

WELCOME



**UPPER
BRAES**

PARISH CHURCH

in the community
of the community
for the community

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Full details of all our activities and times can be found on our website www.upperbraes.org.uk or from any of the office bearers on duty on a Sunday morning.

You can also access on our website our latest news, prayers, sermons as well as download our weekly news sheet or browse the church calendar for events.

In addition, we are available to follow on social media:



facebook.com/upperbraeschurch



instagram.com/upperbraeschurch



youtube.com/upperbraeschurch

Upper Braes Parish Church was established on 1st November 2024, when four congregations in the Upper Braes area of Falkirk became one. The faithful of the parishes of Blackbraes and Shieldhill, Brightons, Muiravonside, and Slamannan, with the fortitude of their forebears, chose to *stand firm in the faith*¹ and be united in His Name.

Upper Braes Parish Church has two ministry centres, one in the village of Slamannan and one in the village of Brightons, and all who come are...

Welcome!



Whether you've visited for the first time, or are new to the area, we'd like to share with you a thumbnail sketch of what we're all about. You'll also find some information about the local community, which we hope will be helpful if you're new to the area.

Our purpose says, "We seek to invite, encourage and enable people to follow Jesus Christ".

So, firstly, we believe that Jesus was who He said He was, the Son of God who came and died for our sins. Because He first loved us, we seek to show Christ's love in all we do. We're not perfect, but we're on the path of life.

Secondly, we believe we are to love one another as He loved us so that all people will know that we are His disciples, and so we seek to engage with the community showing the love He fills us with.

Thirdly, we believe we are to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God, and so we seek to reach beyond ourselves by prayerful, practical and financial support.

If you're thinking you'd like to know more then do, please, read on. We hope the pages that follow will give you a flavour of how we show Christ's love to all and how we seek to invite, encourage and enable people to follow Jesus

Christ.

¹1 Corinthians 16:13

Worship

We enjoy a variety of Christ-centred worship services in both Brightons and Slamannan Ministry Centres. There is a short time of prayer before each service and everyone is welcome to attend, with no pressure to pray out loud.

Brightons Ministry Centre

The week at BMC starts on Sunday, meeting at 11am. At the close of the service there is the opportunity to gather in the halls to meet up and catch up over a cuppa. Services are live-streamed via YouTube and Facebook.



The services start a little earlier when the local schools break for summer.

Slamannan Ministry Centre

The week at SMC starts on Sunday, meeting at 11am. At the close of the service there is the opportunity to linger over a cuppa on the first Sunday of the month.



Belong in Brightons

At Belong we meet together informally in Brightons to learn about God in different and creative ways. We have regular drop-in events: Fun Days at Easter and Christmas, a Light Party at Halloween, and other events throughout the year with activities, music and chips/pizza! We are a place of welcome for all ages, all abilities, for the neuro-diverse and for those who don't attend church. You are welcome to join us!

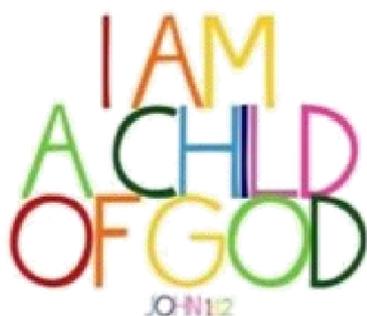
Thursday Live Prayer

Join us on a Thursday evening for a time of prayer - sometimes online, sometimes in person, but always with no pressure to pray aloud, and space to be in God's presence and know you have been heard in that time together.

Short service in Brightons

On the last Thursday of the month from August to June we have a short service from 11:30am –12:00noon. These are for the benefit of, but not restricted to, those of us who find it difficult to sit through a full service. Four of these services include Communion.

Young People



We welcome and treasure the children and young people God has placed in our midst, as well as in the wider community, and we highly value the teachers and leaders who volunteer their time to teach our youngsters the truth of the gospel and inspire them to live out that truth for themselves.

Sunday Morning in Brightons

In the Brightons Ministry Centre there are crèche facilities for babies and toddlers on a Sunday morning and they are staffed on a rota basis by some of our members.

