



Former Green Party leader Trevor Sargent ordained a priest

From one ministry to another, former Green Party leader [Trevor Sargent](#) completed his latest journey in life on Saturday evening at [Christ Church](#) Cathedral in [Waterford](#) city and took the first steps on his next journey as a newly-ordained priest.

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Surrounded by family members, friends, colleagues from his days in education and politics, and his new parishioners and colleagues in the [Church of Ireland](#), the Rev Trevor Sargent did not stray far from the principles which first led him into public life as he vowed to make tackling issues such as homelessness and climate change part of his service.

“Homelessness is ultimately a mirror to our society: unfortunately as a society, as long as we tolerate homelessness it’s a reflection on our politics, which needs to be thought about very seriously,” he said after the ordination ceremony, adding that climate change is also a “key issue” for all churches.

Hundreds gathered in the medieval cathedral for the two-hour ordination, which was led by the Bishop of [Cashel](#), Ferns and Ossory, Rev [Michael Burrows](#), assisted by many clergy from across the country, including the registrar Canon [Ruth Elmes](#) and the Dean of Christ Church [Maria Jansson](#).

Among the attendance were the Rev Sargent’s wife, Áine Neville, parents Mildred and Harry, brother Derek, as well as friends such as the leader of the Green Party, [Eamon Ryan](#), and former TDs [John Gormley](#) and [Dan Boyle](#). A number of local politicians, including the Mayor of Waterford Cllr [Joe Kelly](#), were also present.

‘On the cards’

Much of the ceremony was conducted in Irish, reflecting the former TD and school principal’s love of the language and

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he said afterwards that he would be introducing a regular Irish-language service at Christ Church. He will serve at four parishes, Waterford , [Tramore](#), [Annestown](#) and [Dunmore East](#).

“Right from my schooldays, it’s been on the cards,” the Rev Sargent said of his vocation. “In a way, I was providing some expression of that faith through my work in teaching and politics.”

He was first elected as a TD in 1992, having sat on [Dublin City Council](#) where tackling planning corruption was one of his main concerns, and led the Green Party from 2001 until July 2007. He was a minister of state in the Fianna Fáil/ Green Party coalition from July 2007 until his resignation in 2010 and lost his Dáil seat in 2011.

He officially became a priest at 5.03pm on Saturday when Bishop Burrows handed him a Bible and presented him to the congregation, who were loud in their applause.

Afterwards, he described the day as “amazing” and said that while his new role may seem in complete contrast to that of a politician, “when you look at what ministry is about and what politics is about, there’s a level of service and pastoral care that is present in teaching, politics and ministry.”

During the homily, the Archdeacon of Ossory and Leighlin, the Venerable [Andrew Orr](#), wished him well in his ministry: “You won’t get every pothole filled, but you, and the people wherever you find yourself, will dream dreams together. Put

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them into action. You never know what difference you will make.”

Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade celebrate 125 years



To mark the 125th anniversary of the Brigade, 13 members of the CLCGB staff were invited to attend the Royal Garden Party at Hillsborough Castle on September 4, when Princess Anne was present.

The Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade will mark 125 years serving the Church of Ireland this year.

In 1893, two companies were established in Dublin, at Christ Church, Leeson Park, and St Peter's. Another two, at

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St Mary's, Donnybrook and St Stephen's, were added in 1894.

The first company in Belfast, for St Luke's, Northumberland Street, was formed in 1895 by Curate, the Rev James Archer. Soon every diocese, other than Meath, had its CLB companies and battalions were

established in Armagh, Belfast, Derry, Dublin and Limerick.

Girl units were established to work alongside CLB companies. In 1909, Derry Cathedral established a Church Girls' Brigade, followed by All Saints, Clooney, and they competed annually for the Marchioness of Hamilton's Shield. St Nicholas', Cork, ran a very successful CGB company alongside its CLB for several years.

WAR

The Great War had dreadful consequences for the Brigade. Companies were closed as they lost their officers and members to the war effort. When the war ended, other than St Mary's, Limerick Cathedral Company, and St Nicholas', Cork, CLB and CGB, the main strength of the Brigade was to be found in the north, in the 1st Down, Connor and Dromore Battalion.

A successful rebuilding process took place and new CLB companies were established across Northern Ireland. With the formation of a 2nd Battalion, and subsequently a 3rd

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Rebecca Martin from Magheragall Company and Thomas Latimer from Broomhedge Company were presented with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award by the Princess Royal on September 4.

Battalion, a higher formation was required and the Ulster Regiment was formed (1945), its first Commanding Officer being Mr Samuel

Waring, DCM, of Christ Church, Lisburn.

New CGB companies were opened in Ballymena, Ballymoney, Dobbin, Grange, Newry, Magherafelt and Seagoe and the 1st Battalion Church Girls' Brigade was established, under the command of Mrs Margaret Twinem from Seagoe, Portadown.

The CLB and CGB amalgamated in 1978.

