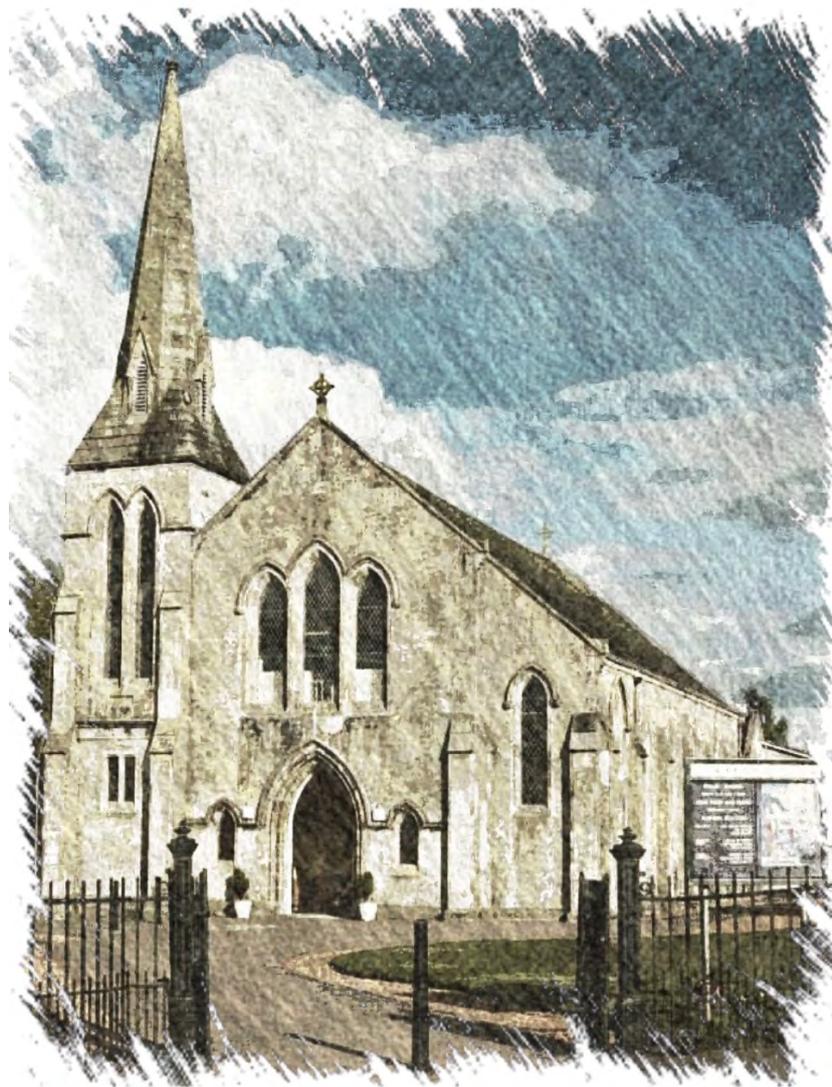


# Kirkmuirhill Church

Presbytery of Lanark

Unrestricted Call



## Parish Profile

Church of Scotland  
Scottish Charity No: SCO14451



Thank you for taking the  
time to read our  
Parish Profile.  
For the past three years we  
have been praying about the  
person who will hear  
God's Call to come and serve  
as the minister here in  
Kirkmuirhill Church  
and Parish,  
someone who will work  
alongside us to  
advance Christ's Kingdom  
in this place.



Easter Cross 2017

### **OUR PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES**

- To keep, cherish, and develop the worship of God at the centre of the life of the congregation
- To ensure there is an opportunity for every member to grow their faith through Bible study, prayer, discipleship and nurture
- To reach out to the community and be known as the caring church at the centre of the community
- To welcome and pastorally care for all.

### **OUR CHALLENGES**

- To seek new ways of attracting people to come and hear the gospel and experience Christian fellowship
- To develop and encourage the youth in our fellowship and to bring them to faith.
- To continue to build up the leadership and the Session
- To explore in on-going discussion the role of women in the church.
- To consolidate and amplify the healing process that has been achieved since the time of the separation.
- To build relationships with the other churches in the area.

## WORSHIP, PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY

Worship services are at 11am and 6.30pm every Sunday  
Average attendance on a Sunday morning is 110 and 35 in the evening.

Members share in the leading of worship by reading the Bible, leading prayers, taking the Children's time and occasional drama.

Y-Zone is our Sunday School which meets every Sunday and we have typically 15 children. There is also a crèche available during the service.

Our Messy Church meets every two months on a Friday evening and around 60 attend.

There is a mid-week prayer fellowship with 15-20 attending and meets all year. We have 4 regular Bible Study Groups which meet in the homes of individual members as well as occasional groups such as Lenten Studies and Christianity Explored.

## ORGANISATIONS

### **Sunday**

Youth Fellowship –from Secondary School age to early twenties with 12-15 attending

### **Monday**

Girls Brigade – all sections

### **Tuesday**

The Guild - meets once a fortnight with 41 members

Banner Group - meets alternate weeks to the Guild

**Thursday** - Boys Brigade – all sections





Holiday Club

## OUTREACH

### **Holiday Club**

In our 42nd year the Summer Holiday Club is an outreach to primary aged children which meets every morning for a week. Some 90 children attend.

In the evening there is a programme for teen-agers.

### **Harvest Supper**

Invitations are sent throughout the Parish to the annual Harvest Supper for senior citizens. Food and entertainment are laid on.

### **Second Chance Shop**

About to celebrate its 20th Anniversary our charity shop, in the heart of the village, has been serving the community with nearly new goods at very reasonable prices and, benefiting local causes as well as national and international charities from the proceeds. This is the only shop in the village where people can come in and browse.

