

'Deal with Jesus' led to bomber's hate campaign

By Nigel Bunyan

A PARANOID schizophrenic who claimed Jesus had told him to send a series of parcel bombs across Britain was sent indefinitely to a secure hospital yesterday.



Pure evil: Glynn Harding used his state benefit to finance his bombing campaign

Glynn Harding, 27, agreed to "a deal" in which he would post 100 of the bombs in return for his stillborn baby being allowed to leave Hell and enter Heaven.

Harding, an animal rights sympathiser who searched the internet for information on how to make parcel bombs, had posted 15 by the time police arrested him near his home in Crewe, Cheshire, last February.

In the three months of his campaign he left one middle-aged woman disfigured and blinded in one eye, and transformed an outgoing six-year-old girl into a child who often cries when she is left at school.

Judge Elgin Edwards, the Recorder of Chester, told Harding he had admitted to crimes of "pure evil". Were it not for his illness, he would have been jailed for life.

Judge Edwards said that only the Home Secretary could authorise his release and added: "I am bound to say . . . that I do not think you will be released for many, many years."

Harding, a father of two, began his campaign last December. One of his first victims was Leah Cain, six, whose father, Michael, runs a pest control business in Cheshire.

The child heard what she described as a "hissing" sound as she began to open a parcel sent to her home. Alarmed, she dropped it a split second before it exploded. She suffered cuts and burns to her lower body.

Janet Blyth, 46, who worked for an agricultural agent, was blinded in one eye when she opened one of the packages in Patrington, Humberside.

Duncan Bould, prosecuting at Chester Crown Court, said Harding had designed a series of "relatively straightforward" bombs. One was a pipe bomb, the rest nail bombs loaded with ball bearings and cut-down panel pins.

Harding paid for the components out of his state benefits money. In every case, the bombs were targeted at people whose jobs were loosely connected with animals.

These included those working in agriculture and, in one case, a fish and chip shop. The suspicion that Harding was linked to animal rights protesters was fostered by his scrawling of the initials ARM (Animal Rights Militia) on two of the packages police intercepted. But he was not a member of any group.

The last bomb to reach its target went to a British Heart Foundation shop in Lytham St Anne's, Lancs. Inscribed within it was the message: "Please find enclosed my donation to your fund."

At the home he shared with his common-law wife, Teresa Done, and their children, Chelsea and Jake, detectives found numerous bomb-making components.

They also found the names of seven future targets. Among them was an MP, whose identity has not been disclosed.

The court heard how the bomber attributed the start of his campaign to the stillbirth of his baby in March 2000 and its burial inside a jam jar.

In the weeks that followed, said Mr Bould, he heard "the voice of Jesus" instructing him to send 100 bombs "to ensure that the baby was allowed to go from Hell to Heaven".

Simon Mills, defending, said Harding, whose partner still regards him as "a perfect father", began to suffer from mental illness as an adolescent.

Mr Mills added: "Throughout the campaign he knew that what he was doing was wrong."