CHALLENGING

In recent years, with the decline in attendances at churches and at Sunday Schools, the Brigade has experienced challenging times, losing strength in urban areas, particularly in Belfast. However, in the last five years the Brigade has worked hard, under its Commanding Officer, Melvyn Lockhart, and Development Officer, Victoria Jackson, to make progress.

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Companies have been enrolled or re-enrolled at Aghalee, Dromore (Clogher), Drogheda, Dunmurry, Killinchy, Lambeg, Christ Church, Lisburn, and St Michael's, Belfast, and there is interest being shown in other parishes. Approximately 400 members have been added to Brigade's strength.

As the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade marks its 125th anniversary, it is in a confident and buoyant place, and ready to serve our Church for another 125 years at least.

THANKSGIVING

The anniversary will be marked by a Parade and Service of Thanksgiving in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, on Sunday September 30 at 3.30pm. Special guests will include Mrs Jill Armstrong, Deputy Lieutenant of County Armagh, and Councillor Julie Flaherty, Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon.

Former members of the CLB and CGB are invited to attend.

The Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, will dedicate a beautiful new Colour in memory of former Commanding Officer, Harry Anderson, and present a new trophy, The Archbishop's Award, for the Champion Company of the Brigade.

A commemorative medal for junior and senior members and officers is being struck, and a colourful badge,

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designed by member Lauren McClure from St Saviour's, Dobbin, is being produced for younger members.

To mark the 125th anniversary of the Brigade, 13 members of the CLCGB staff were invited to attend the Royal Garden Party at Hillsborough Castle on September 4, when Princess Anne was present.

Later that same afternoon, Rebecca Martin from Magheragall Company and Thomas Latimer from Broomhedge Company were presented with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award by the Princess Royal.

Bishop advocates new beginning between Church, Irish government

Bishop Brendan Leahy of Limerick has encouraged a fresh collaboration between the Church and the government of the Republic of Ireland.

“I make a humble plea to all who want to begin with us again in a new way, what the Taoiseach called a new covenant; let's rebuild a church at the service of Irish society,” he told the Irish Times.

He clarified that the new relationship would enable the Church to be at “the service of the Irish people.”

Bishop Leahy's comments come in the wake of the World Meeting of Families, where Pope Francis spoke about the country's clerical abuse scandal.

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The Bishop of Limerick identified the scandals as “a blindness in the Church” which is now being viewed with open eyes. He said that despite the discouraging events in the Church, the faith has been a constant in the country, which was greatly expressed during the World Meeting of Families.

“It was everywhere I turned. At a time when many have – for one reason or another, not least the scandals that have hit the church – shied away from public expressions of faith, people felt released from shackles for the weekend. The freedom and joy as they celebrated being part of God’s kingdom was remarkable and not seen since 1979 in this country.”

This does not negate the evil which has been committed, he added. However, he said it would be unfair to present and future possibilities to see the Church only in light of these scandals.

“Clearly those who attended the ceremonies in Dublin and Knock have a deep love of their faith and we must continue to nourish that. It is our mission. The sins of the past cannot be allowed to cloud over that mission,” he said.

He said Church has made tremendous strides in improving the protection of children and repeated the Church’s decision to cooperate with the authorities. If any secrets of abuse remain hidden, he encouraged those members of the Church to bring it into the light.

“I plead with them to come forward immediately and own up to this, again to State and church authorities. Do not put

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yourself in a situation where the poison within can infect others. There is no place for this in God's house.”

Relations between the Church and the Irish government have been strained in recent years.

In May, voters repealed the Eighth Amendment, which banned abortion. The following month, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar said that publicly-funded hospitals in Ireland will be required to perform abortions, even if they are Catholic and morally opposed to the procedure.

Individual medical professionals will be able to opt out of performing abortions, but entire hospitals will not be able to do so.

Archbishop Justin Welby makes solidarity visit to Chief Rabbi as antisemitism rises

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has wished the UK's Jewish community “an increase in your sense of security and peace.” He made his comments in a conversation with Britain's Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, during a visit to his home in advance of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The Community Security Trust, which protects Jewish communities in the UK, reported a record annual total of 1,414 antisemitic incidents in the UK last year. The figure for the first six months of 2018 – 727 incidents – showed an eight per cent fall on the same period last year; but despite the fall, the first half of 2018 is the second-highest total ever recorded by the CST.

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Britain's opposition Labour party has repeatedly been accused of failing to take action against incidents of antisemitism committed by its members and activists. Media reports of the issue often result in a tirade of abuse against Jewish politicians, media and campaigners on social media.

“You have gone through, in the last few months, a very demanding, stressful time; and in some ways in the last few years with the increase in anti-Jewish attacks across the country on synagogues, on cemeteries, on individuals; and the unspeakable trolling on social media,” Archbishop Justin told Chief Rabbi Mirvis.

“Coming into this New Year we are where we were a year ago, but actually we're in a worse position,” the Chief Rabbi said in response. “Because a year ago we had our aspirations, our hopes, our prayers; and we have seen that

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matters haven't moved forward. If anything, they have deteriorated.

