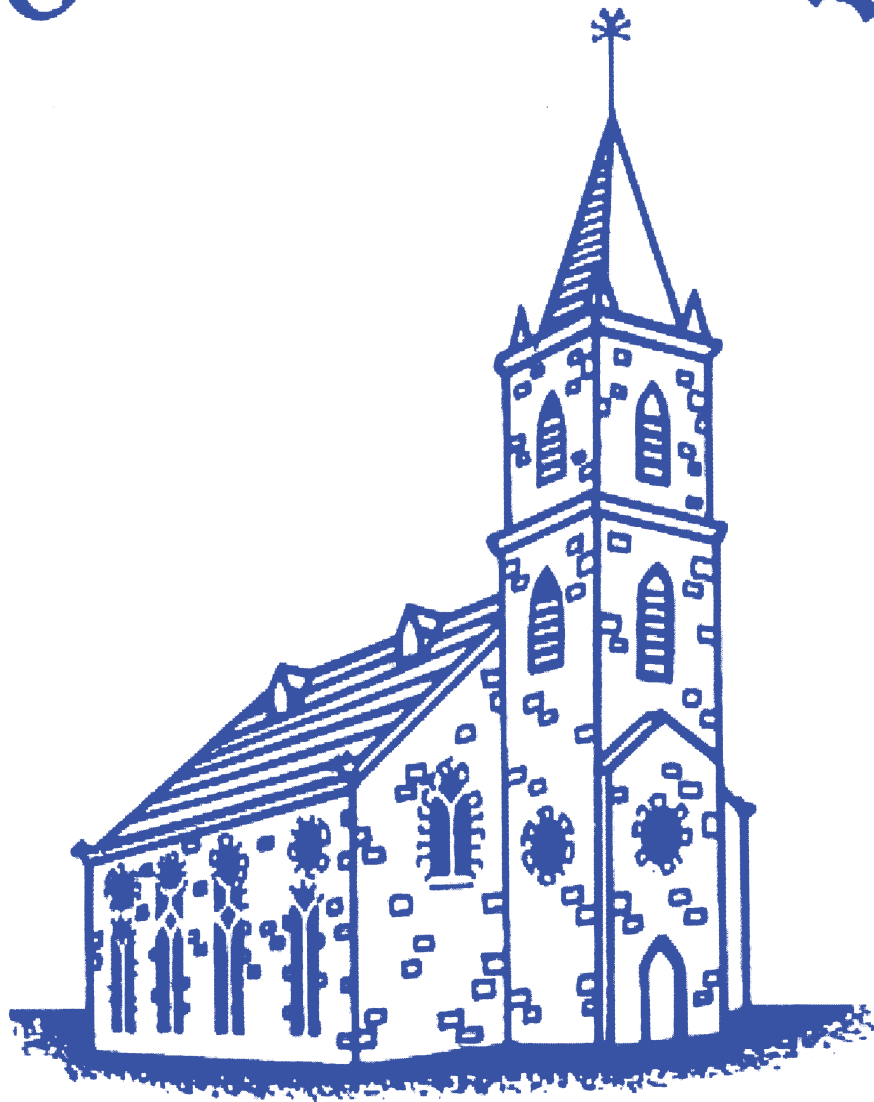


Old Monkland



Parish Church

# Old Monkland Parish Church

After a ministry of some 33 years, the Congregation fell vacant in 2002 on the retirement of the then incumbent. During this period of vacancy the Presbytery conducted a review of the basis of tenure, granting permission to call on the basis of reviewable tenure. Our previous minister was inducted on that basis in 2003. After a positive start, this ministry came to an end with the translation of the minister to another charge and in 2007 we again entered a period of vacancy. The subsequent review by Presbytery determined that, in accordance with the Presbytery Plan, the basis of call should be unrestricted and this is the basis on which a new ministry is sought. While our most recent ministry was unexpectedly and disappointingly short, it has been useful in assisting us to think out the direction for future ministry at Old Monkland.

