking one of the main teachings is that everything in life is impermanent. The good and the not so good do not last; everything exists only for a finite time. That is a fact of life and to resist that fact does no good, because it does not change the reality.

### A Reading

Please join us in a reading.

We gather here today numerous in the lands, the cultures and faiths we represent.

We come together as unique diverse individuals.

We are many voices with many experiences to honour our founder.

Who changed people's attitudes and made changes in his era.

We should follow his example and show respect for what has gone before review and adapt what needs to be updated so that we may move forward together.

We learn from each other we embrace change and grow together in Scouting, one in our Promise.

### A Poem: Life Is, Mother Teresa

#### A Reading

*If you make listening and observation your occupation you will gain much more than you can by talk.*

-Robert Baden-Powell

#### A Reading

*It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.*

-Charles Darwin

### A moment of quiet reflection

**Please join us in a moment to pause and think.**

## Musical Interlude: Sikh drumming (live performance)

### Comments on the theme

Change can be a beautiful thing, yet it is one aspect of life that many people resist. Why is it that some people can easily embrace change, while others will do everything in their power to prevent it? It all boils down to a matter of perception.

Welcome speaker.

## Reflections on the theme of change- experiences as a young leader

### Promise Renewal

Our Promise is what brings us together as Scouts. The various wordings reflect the unity that we embrace within our diversity. Our ability to think of others and do what we can to be inclusive.

Today we will all renew our Promise in our own language, using our own version so that the words we say we may say with meaning and belief in what it is we promise. I would now like to welcome Wayne, who will lead the traditional Promise renewal.

All the wordings of the Scout Promise are printed in the programme; please use the wording which is most meaningful to you as we renew our promise in unison.

Please join us in renewing your Promise.

#### **For Hindus,**

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to my Dharma and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

#### **For Muslims,**

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficial and the Most Merciful, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to Allah and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

#### **For Humanists, atheists and those with no defined faith;**

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

#### **For Christian, Jews and Sikhs,**

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to the Queen, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

#### **For subjects of independent Commonwealth countries, foreign nationals and individuals who are stateless the following wording can replace 'duty to the Queen';**

...to do my duty to the country in which I am now living.

## Closing Thoughts

We will have a moment of quiet to reflect personally on the importance of the Promise in our own life and how we live out that promise in our everyday lives.

We are here with hearts grateful and gladdened by the many blessings you have given us and thankful that our Movement has prospered and grown.

We give many thanks for the great adventures that Scouting has given us in our lives in so many ways in our activities and in our learning about each other.

In return for all that has given us we offer our lives as service to others.

May all that we share at this reunion enable us to widen our horizons, and our minds, may Scouting continue to challenge and stretch us physically, intellectually and spiritually.

So we may be able to embark on the adventures and opportunities that life has in store for us.

[Written by Fiona Weaver, inspired by The Founders Prayer]

## A Song

Please join us in a song to close Scouts' Own together.