

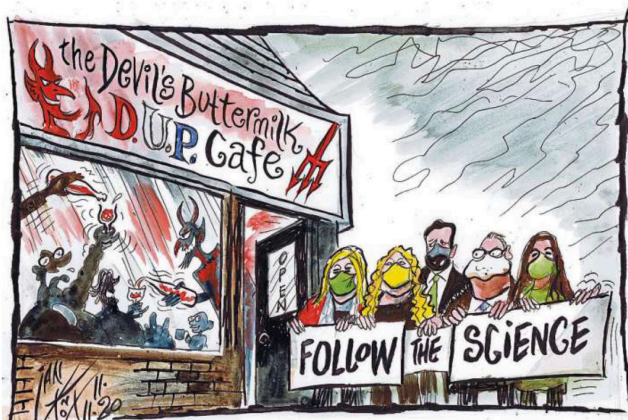


The Burning Bush - Online article archive

The DUP are now the defenders of the interests of the pubs of Ulster!!

It was Dr Paisley who famously defined alcoholic drinks as the 'Devil's Buttermilk'!

The cartoon below had this in mind as it directs mockery at the present stance of the DUP on the extending of lockdown restrictions to the various places where alcoholic drinks are sold. They are most anxious about the commercial wellbeing of the 'booze' trade!



Former prominent DUP member and Assembly minister, Simon Hamilton, is now chief Executive of the Belfast Chamber, the voice of 'the hospitality trade', a euphemism for the booze merchants!

Such a position is far removed from the position once held by the DUP. It must be shamefully embarrassing for the Christians who support this party and for Free Presbyterians in particular.

The standards of the Free Presbyterian Church regarding this matter are set out in our 'Book of Order', chapter 3 - **Distinctives Of The Free Presbyterian Church Of Ulster.**

3.7 - Sanctified in Behaviour, requiring its members to lead godly lives in obedience to the Scriptures which call on God's people to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Testimonies of holiness and righteousness are vital to the life and witness of Christ's Church in a world increasingly plagued by the pleasure crazes of this generation, such as drinking (as defined in 5.6c - Who does not practice total abstinence from the recreational, social, or non-medicinal use of drugs and from the consumption of beverage alcohol, both in public and in private, or who otherwise rejects the church's standards of personal separation), dancing, and gambling.)

Surely it is a violation of these standards to be acting in the promotion of the drink trade by seeking to shield it from limitations on its hours of business, and that on the advice of the Assembly's medical advisors and when rejecting such medical counsel may well be endangering the public health of the citizens of this land and condemning some to death.

It is sad to see the likes of Sinn Fein and the SDLP pressing for further restrictions upon the sale of alcohol and the DUP, on its own, taking the side of the booze trade!

I find it hard to understand the spirit of indifference to these issues that seems to prevail amongst the leadership of the Free Presbyterian Church. The attitudes and actions of some FPs, involved in the DUP, are ignored and thereby excused. Such was not a feature of the denomination but a few years ago.