A **Christmas Card** was sent to every home in the village with details of Christmas Services and was well received .

**Back to Church Sunday** was held at the beginning of September which achieved its purpose and a number of people have once again become regular attendees

**Food Bank**— we support the local Food Bank with food collections every month.

### **Charity Support**

Our church and organisations support a number of charities on a regular basis including: Tear Fund, Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust, Children in the Developing World, Covenant Fellowship, Blythswood Care and various Guild Projects.

## OUR CHURCH BUILDINGS

Kirkmuirhill Parish Church was built in 1868 in the style of that time.

The building can accommodate a congregation of some 300 people. There are also two meeting rooms, a vestry, a modern kitchen, a small hall and a large hall with a well-equipped stage.

The manse, contemporary with the Church comprises: down stairs, a large kitchen with separate extensive utility rooms, a shower room, a study, two public rooms and upstairs: four large bedrooms – one with dressing room – and a bathroom. Oil central heating. We are currently considering the best options for the comfort and well-being of our next minister. The Church and Manse sit together in extensive grounds which are well maintained by the congregation.

## HOW WE ARE ORGANISED

We have 145 members and 8 Adherents.

The Church has a Model constitution. The Kirk Session consists of 5 local elders and 8 Assessor elders, the number of the latter will be reduced in the coming months. There are 13 Board members who serve alongside the elders on the Congregational Board.

We currently employ a secretary for 15 hours a week and a church cleaner for 10 hours a week.



Uniformed Organisations at  
Annual Remembrance Ceremony



Guild Dedication Service

## ABOUT OUR PARISH

Kirkmuirhill in South Lanarkshire extends to some 20 square miles. It is semi rural with the main centres of population located in the two villages of Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill. Over time these have merged to form one township. However the boundaries between the two are still recognised, though exactly where they are remains the subject of local discussion. Houses are equally divided between local authority and owner occupied. There are two smaller villages, Auchenheath and Boghead, which are located about a mile from Kirkmuirhill. The remaining dwellings are farms and cottages. The total population is around 5000 people. The parish lies 20 miles south of Glasgow and has easy access to the M74. There is public transport to Hamilton, Larkhall and Lanark, each with a rail link to Glasgow.

There are a number of local shops and also a doctor and dentist.

Blackwood Primary school is a new building opened 4 years ago and which incorporates the community centre and library. It also has a dedicated nursery. Bent is the second and smaller primary school which serves the area surrounding Boghead. There is also a Roman Catholic primary school. The nearest secondary school is 2 miles away in Lesmahagow. We have chaplaincy input at both primary schools and in the past have had a chaplaincy presence in Lesmahagow High School.

Most people travel to work in other places. The parish has a younger population than its surrounding area. The large number of young families is reflected in the life of the church.

In the parish there is a Roman Catholic Church, a Free Church of Scotland congregation and a Gospel Hall.



## OUR RECENT HISTORY AND THE PRESENT

Our vacancy arose in March 2014 when the minister left the Church of Scotland, taking with him half the members of the congregation. This led to the formation of a Free Church of Scotland congregation in the village.

Presbytery advised the congregation at that point to proceed with a Transition minister but this proved not to be possible. The idea of Interim Ministry was then proposed and after a period of time a member of the Interim Ministry Team was appointed in March 2016. This appointment has helped to consolidate the progress already made.

Since that time the congregation has moved forward and developed a new sense of identity, generating and appreciating a real sense of caring fellowship. From the outset of this phase large numbers of members volunteered to serve where needed in the life of the congregation. Numbers attending worship and the various organisations have all increased in the past three years.

***One member said:***

***' I feel that the whole atmosphere has changed radically,  
it is a delight now to be going to church on a Sunday,  
I feel part of a loving caring family.***

***The congregation seem much happier and visitors  
who come to church say how friendly it is.***

***I am glad that I decided to stay it is obvious from all that has happened  
in the past 3 years that God has blessed us abundantly and I can't thank  
him enough for that.'***

We are delighted that Presbytery has now given us the go-ahead to 'Call' our next minister to join us in growing in faith and advancing the Gospel in our community. Kirkmuirhill Congregation is committed to worship, prayer and Bible study and to witnessing to the Love of God as seen in Jesus. We want to share these joys and challenges with our new minister.

### **Celebrating 150 Years**

In 2018 Kirkmuirhill Church will celebrate it's 150th anniversary  
We have lots of exciting activities and events planned.

This is your invitation  
to share this special time with us  
as our next minister.

## MORE INFORMATION

Parish Profile is available on our website at  
[www.kirkmuirhillchurch.co.uk](http://www.kirkmuirhillchurch.co.uk)

Also available:  
Statistics for Mission , Latest church magazine  
Annual Statement for 2016

The Church on Social media:  
[Instagram.com/Kirkmuirhill church](https://www.instagram.com/Kirkmuirhillchurch)  
[Facebook.com/Kirkmuirhill](https://www.facebook.com/Kirkmuirhill)  
[Twitter.com/parishkirk](https://twitter.com/parishkirk)

### Contact Details:

If you wish to find out more about Kirkmuirhill or have a look around  
please do not hesitate to contact our Interim Moderator:

Rev Henry J W Findlay  
2 Alba Gardens, Carluke, ML8 5UZ

Tel: 01555 759995  
Email: [henryfindlay@btinternet.com](mailto:henryfindlay@btinternet.com)

Please send your application with your CV and two referees to  
the Clerk to the Nominating Committee:  
Scott Dunlop



**Our Church Needs You !**