



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

DUP MP supporting local pubs campaign

(Belfast Newsletter, 10th September 2019)



DUP MP Jim Shannon

The chancellor should consider cutting beer tax to help boost pubs which are "at the heart of communities," in constituencies such as Strangford, the DUP's Jim Shannon has said.

Mr Shannon said he backs the UK-wide 'Long Live the Local' campaign as the brewing industry and pubs support 651 jobs, as well as contributing £14.8 million each year, to the economy of the area.

The Strangford MP said drinkers in the UK were paying 40% of all beer tax across the EU, despite drinking only 12% of the beer, and that the heavy taxes were forcing three pubs a day to close.

"I'm supporting the Long Live the Local campaign and calling on the chancellor to cut beer tax at this year's budget to support pubs in our local communities," he said.

The campaign celebrates pubs whilst educating the public about the challenges they face.

Having just read this article with sadness of heart at this latest evidence of the spirit of backsliding and worldliness, rampant in the professing Christian Church here in Ulster, I wish to share it with you and underscore how a professing Christian in the DUP has further abandoned the teaching of the Word of God!

He is DUP MP for Strangford, Jim Shannon.

He is reported in today's Belfast Newsletter as saying that "the chancellor should consider cutting beer tax to help boost pubs which are "at the heart of communities," in constituencies such as Strangford Mr Shannon said he backs the UK-wide 'Long Live the Local' campaign as the brewing industry and pubs support 651 jobs, as well as contributing £14.8 million each year, to the economy of the area. The Strangford MP said drinkers in the UK were paying 40% of all beer tax across the EU, despite drinking only 12% of the beer, and that the heavy taxes were forcing three pubs a day to close." "I'm supporting the Long Live the Local campaign and calling on the chancellor to cut beer tax at this year's budget to support pubs in our local communities," he said."

Pubs closing!! Now isn't that a dreadful pity and something for a Christian to lament over!!?? Is this not a principled stand for a professing Christian public representative to take??

Putting aside all irony, we have to say that being a member of the DUP with its recently adopted position of being supportive of the sodomite community, such a call by Mr Shannon and his siding with the wicked trade in alcohol and with the 'Long Live the Local campaign which celebrates pubs' is not really surprising.

I wonder when we will hear a similar call from within the DUP for legalising 'Gay Marriage' here in Northern Ireland??

It is important to set over against the 651 jobs linked to the alcohol business to which Mr Shannon refers, the numerous thousands of victims of alcohol that endure a misery that is the result of pub owners becoming rich selling their poison.

Furthermore, the £14.8 millions is but a drop in the ocean in comparison to the price society and the victims of alcohol have had to pay for the care, the treatment and the family and social devastation directly stemming from the business that Mr Shannon is so eager to aid and support!



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We can not even try to calculate the unthinkable eternal consequences of the alcohol trade.

I am reminded of that old poem which states the matter well!

A place where strong drink is sold is sometimes a called a Bar - that's true,
A BAR to heaven, a door to hell; whoever named it, named it well.
A BAR to manliness and wealth; a door to want and broken health.
A BAR to honor, pride and fame; a door to grief and sin and shame.
A BAR to home and a BAR to prayer; a door to darkness and despair.
A BAR to honored, useful life; a door to brawling, senseless strife,
A BAR to all that's true and brave; a door to every drunkard's grave.
A BAR to joys that home imparts; a door to tears and aching hearts.
A BAR to heaven, a door to hell; whoever named it, named it well.

-- Author Unknown

It is a sad day indeed in Ulster. Christians in the DUP, especially Free Presbyterians, have been given another reason why they should leave it forthwith!

Sincerely in Christ,

Ivan Foster.