

# WELCOME



## UPPER BRAES

PARISH CHURCH

in the community  
of the community  
for the community



## Contents

Page 4 - Welcome

Page 5 - Worship

Page 6 - Young people

Page 7 - Learning and growing together

Page 12 - Charities we support

Page 14 - Community information

Full details of all our activities and times can be found on our website [www.upperbraes.org.uk](http://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](https://facebook.com/upperbraeschurch)



[instagram.com/upperbraeschurch](https://instagram.com/upperbraeschurch)



[youtube.com/upperbraeschurch](https://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*<sup>1</sup> 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.



<sup>1</sup>1 Corinthians 16:13

# Worship

We enjoy a variety of Christ-centred worship services in both Brightons and Slamannan Ministry Centres.

## Brightons Ministry Centre

Our week 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.



We have a slightly different format when the local schools break for summer. The services start a little earlier and we have a summer kids' club for those in primary school and under.

## Slamannan Ministry Centre

Our week 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!



## Short Service in Brightons



On the last Thursday of the month from August to June we have a short service from 11am to 11.30. These are for the benefit of, but not restricted to, those of us who find it difficult to sit through a full service. Four 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. The crèche room is fitted with a TV system showing live streaming of the service.

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 S6. These groups are all staffed by our members.



## **Bible Fun Club in Slamannan**

This club, for Primary School aged children, takes place during term-time on Wednesdays from 5.30pm.

## **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.

## **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 Brightons and Shieldhill**



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 both Brightons and Shieldhill (separate days), from September through to March.

## **Friendship Plus in Brightons**

On the third Wednesday of each month, September to May, we meet in Brightons 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.

## **Senior Citizens Lunch Club in Slamannan**

Every month, except December, January and February, held in Slamannan Ministry Centre. Dates can vary.

## **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.





## **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 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.

## **Music**

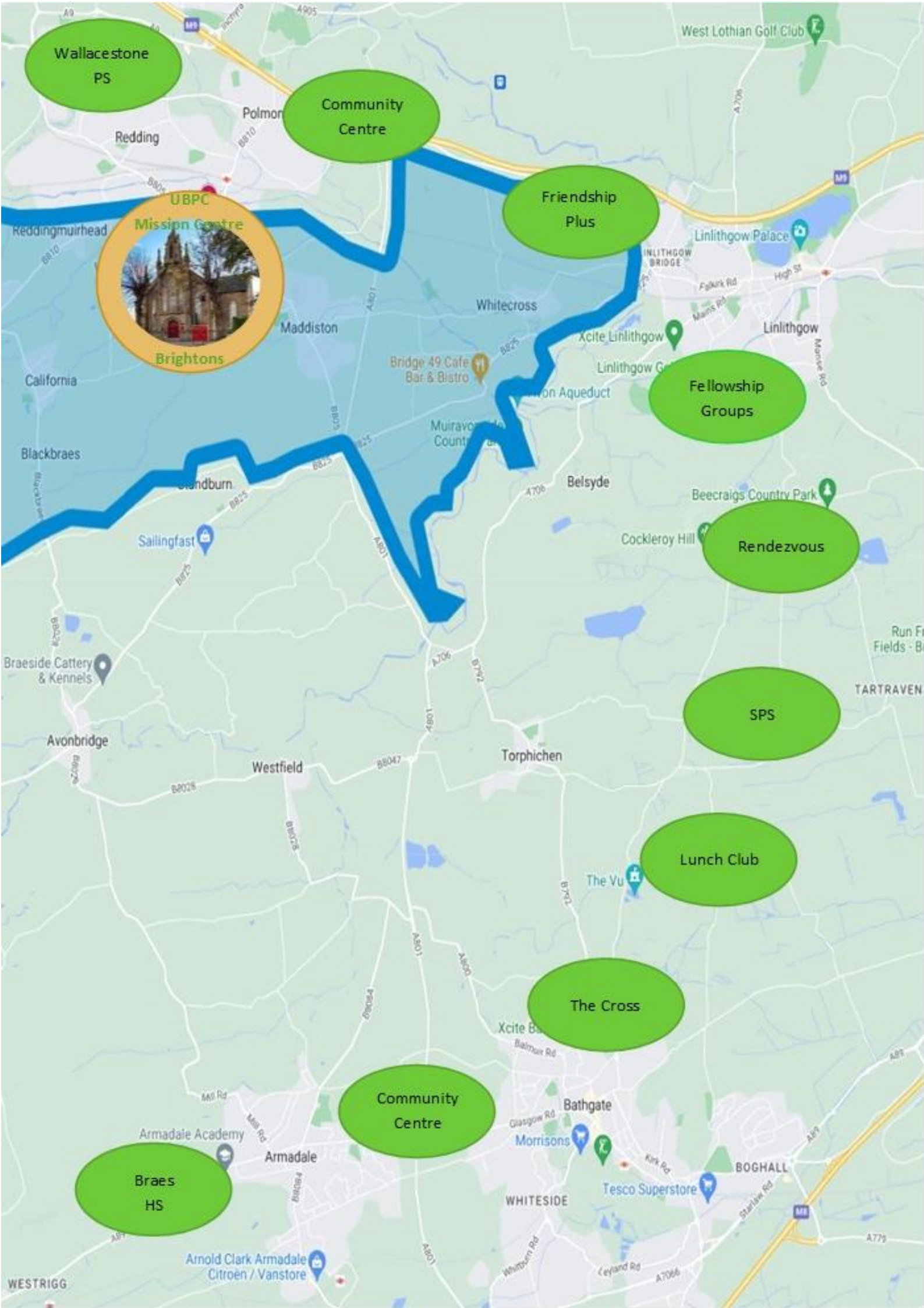
We are richly blessed by the number of people who have musical gifts which they are willing to give freely to God's praise and worship.



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.







## 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 \[Local, national, international\]](#)

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.

### [Christian Solidarity Worldwide \[International\]](#)

CSW works to ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief is upheld and protected.

### [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.

### [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.

### [Guild Projects \[Local, national and international\]](#)

The Guild [supports](#) life changing projects in Scotland and across the world and raises in excess of £200,000 nationally each year for these invaluable initiatives.

### [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.

### [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.

### [Graham and Sandra Duncan \[International\]](#)

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.

Additionally, we have fundraising activities like coffee mornings, car washes, sponsored walks, etc., to raise funds for those who are in need of help.



## 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 recommenced the Scripture Union groups and 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 or Toiletries 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.

### Community Centres

We use Local Authority facilities in Brightons and Slamannan on a Sunday morning for our older children's classes and community focused events. It is the location of the local councillor's surgery.

### The Grange Community Education Centre

Provides social and educational facilities for the community. There are meeting rooms, IT facilities and sports facilities.



### 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

📞 Tel: 01324 713855

✉ info@upperbraes.org.uk

🌐 www.upperbraes.org.uk