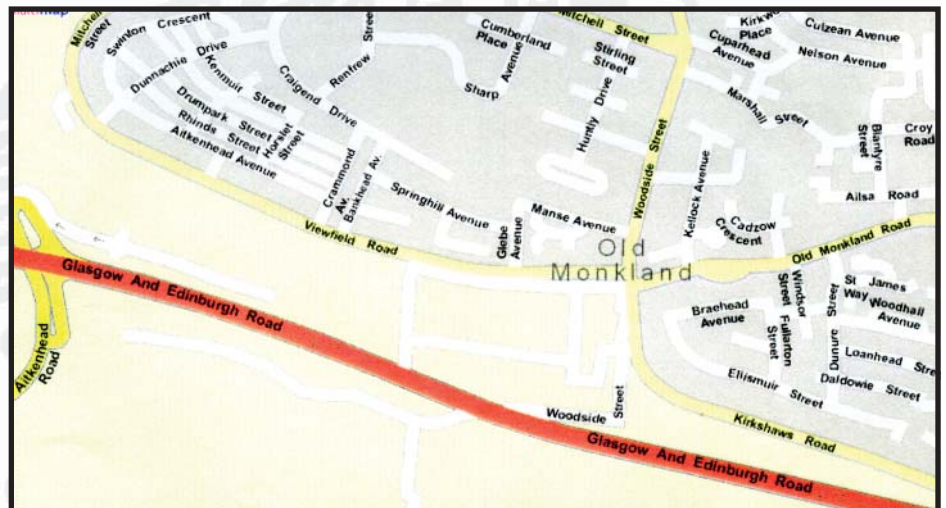
## Location

Set within Hamilton Presbytery, Old Monkland Parish Church is situated in the south west part of Coatbridge. The Church is sited at the bottom of Woodside Street within Old Monkland cemetery, and most of the parish is within comfortable walking distance.

There are good road links to Glasgow and Edinburgh via the nearby M8, and with Stirling, all of which offer alternative shopping and entertainment, and home to seven universities.

The M73 is also in close proximity, allowing access to the south of Glasgow with the M74 to the south. Rail links with Glasgow are also excellent.

The parish contains 4 primary schools, 2 of which are Roman Catholic and two non-denominational, 2 high schools, 1 a non-denominational and 1 Roman Catholic.



Coatbridge is a good shopping centre having 7 major outlets, including 2 large supermarkets between the town centre and the retail park. The town also offers the Time Capsule leisure complex, the Showcase entertainment complex and the Summerlee Heritage Park.

There are also public parks, including Drumpellier Country Park with its peace garden, two golf courses, a cricket club and indoor and outdoor bowling facilities.

The Monklands District General Hospital and Coatbridge Health Centre provide medical care. There are also several care homes.

## Population and Statistics

Situated within the Presbytery of Hamilton, the parish covers large Local Authority estates with several small private dwelling housing estates just recently completed.

In the parish there are about 6000 people housed in council houses, with a significant increase in private dwellings.

Between 55-60% of the people have an allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church, but good relationships prevail.

Employment in the area is low and most of the parish is classed as A.P.T (area priority treatment).

In recent decades, there have been many changes in employment prospects in Coatbridge and West Central Scotland. There is continuing unemployment in the town with certain districts designated as Urban Priority Areas (large portions of our Parish).



# The Church

The Church was founded in 1170 A.D. by the monks of New Battle Abbey.

The present church was built in 1790 (B listed category) the church building and interior is in good condition, interior recently been upgraded.



The Organ is an "Allen"  
4 digital computer organ.

The Session House is detached from the church though still in church ground. It has 2 rooms and a toilet.



## The Halls (detached from church)

The church hall was built in 1950.

This has an excellent suite of halls.



Large Hall Accommodates	340	seated
Small Hall Accommodates	40	seated
Upper Room Accommodates	25	seated



Kitchen facilities, ladies and gents toilets and toilet for disabled access.

Ramp access also provided.



## The Manse (detached from Church)

Desirable very attractive modern manse built in 1981 by Teech Homes Ltd. The manse is a timber framed construction supplied by Avonside Homes.



### Downstairs

3 public rooms and a study, a large kitchen, utility room and downstairs toilet.

