

Vandals Break Into Kildonan Church; Ruin White Gifts

Sunday, Dec. 16, was White Gift Sunday at St. Stephen's Anglican Church. Parishioners with hearts full of good will towards men brought their gifts to the morning service. Little children, learning that it is better to give than to receive, gave their offerings of food and clothes to the needy — to those other little boys and girls less fortunate than themselves.

But these other children, these homes that were in need of these gifts so generously bestowed, were never to see them. Because, between the hours of 9.30 and 11.30 that same evening the parish hall, in which the gift hampers were stored, was broken into. Tins of fruit and vegetables were wantonly punctured, juices were spilled over other packages. Only a few cans of food were stolen, but the rest was spoiled by that lowest of crimes, vandalism.

And in this case, because it was on church property, the robbery became desecration, a defiling of the Lord's property . . . something that few of us would wish to have on our consciences for the rest of our lives.

Only a few months ago St. Stephen's was broken into and wilful damage perpetrated. Is someone in the district mean enough to have a spite against this church, or were birdbrain hooligans at loose again? The caretaker states he saw two teen age boys coming from the back of the church and upon questioning them they said they were looking for their mitts.

Whoever did this has lost not only the respect of the community, but his own self respect as well. And has taken away what little happiness these gifts might have given to needy children, who must now keep on doing without.

Young Vandals Wreck Church In E. Kildonan

Boys, 6 And 8, Admit Smashing Contents, Ripping Books

East Kildonan police Monday night arrested two boys — aged six and eight — as the vandals who entered the John Black Memorial United church, knocked over a baptismal font, ripped up hymn books, smashed collection plates, emptied drawers and scattered their contents.

Rev. P. V. Samson found the litter when he arrived at the Henderson highway and Roberta street building Monday afternoon. Police first believed the damage had been done after the Sunday evening service, later decided it had been done at noon Monday.

Police Chief Chris Einfeld, of East Kildonan, said the children admitted they caused the damage on their way home from school. They were turned over to their parents who were ordered to pay the costs of replacing the damaged articles.

Several gifts to the church in memory of former members were smashed or damaged, Mr. Samson said.

A fern was pushed over and the flower pot smashed. Each desk in the study had been rifled and papers littered the floor, but nothing was stolen, Mr. Samson said. No estimate of the damage was available.

Police Chief Einfeld said that two weeks ago 28 windows in a nearby Mennonite church had been broken by vandals. A year ago, wax was poured in the keys of the organ in an East Kildonan Anglican church.

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Vandalism On Increase At E. Kildonan Schools

Vandalism to East Kildonan schools has increased at such an alarming rate in recent months that the School Board is seeking the help of residents living in the immediate areas of the schools.

A spokesman of the Board said Wednesday that it has cost \$2,500 so far this year to replace broken windows.

This is believed to be twice as much as any other school district in the Metro area.

Obscene words and drawings have been scribbled on walls and windows, syrup has been slapped on door handles, and initials carved on doors.

"This is a nuisance damage," the spokesman said, "as it takes someone away from another job to clean it up."

Two fires have also been set in the doorway of one school.

Most damage has been done at Angus McKay School, followed by Lord Wolseley, with slighter destruction at some of the other schools.

The co-operation of all residents living near schools is being sought. Any resident seeing anyone loitering around a school building after school hours is asked to phone the East Kildonan police immediately.