Ronnie Hill

SEFF remembers Ronnie Hill who was the 12th victim of the Enniskillen Poppy Day Massacre. Ronnie died on 28th December 2000 (13 years after the attack) having sustained injuries for which he was unable to recover.

Ronnie, was aged 69 when he died, he was Enniskillen High school's headteacher. He was at the Cenotaph with his bible class when the bomb exploded.

Ronnie was in a coma since PIRA's Poppy Day bombing and was lovingly nursed by his wife Noreen throughout those 13 painful years. She devoted almost all her waking hours to nursing him since he lapsed into a coma after sustaining horrific injuries in the Enniskillen IRA bombing which saw 11 innocents murdered on 8th November 1987. Noreen passed away in 2008.

The family possesses a strong and resolute Christian faith which sustained Noreen and other members throughout those difficult years and since Ronnie's passing. Often the family would read to Ronnie from the Scriptures, although they didn't talk for long spells as they were unaware how good his concentration was.

Long before there was much talk about cross-community work, Ronnie was said to have been working with Roman Catholic teachers, bringing the two sides together. He is said to have believed young people should be educated to know the other side hadn't horns and that everyone should grow up together, respecting each other.

Ronnie and wife Noreen met at a church social in Kilkeel, Co Down, in the early 1950s and spent six years in Africa as missionaries before moving to Enniskillen.

He was also said to be devoted to his pupils and family. He was very interested in sport and used to coach rugby, football and cricket.

Ronnie proved his devotion to his wife when Noreen became ill with cancer about two years before the bombing and underwent intensive chemotherapy and radiotherapy. She would have been at the war memorial with him that fateful morning had she not been feeling unwell. Before her death she had remarked that said that she believes it was God's will that she made a full recovery and was able to care for him.

Ronnie and his late wife Noreen are survived by children, Avril, Marilyn, Siobhan and Keith.

Ronnie is remembered on SEFF’s latest Memorial Quilt, ‘A Patchwork of Innocents.’ The images used are; a head teacher’s head dress, Bible and an image which demonstrates friendship or embracing hands.

Ronnie didn’t talk the often phoney language of Peace and Reconciliation, Ronnie truly lived it.

SEFF remembers the Hill family today and every day.