All the young people take part in the first part of the morning service then move to their own particular groups with teaching, crafts and fun tailored for three-year-olds up to S4.

These groups are all staffed by our members.



Pre 5s (Toddlers Group) in Brightons

Each Tuesday of term time, there is an opportunity for under 5s and their carers to come together for a couple of hours in the morning. There are toys galore, games, snacks and songs and again, the sessions are staffed on a rota basis by some of our members.

Boys and Girls Brigades in Brightons



Young people from P1 to S6 are invited to join the Brigades.

The various sections meet on different nights of the week in the halls.



Both Brigades teach the young people about Jesus and inspire them to take up pursuits and challenges that help them to understand and to live out His love through teamwork, crafts and service in and to the community.

Scripture Union

Volunteers from our Church lead SU meetings at lunchtime in Braes High School on Mondays, in Slamannan Primary School on a Tuesdays; and in Wallacestone Primary School on Fridays.

Learning and Growing Together



Book Clubs

If you enjoy reading, good company and the opportunity to share thoughts and experiences with like-minded people, (not to mention a cuppa and a biscuit!), then the Book Clubs are for you.

Church of Scotland Guild in Upper Braes



The Church of Scotland Guild embraces the commission to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. They offer prayerful, practical and financial support to a variety of local, national and international issues.

Get-togethers are every fortnight in the afternoon at Brightons Ministry Centre from September through to March.

Fellowship Groups

There are a number of Fellowship Groups that meet fortnightly on different nights of the week. Some meet in members' homes and some meet in Brightons Ministry Centre.

There are two ladies' groups, three mixed groups, one men's group, and one group, the Friends of Jesus Group, especially for adults with learning difficulties.

Each group is a time of praise, prayer, sharing and bible study and they are a great way to learn and grow together.

Friendship Plus in Brightons

On the third Wednesday of each month, September to May, we meet in the afternoon in Brightons Ministry Centre halls for some entertainment, tea and scones, and a lot of chat. In December we go out for Christmas lunch and we celebrate St Andrew's Day and Burns Day with an in-house meal.



Alpha, Grace, Safar, Huddle Courses

These courses are all available for anyone wishing to expand their understanding and grow the outworking of their faith.

Senior Citizens Lunch Club in Slamannan

Held monthly in Slamannan Ministry Centre: March to June and September to December. The dates vary so watch for the intimations.

Coffee Morning in Brightons

Every Thursday morning during term time, home baking, generously prepared and provided by some of the congregation, is the order of the day in the Brightons halls.



Music

We are richly blessed by the number of people who have musical gifts which they are willing to give freely to God's praise and worship.

