



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

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### Arson attack on Free Presbyterian Christian school



**A malicious fire on the morning of 12th July at Newtownabbey School destroyed three classrooms and a woodwork store. It was around 10:00 am when the fire was spotted by a passing motorist. The fire destroyed the woodwork store, science room and art room. Another classroom was so badly smoke and heat damaged that the whole building has been written off as 'a total loss' by the insurance company.**

It is impossible to state who was responsible for the fire. There was a number of other churches in the area attacked around the beginning of July. The minister, Rev Brian McClung has said that the church committee is exploring the possibility of having a 'Chief Constable's Certificate' issued. This will enable the church and school to claim compensation from the Northern Ireland Office Compensation Agency rather than off the church's insurers.

Mr. McClung also said that it is their intention to replace the classrooms that have been lost with the money obtained from either the Compensation Agency or their own insurance. In the short term, the School will use other rooms within the Church.

He also requested prayer. "Please pray that the Lord will overrule so that we obtain the 'Chief Constable's Certificate'. Pray also that the Lord will undertake and bless the school over this coming academic year. There will be some disruption as we seek to replace the classrooms we have lost. We do thank the Lord for the gifts that have been sent to us since the fire. A substantial offering was taken up by Dr. Paisley's congregation, Martyrs Memorial Free Presbyterian Church. Such a gift was most encouraging.