



# PARISH PROFILE

Blairhill Dundyvan linked with Coatbridge Middle

"Coatbridge is a great town to be a minister in." (A Local Minister)



Children's  
Ministry

Pastoral  
Care



60+ Club



Line Dancing



Senior  
Citizens

We, the congregations of Blairhill Dundyvan and Middle Churches, would like to thank you for taking time to find out more about us. We hope this Parish profile is a helpful and informative introduction to us.





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**Are you ready for a fresh challenge?  
If you are - we are the Parish for you!**



In 2015 both congregations agreed to accept a period of Interim Ministry, the Minister, The Rev. John Collard joined us soon after. Entering a linkage can be challenging when Churches have operated independently for some time. Change can be difficult to accept and it was felt the process of interim ministry would help us to accept change and help us work together in linkage.

A Process Group was set up with representatives from both congregations where we worked towards bringing the approved Aims & Objectives to life and make changes to enhance our relationship with one another. We are continuing this with a liaison group to keep us moving forward.

Early successes have been holding regular joint services and occasional events that have started to bring us together.

The congregations are both, undoubtedly, more stable and secure, but we recognise we have a lot of work ahead to bring both our Churches back to the once thriving communities they were. While vacancy brings uncertainty, both congregations share strong faith and worship and trust in God to move us forward in ministry.



## Moving Forward

We are two congregations looking forward to a ministry which will re-energise our outreach and relationships within the wider community.

We still have many goals and are looking to build our Ministry to support our vision for the future.

- Build relationships with our local schools and youth organisations
- Attract families
- Engage in outreach programmes to create growth in both churches
- Continue building stronger joint events
- Support the Pastoral Care teams

The congregations are both strong and dedicated. There is a willingness amongst Kirk Sessions, Congregational Boards, Church members and Organisation Leaders, to devote time and energy to whatever is required to help us build our fellowship together.

**Your Ministry awaits you!**

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## Children's Ministry and Spiritual Growth

Blairhill Dundyan and Middle both have a children's ministry. These groups follow various programmes to teach our children the many wonderful stories from the Bible and help them work towards their spiritual growth.

Blairhill Dundyan has a Crèche for younger children, and The Sunday Club for those at primary school. We have Steps of Faith, for the more senior children.

Middle has a Sunday School which is split in to four sections, Creche (under 3 years), Beginners (pre-school), Primary (5 – 7 years) and Seniors (8 – 12 years). Middle Church organise a Summer Sunday Club over the summer period.



Middle Church also has a Bible Class and the group meet every Sunday during morning service, young adults from the age of 13 to 16 years are invited to join the class when they move up from Senior Sunday School.

All the organisations in both churches are led by dedicated and conscientious leaders.

### Chaplaincy

Historically both churches have had links with local primary schools in the areas.



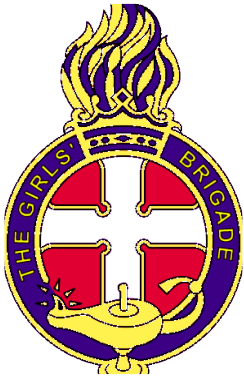
Both Churches have Boys Brigade companies. The 7th Coatbridge meet at Middle and the company are celebrated their 75th anniversary last year, 2017.

The 15th Coatbridge meet at Blairhill/Dundyvan and the company was formed in 1974 after the merging of Blairhill and Dundyvan Churches, however a BB company has been in Blairhill since 1909.



Both companies have excellent membership with ages ranging from 5 to 18 and more than 100 of the boys have achieved the Queens Badge, Presidents Badge and Duke of Edinburgh Award.

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The 4th Coatbridge GB are affiliated with Middle Church and celebrated their 70th Anniversary last year, 2017.

The company has a strong membership split in to three sections, Explorers, Juniors and Brigaders with members ranging from 5 to 18 years of age.

The company has had many success stories over the years with 30 girls achieving their Queens's Award, 4 girls are currently working towards the Award this year. The girls take part in divisional competitions and have won the Rose-bowl on many occasions.



Being a Guide opens a world of opportunities that will last a lifetime. The 14th Coatbridge Guide Unit has been well attended since its commencement at the union of Blairhill and Dundyvan in 1974. Historically though, the Brownies and Guides date back to 1957. Over the years, many girls aged between 10 and 15 years have passed through the Unit and earned the many guide badges, the Baden Powell Challenge Award and the Queen's Badge. The Unit offers a range of activities including outdoor challenges, learning new skills, travel and community projects.



