



# UPPER BRAES PARISH CHURCH

We seek to invite,  
encourage and  
enable people to  
follow Jesus Christ.

**Welcome! We join in the sanctuary and online to worship God in the Name of Jesus Christ. Our service to God is led today by Rev Scott Burton. God's Word is preached by Jill Dickson.**

## **Order of Service – Sunday 15th December 2024 (11.00am)**

*We offer ourselves to God in worship*

Welcome and Notices

Gathering Moment with **MP-38 As we are gathered** (remain seated)

The Choir: 'Still the night'

Call to Worship

**Hymn MP-491 O come all you faithful**

Introduction and Commissioning of Rev Monica MacDonald

**Hymn MP-588 See amid the winter's snow** (children enter)

*We ask for God's help and listen for Him speaking to us*

Sunday School Nativity including...

**Hymn CH4-302 It was on a starry night**

All-Age Message (Jill Dickson)

*We respond to God*

Prayer (Jill Dickson)

**Hymn MP-211 Hark! The herald-angels sing**

Benediction and Threefold Amen (Monica MacDonald)

*Refreshments served afterward in the Heriot Hall.*

**\*\*We have a creche room available for those under 3.\*\***

## **Welcome to Worship**

Church is not a building – it is the family of God’s people, and we are delighted that you are able to join us today. \*\* There is a creche room for children under three, where the service is live streamed.

## **Service Activity Sheet for All**

Whether you are visiting or regularly sharing in worship, at the front and rear doors we have an activity sheet that seeks to help individuals follow the flow and theme of the service. This might be especially useful for those with additional support needs, but anyone is welcome to take one if it would be helpful.

## **Keep in Touch and Informed**

We are on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube as well as our church website [www.upperbraes.org.uk](http://www.upperbraes.org.uk). You can download material from the website, see the calendar and news, as well as revisit previous sermons.

## **Joint Service - TODAY - Brightons Ministry Centre**

We are holding a joint service this morning to allow us to formally welcome and commission Rev Monica MacDonald as our additional Pastoral Assistant. The service will also be our Sunday School Nativity Service.

## **Christingle Service – TODAY – Brightons Ministry Centre**

The Girls’ Brigade will lead the Christingle Service this evening at 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

## **Sunday Morning Prayer and Thursday Evening Live Prayer**

Join us for a time of prayer on Sunday mornings 10.15 to 10.30am in the small hall of our Brightons Ministry Centre, or 10.40am in our Slamannan Ministry Centre, or online on Thursday evenings at 8.15pm (on Zoom, Facebook and YouTube). Please email: [info@upperbraes.org.uk](mailto:info@upperbraes.org.uk) for Zoom login details.

## **Free Will Offering Envelopes**

Members who use envelopes for their giving can collect 2025 envelopes from the rear vestibule. Envelopes are arranged by area and then alphabetically. Please take your own envelope and/or envelopes for friends and neighbours. Thank you.

## **Please Remember in Your Prayers**

Please remember in prayer the family of Catherine Davidson who passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> December at Strathcarron Hospice. A service of thanksgiving will be held at our Brightons Ministry Centre on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 10.30am then onto New Grand Sable Cemetery afterwards.

## **Prayer Time at Muiravonside**

Join with others for a time of prayer on the 18<sup>th</sup> December, 10am-11am, at our Muiravonside building. The first 40 minutes are for quiet reflection, so arrive whenever suits; we then have a joint time of prayer 10.40-10.55am in the Session Room. Please consider joining us to pray for God’s work across the Upper Braes.

### **Collection to mark the Retirement of Pastoral Assistant**

Ian Baillie has indicated his wish to step down as Pastoral Assistant on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. After a number of years of faithful service, the Kirk Session has agreed to a collection being available as a way of expressing our thanks to Ian for his ministry, and there will be a presentation and thanksgiving tea on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025 after the morning service – all are welcome. Donations can be made via cheque, cash or contactless payment. Please clearly mark any donations as being for this collection, or send an email to the Treasurer.

### **Sunday Service Prayer Leaders**

We are looking to include a “prayer leader” at the Slamannan service, who would lead the prayer of thanksgiving and for others. If you would be willing to be involved in this, whether you worship more regularly at either ministry centre, then please contact Jean Meek.

### **Retiring Collection - Strathcarron Hospice Christmas Eve Services**

Our next retiring collection will be at all Christmas Eve services at both ministry centres and will be taken on behalf of Strathcarron Hospice. Donations can either be made in cash or contactless.