### Upstairs

4 bedrooms, one with en suite, separate bathroom.

Gas central heating, double glazing, burglar alarms fitted and double garage.

### Manse Grounds

Situated on own in small estate, with easy access to church hall, nice garden all round, grounds are well maintained.

## Kirk Session

The Kirk Session has 21 members (men and women). Having a Quad Omni constitution, we have no Congregational Board. The Kirk Session meets on the first Wednesday of the month (except January, April, July and August) and any other time as deemed necessary.

All Elders are actively involved, all of whom cover a District. Elders are appointed to liaise with each of the Churches Organisations and visit them at intervals to maintain a friendly link between each Group and the Kirk Session.

Church membership is 303 from homes within the parish and also includes a considerable number from outwith the parish boundary. Although living in other areas, these members are fully committed to, and are very active in the work of the Church, many still have local connections.

## Sunday Worship

Sunday morning worship is at 11.30am which has an approximate attendance of 75-100. Scripture Readings are taken from the Revised Standard Version Bible (available in the pews) with lessons normally being read by an Elder or a member. Mission Praise is used for Praise with the occasional inclusion of printed songs/hymns.

A creche is available for young children in tandem with the morning service, with our Mystery Hunters (formerly Sunday School) meeting in our Halls at 11.15am, where they are taught by dedicated teachers and helpers, coming to Church near the end of the Service for the Children's Address.

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper takes place on last Sunday of January, April, June and October where Elders visit their Districts, augmented by the first Sundays in Lent and Advent respectively.

The Fellowship has a bible-based ministry and will be very supportive of the continued teaching of the fundamental truths of the Bible.



## The Parish

The closest Church of Scotland Churches are Calder (1 1/2 miles to the East) and Middle (1 mile to the North). There are two other Congregations within the Parish - St. Monica's R.C. Church and St. James R.C. Church.

## Tea/Coffee after Service

It has been our practice for a number of years now, to provide tea/coffee after morning worship on the first Sunday of the month. This promotes a time of fellowship together and has been very successful.

## Tape Recording of Service

There is a tape recording made of the Service and this has been found very useful to those members who are unable to attend Church for whatever reason.

## Guild

We, as an outgoing, friendly church, have a lively Guild branch, We invite both men and women along to participate in our meetings every fortnight on a Tuesday to join and share our Christian commitment and fellowship. There is a varied programme available.



Recent Guild Trip



Easter Bonnet Parade

## Ways and Means

Our Ways and Means Committee organise various events throughout the year, to foster Christian fellowship among the people of the Church and surrounding parish.



## Pastoral Care

We have established a Pastoral Care Team who visit those of our members who are unable to attend the Church for a variety of reasons. This Team also assist with those in Hospital and tend to the needs of the sick and bereaved.

## Child Protection

A Child Protection Co-ordinator has been appointed and all volunteers and helpers working with children have undergone training.

## Thrift Shop and Tea Bar

We have a very dedicated Team of volunteers who operate our Thrift Shop in our Hall every Thursday between 11.00am and 1.00pm.

## Badminton

Our Halls are used on a Thursday evening 7.00pm to 10.00pm for a local Badminton Club. All ages welcome.

## Streetwise

Our Streetwise Club is held on a Monday evening in our Halls for Primary School children.

P.1's to P.4's - 6.15pm to 7.15pm



P.5's to P.7's - 7.30pm to 8.45pm

Christian teaching for our young children is the main objective but fun, games, arts and crafts, tuck-shop and visitors and outings can all be enjoyed on a Monday evening.