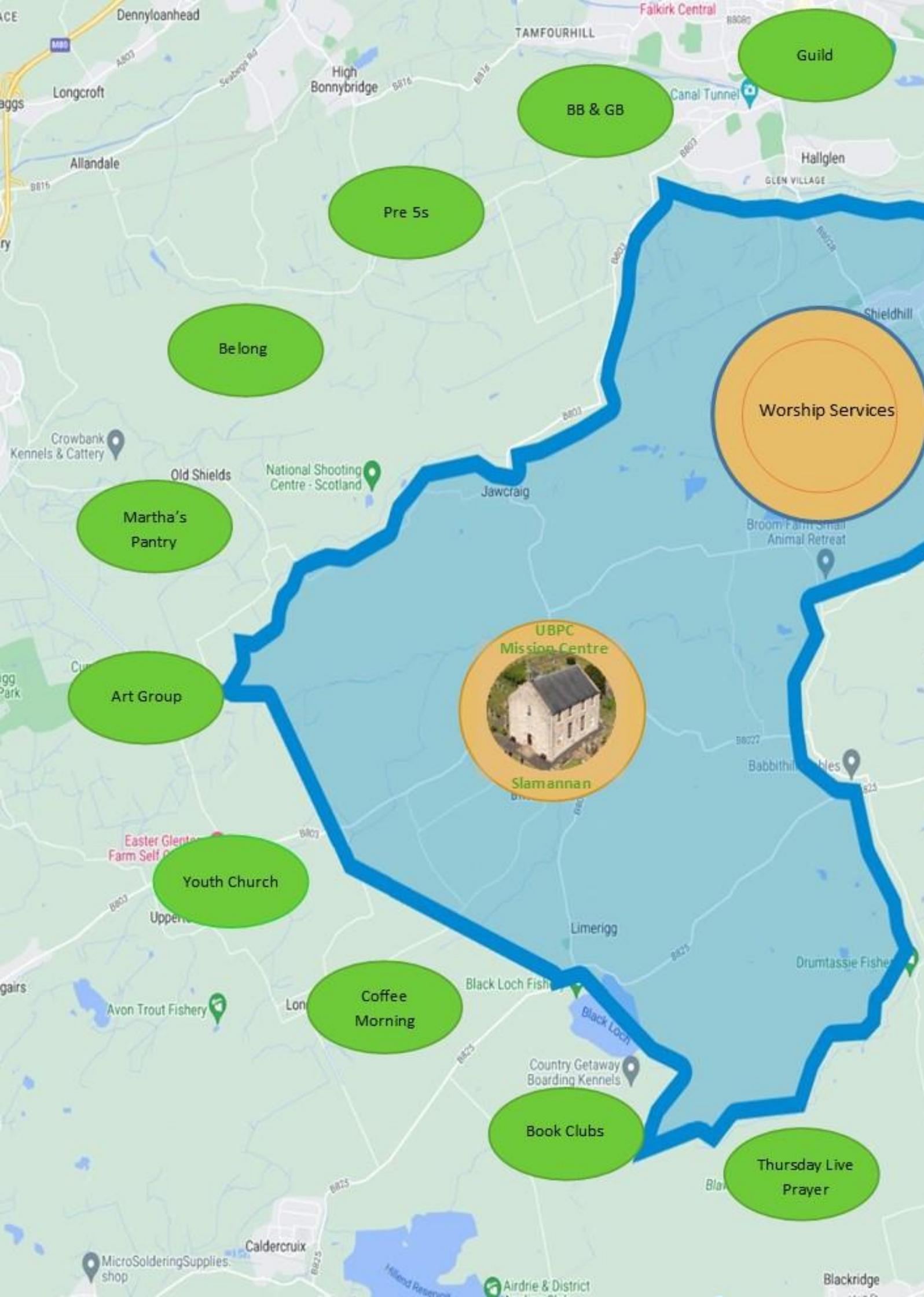


In Brightons, our worship is enhanced by our Church Choir under the direction of our Choir Master as well as a Praise Band, giving us the option to choose both traditional and more modern styles.

Communications

We have a variety of ways to share news and communications. Each Sunday there is a news sheet with intimations. We sometimes send out e-news via email – you can sign up here <http://eepurl.com/hBtttdH> or by the QR code. Keep an eye on social media, or the website for a duplicate of the social media posts (see the “news” page). We also have a six-monthly congregational magazine – these are sent to members, and spare copies are also available for anyone to take.