### **Christmas Card Delivery – Boys’ Brigade**

Once again, the Boys’ Brigade will be delivering Christmas Cards in the local area. See the table and postage box in the rear vestibule for details.

### **Delivery of Church Flowers Rota – Brightons Ministry Centre**

More volunteers are needed to help with the delivery of flowers after the service. If you would like to be added to the rota please contact Carol Callahan on 07999573806 or e mail [carol.callahan@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:carol.callahan@blueyonder.co.uk).

### **What are you doing at Hogmanay? [UPDATED]**

Update on our Hogmanay Ceilidh: There is now a sign-up sheet at the front of both of our ministry centres. If you have already given your name, please check it is on the list. Please add your name if you would like to come along. This is instead of tickets.

Come and join us in the church halls at the Brightons Ministry Centre for a Ceilidh/Scottish night. It will be held from 8pm until midnight and all ages are welcome. We will do some ceilidh dancing, sing some Scottish songs and do a quiz. We would love people to get involved. If you would like to play an instrument, recite a poem, sing a song, do some Highland dancing or anything else, we would love for you to take part. There is no charge for coming along and we will provide some refreshments.

## The Week Ahead at Upper Braes Parish Church

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
TODAY Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	10.15am	Morning Prayer	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.00am	JOINT Commissioning & Nativity Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
	6.30pm	Christingle Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Pre Fives	Brightons Ministry Centre
	6.15pm	BB Anchor Boys	Brightons Ministry Centre
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Muiravonside Prayer Time	Muiravonside Building
	1.00pm	Martha's Pantry	Slamannan Community Centre
	1.30pm	Guild	Shieldhill Building
	7.30pm	Band Practice	Brightons Ministry Centre
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Brightons Ministry Centre
	8.15pm	Thursday Evening Live Prayer	Online Event
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am	Christmas Assemblies Wallacestone Primary School	Brightons Ministry Centre
	6.15pm	BB Junior Section	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	BB Company Section	Brightons Ministry Centre
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	2.00pm	Nativity Fun Day	Brightons Ministry Centre
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.15am	Morning Prayer	Brightons Ministry Centre
	10.40am	Morning Prayer	Slamannan Ministry Centre
	11.00am	Morning Service	Slamannan Ministry Centre
	11.00am	Morning Service Live Streamed	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.00am	All Age Sunday School	Brightons Ministry Centre

## **Falkirk Caledonia Choir**

The Falkirk Caledonia Choir are holding 2 Christmas concerts this year: A Family Christmas Concert at 3pm on Sunday, 15th December in St Andrew's West Church (tickets £5) and a Christmas Carol Concert on Monday, 16th December at 7.30pm in (07881861048) or via the link at:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/falkirk-caledonia-choir>

## **Tea and Coffee – Brightons Ministry Centre**

15<sup>th</sup> December – Tom Nimmo, Alan Oliver and Edna Oliver, Jim Kerr, and Maralyn Stirling.

22<sup>nd</sup> December – Jennifer Gallivan, Christine Hastings and Janet Crosthwaite.

## **Flowers in Church – Brightons Ministry Centre**

The Flowers in Church today have been provided by Nancy Lees.

Delivering the Flowers after today's service will be Jessie Wallace.

Delivering the Flowers after next week's service will be Denise Beggs.

## **Thanks to all those who contributed in different ways to today's service**

Linda Clarke, Jill Dickson, Laura Eckles, James Falconer, Kaiden Falconer, Monica MacDonald, Susan McIntosh, Ewan McManus, Richard McManus, Neil Matheson, Jean Meek, Heather O'Neill, Andrew Philp, Charles Sim, The Welcome Team and The Choir.

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Scott Burton	☎: 341590 scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk <b>Sabbath on Friday 13:30 - Saturday 13:30</b>
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Ian Baillie	☎: 719641 or 07795 034728 ianb@upperbraes.org.uk <b>Days Off: variable at present</b>
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Rev Monica MacDonald	☎: 07833 102874 monica.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Judith Norton	☎: 07919 998300 sessionclerk@upperbraes.org.uk
<b>Safeguarding Coordinator</b>	Eileen Hope	safeguarding@upperbraes.org.uk
<b>Church Office</b>	☎: 713855	info@upperbraes.org.uk
<b>Church Website</b>		www.upperbraes.org.uk
<b>Newsheet Notices</b>	Heather O'Neill	☎: 07745 564094 heather.oneill5@btinternet.com