## Dancing

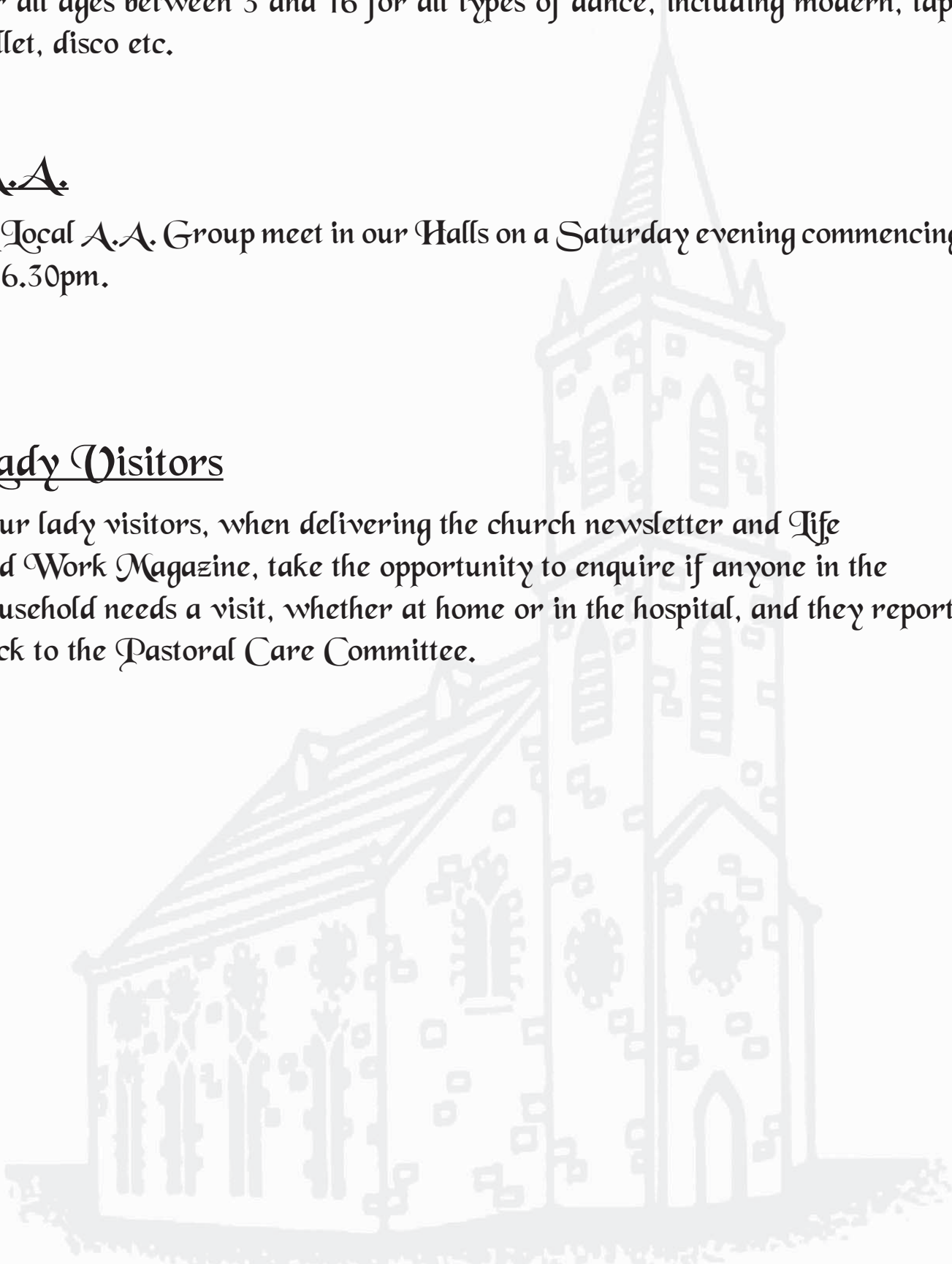
Our Hall is used on a Wednesday evening 6.00pm to 8.30pm and a Saturday morning 10.30am to 12.30pm by "The Claire Rafferty School of Dance" for all ages between 3 and 16 for all types of dance, including modern, tap, ballet, disco etc.

## A.A.

A Local A.A. Group meet in our Halls on a Saturday evening commencing at 6.30pm.

## Lady Visitors

Our lady visitors, when delivering the church newsletter and Life and Work Magazine, take the opportunity to enquire if anyone in the household needs a visit, whether at home or in the hospital, and they report back to the Pastoral Care Committee.





# Boundary Map