Guild

BB & GB

Pre 5s

Belong

Worship Services

Martha's
Pantry

Art Group

UBPC
Mission Centre



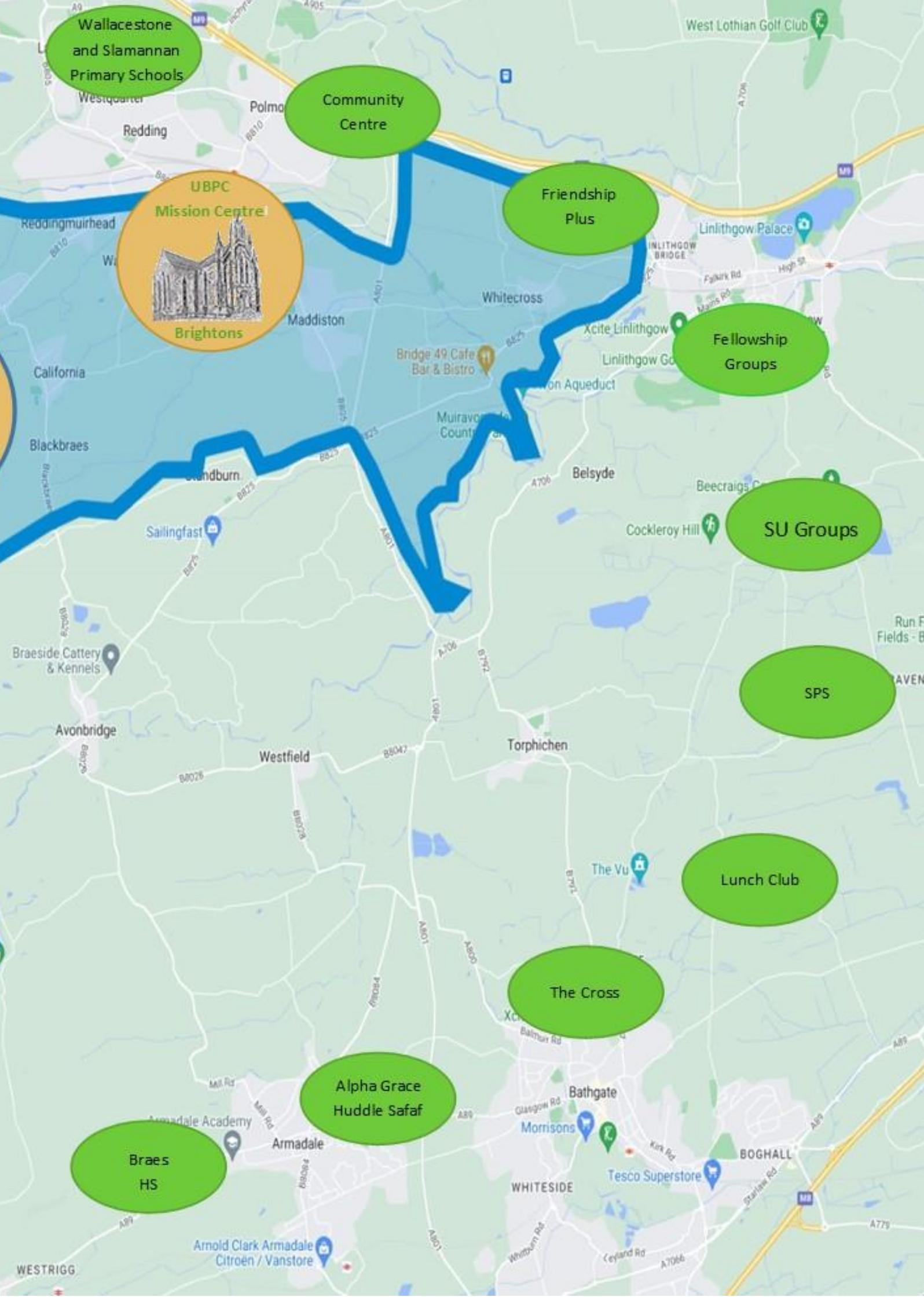
Slamannan

Youth Church

Coffee
Morning

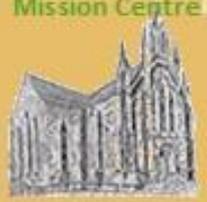
Book Clubs

Thursday Live
Prayer



Wallacestone and Slamannan Primary Schools

Community Centre

UBPC
Mission Centre

Brightons

Friendship Plus

Fellowship Groups

SU Groups

SPS

Lunch Club

The Cross

Alpha Grace
Huddle Safaf

Braes HS

Arnold Clark Armadale Citroen / Vanstore

Morrisons
Tesco Superstore

BOGHALL

WESTRIGG

Charities We Support

We actively support local, national and international charities prayerfully, practically and financially.

[Blythswood Care \[International\]](#)

Since 1966, Blythswood Care has combined the Christian message with practical help for those in need.

[Christian Aid \[Local, national and international\]](#)

Christian Aid stands with the poorest of our neighbours working in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice.

[Christians Against Poverty \(CAP\) \[National\]](#)

CAP provides free debt help via local community groups across the UK. Their services are free, run with the support of local churches and provide practical and emotional support, showing people that there is always hope.

[CrossReach \[Local and national\]](#)

CrossReach believes that with the right support, at the right time, those facing physical, emotional and social challenges can flourish and enjoy fulfilling lives.

