



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Drugs problem affects Kilskeery Christian school



The premises that were raided

Homes and business premises are being raided nightly with little likelihood of anyone being charged.

In one evening recently, eight bungalows in one road were burgled. One was the home of a policeman! Thousands of pounds in cash and equipment were taken. The motive in many instances is money for drugs.

In the early hours of the following morning, Friday 29th January, our church and school premises were raided and cash and cheques made out to the school to the value of

£550 approximately were taken.

Anyone who has ordered sermon tapes from our church in the last week of January and who has not yet received them, please contact our office because some tape orders were also stolen.

We are thankful that, apart from the smashing of a framed portrait of Dr. Paisley, a locked filing cabinet being forced open and drawers being turned out, little damage was done and valuable school equipment was left unharmed.

The following night, an elderly gentleman, living about a mile away, was confronted by a hooded gunman demanding admittance. The man slammed the door and the would-be intruder made off. Some two weeks previous to that, another elderly man living on his own opened fire on intruders with a shotgun.

The growing lawlessness in Ulster is a direct result of the government's kid-glove treatment of terrorists. Few in the rising generation have any regard for the law and see the police as no deterrent at all. The craze for drugs coupled with the decline in the fear of God has bred anarchy in areas where once tranquillity largely prevailed. In areas where the republican and loyalist paramilitaries rule, a major exercise in territory-grabbing has been taking place. Anyone who gets out of line on the paramilitaries' turf, must answer to them. The IRA in particular has been seeking to advance its case for the disbanding of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, by terrorising nationalists into ignoring the RUC when trouble arises, and instead seeking help from the IRA. This has resulted in death and crippling injuries to those deemed to have acted in an anti-social manner in nationalist areas. A similar tale may be told of areas under the rule of loyalist paramilitaries.

Despite a greater number of punishment beatings and shootings than for the same period last year, some resulting in death, the government will neither halt the early release of convicted terrorists from prison as part of the Good Friday "Peace Agreement", nor will it declare these activities breaches of the ceasefire arrangements.

It is commonly believed that, irrespective of what the terrorist organisations do, Mo Mowlam and Tony Blair will press on with their present political initiative.

Last year there were 237 paramilitary beatings and shootings and a further 149 families or individuals were exiled. There were 55 people murdered by terrorists, the worst total since



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1994. The bombs may have ceased to explode on mainland Britain and that is all Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam are interested in, but the terror continues in Ulster.

Mrs. Maureen Kearney, a Roman Catholic whose son was one of those killed by the IRA as a result of a punishment shooting, saw the man she believes is guilty of the murder in a shopping centre and she accosted him about the killing. The man just laughed at her!

Noel Diver was attacked by six masked IRA men in his own home with iron bars and baseball bats. It was several minutes before they realised that they



Michael Brennan, left, and Noel Diver

were attacking the wrong man! They left and went next door where they proceeded to beat up Michael Brennan for fifteen minutes. He suffered fractures to both arms and a smashed left elbow.

Noel Diver had a broken ankle and severe bruising to his legs.

Both men fared better than Andrew Peden, a Protestant from Belfast. He was tortured for ten hours by the UVF, a loyalist terror group linked to the Progressive Unionist Party, led by David Ervine and Billy Hutchinson and a signatory of the "Peace Agreement". Mr. Peden was then taken to waste ground and shot in both legs with a shotgun. So severe were his injuries that both of his legs had to be amputated above the knees.

The rise in paramilitary assaults over the past month has not slowed down. The attacks, assaults and shootings have run at the rate of one a day during January. The latest involved a loyalist gang. It attacked and terrorised a group of teenagers and a mother and two children in Newtownabbey, near Belfast. Two people were hospital-

ised.

Republicans are believed to have been behind a shooting in Cookstown on the same night as the Newtownabbey attack, in which a man in his thirties was shot twice in the leg.

There is no prospect of things improving. Indeed, as people begin to take measures to protect themselves then the likelihood of increasing disaster and lawlessness escalates.



Mrs Kearney tends her son's grave.



A political cartoon in the Belfast Telegraph of 27th January 1999 says it all