The 14th Coatbridge Brownies are affiliated with Blairhill Dundyvan Church and have a group of girls ranging from 7 to 10 years of age. Brownies is about getting together regularly each week - to work on badges, play games and see friends. It's about trying adventurous activities and going along to special events, day trips, sleepovers, camps and holidays.



The Rainbows section, previously known as the Sunbeams was instituted in 1984, for girls aged 5-7. It meets every Thursday. It is the first step in our Guiding organisation. Girls are encouraged to learn and grow through a programme of age-appropriate activities. This also includes trips and adventures, both in their weekly meetings, and at special events which they are invited to attend via girl guiding.



The Church of Scotland Guild celebrated its 90th Anniversary in 2016. Both Churches have an active Guild membership, they have a mixed age range and most members regularly attend to meetings to follow an excellent programme of interesting speakers on a variety of subjects.

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The Blairhill Dundyvan Line Dancing Group started in 1996 and meet on a Wednesday evening. This activity offers good exercise, music and good company. The new sound system in the hall has made this more interactive, projecting dances from DVDs and the like. The club has been well attended throughout the years, under the expert guidance of the committee. The group have financed various projects within the church over the years (including our audio/visual system) and have supported numerous charities.



Both congregations have Pastoral Care Teams made up of dedicated male and female members. The Teams support church members in times of crisis and they regularly carry out home visits to those unable to attend church, providing companionship and continuity of contact with the church.



The Middle Senior Citizens Club is well known and is one of the most active clubs in the district. The club meets on a Tuesday afternoon between the months of October to April and has around 40 members. They also have a Carpet Bowls section which meets on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm until 4pm.



Blairhill Dundyvan hold a monthly lunch and fellowship club. For a small charge, a soup and sandwich lunch is prepared and served by the committee. The club is extremely well attended by approximately 50 regulars each month, travelling from across Airdrie and Coatbridge. The club also hold a Christmas lunch each December in one of the local restaurants.

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## The Buildings

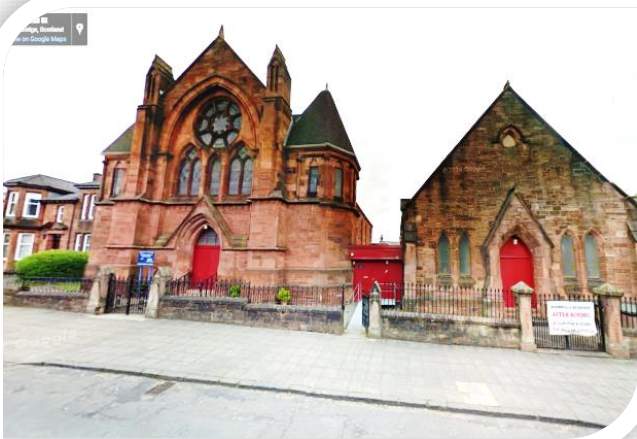
Middle Church



Middle Manse



Blairhill Dundvvan Church



Blairhill Dundvvan Manse



Please See our Websites for Further Information:

<https://www.middlechurch.co.uk/>

<http://www.blairhilldundyvanchurch.org>

Both congregations have large sandstone manses in the Blairhill area of Coatbridge, the buildings are well maintained and are both occupied on a short-term agreement.



## Coatbridge

The discovery of local coal and black band ironstone gave rise to the iron industry in the area. This in turn created the industrial revolution which led to the growth of the town of Coatbridge from numerous small hamlets and villages in the vicinity. This rise in industrial development brought an influx of population and employment and the creation of large iron works which gave the town its name as ***The Iron Burgh***. In its time, the town was one of the great wealth creating areas in Britain and the heritage this has left is a source of pride. However, the iron industry became the steel industry which declined during the late 60s and through the 70s. The production and manufacturing processes associated with steel moved south and the heavy industry associated with the Burgh's early years has also gone. The town is now a dormitory for Glasgow and a centre of service industries dependent on good road links.

These links have been updated recently with improvements made to upgrade links to M73, M74, and M8. This provides easy access to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling and Carlisle. This network of roads provides easy access to McArthur Glen at Livingston and extensive shopping in Hamilton, Motherwell, East Kilbride and Glasgow with Edinburgh slightly farther afield.

Unusually for a town of its size Coatbridge has six railway stations covering three lines. This is because the old industries relied on the provision of a good railway network to disperse the products manufactured in the area. These have all become integrated into the modern commuter network of transport within North Lanarkshire today. Three of these station, are on the main Northern electric line with an excellent service to Glasgow and Edinburgh.

There are extensive facilities in the town. These include several parks, a large country park, the Summerlee Heritage Museum, the Time Capsule leisure centre and a redeveloped town centre with a selection of major shops. There is also a cinema complex a few minutes driving from the town centre.