[Falkirk Foodbank \[Local\]](#)

As a congregation we support Falkirk Foodbank by donation of time and goods as well as collecting at our local branch of Tesco.

[Martha's Pantry \[Local\]](#)

Martha's Pantry is a community initiative in Slamannan and is supported locally by the donation of food and household articles.

[Prospects Across Scotland \[Local and national\]](#)

Prospects Across Scotland exists to raise awareness among Christians in Scotland about the needs of people with learning disabilities.

Guild Projects [Local, national and international]

The Guild supports life changing projects in Scotland and across the world and raises in the region of £200,000 nationally each year for these invaluable initiatives.

Graham and Sandra Duncan

Graham and Sandra were Church of Scotland missionaries in South Africa prior to retirement and have continued God's work in that place with the help of supporting congregations.

Scottish Bible Society [Local, national and international]

Since 1809, the Scottish Bible Society has sought, under God, to put the Bible into people's hands and hearts.

Tear Fund [International]

Tearfund works through local churches to unlock people's potential and helps them to discover that the answer to poverty is within themselves.

Thrive Scotland

Thrive Scotland believes that every Christian has a vital role to play in God's kingdom — particularly in the workplaces of Scotland. Their vision is to see believers confident in their calling, secure in where God has placed them, and connected with others in their profession and city. Together, they're restoring the confidence of the scattered church in Scotland, helping people live the gospel in and through their workplace.

Local Initiatives

At our monthly Thursday morning service, the opportunity is given to donate to a local initiative. Currently, that initiative is The Almond Tree which a meeting place for those suffering from Dementia.

Additionally, we have fundraising activities like coffee mornings, car washes, sponsored walks, etc., to raise funds for organisations and charities we support.



Community Information

Schools

We are fortunate in having good relationships with Wallacestone and Slamannan Primary Schools and Braes High School, with chaplaincy involvement and other avenues of support and participation in all of them. We have a team of Storytellers going to Wallacestone Nursery with reciprocal visits to the Brightons Ministry Centre for the coffee morning.

St Margaret's Care Home

Residential care is provided by CrossReach, the social care branch of The Church of Scotland.

His Majesty's Prison and Young Offenders Institution, Polmont

We donate Easter Eggs at Easter and Chocolate at Christmas together with our Church Easter / Christmas cards to all the residents.

The Cross

The 'shop at the cross' is a coffee shop at Brightons Cross. It is a good place to enjoy a tea/coffee and scone; a chat with friends, or just to be quiet and listen to the Christian music playing in the background. There is a room for quiet meditation and prayer. The shop is open Monday to Friday (excluding holidays) between 10am and 3pm and is "staffed" by local volunteers from local churches and community. There is always someone available to listen and reach out to people.

Blood Transfusion Service

Has use of Brightons Ministry Centre twice per year.

The Falkirk Braes Grange Centre

Provides social and educational facilities for the community. There are meeting rooms, IT facilities with free Wi-Fi access, and sports facilities.

Brightons Village Hall

Brightons Village Hall hosts a variety of regular classes, groups, and community events, primarily focused on fitness, dance, and activities for children and community groups.

We hire the hall on a Sunday morning for some of our Youth Church, and also for community focused events.

Laurie Park

Also known as Quarry Park as it used to be a quarry. The owner, Alexander Lawrie donated the stone used to build our Brightons Ministry Centre. It is a wonderful green area in the centre of Brightons. It is wheelchair friendly and offers opportunities for walking, cycling and football to name but a few.

The Butterfly Garden

The Butterfly Garden in Shieldhill is a lovely community-made, wild-life friendly outdoor community space for functions and activities.

Polmont Station

This is a busy station with trains approximately ½ hourly to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling and further afield.



We do hope the Holy Spirit will lead you to share in the life of our congregation, whether for a first visit or to make Upper Braes Parish Church your spiritual home



“ We’re a family of all sorts of people, journeying in community towards wholeness.

What you really need to know is that you are welcome. You are welcome to take part or just observe. If you visit with children, they're welcome to stay with you or join our children's and young people's activities. You're welcome to be part of the family of God here in the Upper Braes because there is space for everyone. ”

Contact Us

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🌐 www.upperbraes.org.uk