“And ever since the holocaust we never thought for one moment that we would again need to defend our Jewishness, our identity, our existence. It is, to us, unbelievable what is actually happening now.

“We are absolutely determined to ensure that there will be a stop to this scourge of antisemitism across all institutions in this country. There should be a zero tolerance. We want to have a great wonderful and happy future in the country that we love. We are Jewish and British. We are British and Jewish.”

The Chief Rabbi criticised the “irresponsible world leaders” who were allowing it to take place; and some even encouraging it. “Where you have poisonous comment laced with hatred, you can be sure that hatred of the Jew will be coming very quickly.”

Archbishop Justin said that “community” in Britain was a collection of larger or smaller groups, most of whom were minorities. “Anything that permits attacks on one minority group is a threat to the entire structure of the nation,” he said. “Once you attack one group, why not attack every other group?”

During the 90-minute meeting, Archbishop Justin reflected on his predecessor Archbishop William Temple establishing the Council of Christians and Jews in 1942, with Chief Rabbi Joseph H Hertz, as a means of combating the evils of antisemitism.

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Archbishop Justin told the Chief Rabbi he was pleased that the Parliamentary Labour Party had adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism without any caveats. This is something that had been opposed by the wider Labour party.

He offered his own unequivocal support for the definition and suggested that the Church ought to formally adopt it. “I am distressed that it should be necessary, but I think it is necessary”, he said.

“Listening to you, I find it hugely distressing and depressing that in the 21st century that any community, especially the Jewish community given the history of Europe of the last two or three generations – should have a deep sense of insecurity. I think that is appalling; and what that tells me is that the leaders of this nation should be very clear in giving security to the Jewish community in this country.”

The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, began on Sunday 9 September and ends on the evening of Tuesday 11 September. During the meeting, Archbishop Justin wished the Chief Rabbi Shana Tova – the traditional Hebrew greeting for a good and sweet year.

News briefs

+++Malone C of I parish at Falls Road Catholic parish anniversary - The Rural Dean of South Belfast, the Rev Kevin Graham, was delighted to bring greetings from St John the Evangelist, Malone, to the parish of St John the Evangelist, Falls Road, on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the Down and Connor parish. Previous

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Parish Priests and Curates were in attendance and were all welcomed by the present incumbent Fr Martin Magill. The service of sung Vespers was led by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Down and Connor, the Very Rev Eugene O'Hagan. A warm welcome was given to the Rural Dean and some parishioners from Malone. The link between the two parishes was established during the incumbency of the Rev Canon Robert Jones and all look forward to seeing how it will develop in the future.

+++Rahdowney church 200th anniversary - Yesterday (Sunday) evening at 7pm there will be a special service to celebrate the 200th anniversary of St Andrew's church, Rathdowney, at which the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory will preach.

+++Armagh insitution - On Tuesday evening the Revd Diane Matchett will be instituted to the parishes of Kildress & Altedesert in the Diocese of Armagh while in the Diocese of Meath the Revd William Steacy will be instituted as Rector of the Athlone group of parishes. In St Nicholas' Collegiate church on Friday evening the Revd Lynda Peilow will be instituted to the parishes of Galway & Kilcummin.

+++Calary recital - In Calary parish church, Co. Wicklow, at 8 pm on Wednesday, the Janet Ashe Memorial Concert will feature Fiachra Garvey (piano) playing works by Brahms, Chopin, Field, and Rachmaninov.

+++Whitechurch book launch - On Thursday afternoon, at 3pm in Brabazon House, Canon Horace McKinley will

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launch *Sailor, Airman, Spy. Memoir of a Cold War Veteran* by Whitechurch parishioner, Ted Hayes. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be given to support the work of the Brabazon Trust.



+++Blarney holiday club - Another parish in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, which hosted a holiday club during this past summer was the Church of the Resurrection, Blarney in the Parish of Carrigrohane Union. The local secondary school – Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál – was the venue in July with nearly 80 young people taking part. The theme was ‘Teambuilders.’

+++Irish Palatine Gathering in Tralee - There will be an Irish Palatine Gathering in Tralee on the 30th September at 10.45am. There will be a talk during the service on the Palatines who settled in Kerry and Limerick three hundred years ago. Palatine names today include Poff, Gleasure, Fitzell, Hoffmann. Many Irish people have Palatine ancestry and this will be a great opportunity to learn more about that aspect of their heritage.

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+++Tyndale bible at tipperary harvest - St Paul's church, Cahir, Co Tipperary will host a Harvest weekend beginning next Friday during which an original Tyndale Bible and other interesting books will be displayed and informative talks given on the story of how the Bible came to be published in the English language. The weekend will begin with a concert by 'Cahir to Sing' and a presentation by Mr Felix O'Neill, the owner of the Bible, at 8pm on Friday evening. The Harvest Thanksgiving will take place on Sunday afternoon at 3.30pm. The display will be open to visitors from 10.00am – 5.00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

