



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 Jim Hope.

Order of Service – Sunday 22nd December 2024 (11.00am)

We offer ourselves to God in worship

Gathering Moment with MP-38 As we are gathered*

Welcome and Notices

(Linda McGarry)

Call to Worship and Lighting Advent Wreath

Hymn MP-102 Come Thou long expected Jesus

Prayer of Approach, Confession and Lord's Prayer

We listen for God speaking to us

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18 – 25

(Sharon Mercado)

Hymn MP-115 Do not be afraid

Message

We ask for God's help and respond to Him

Hymn MP-133 Father I place into Your hands (v 1,2,4)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Others

(Eileen Hope)

Hymn MP-98 Come now with awe

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Doxology with May the God of peace go with us* (Tune: Ae fond kiss)

* the short songs at the beginning and end are copied within the news sheet, and during these we stand as the Bible is brought in and taken out.

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.

Keep in Touch and Informed

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

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 for Zoom login details.

Funeral Details – Catherine Davidson

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

Funeral Details – Robert Inglis

Robert Inglis, a farmer late of Avonbridge died on 13th December 2024. After a private burial, a memorial service is to take place in the Brightons Sanctuary on Tuesday 7th January 2024 at 11.30am. Please remember Robert's wife Mary, sons Robert and Jack and daughter Elsbeth and their families in your prayers.

Minister and Pastoral Assistant Holidays

Please note that Scott will be on holiday from 26th December – 5th January inclusive. Ian Baillie is on holiday from 23rd December. Please contact Rev Monica MacDonald for pastoral needs and Judith Norton for any other church matters.

Collection to mark the Retirement of Pastoral Assistant [UPDATE]

Ian Baillie has indicated his wish to step down as Pastoral Assistant on 31st December 2024. 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 12th January 2025 after the morning service – please fill in the sign-up sheets at the front and rear doors if attending. 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.

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.

Daily Bread Reading Notes

The latest edition of the Daily Bread Reading Notes for January – March are now available at a cost of £5.99 each. Please see Heather O'Neill if you wish to purchase one of these. They are a very useful tool for your daily devotions. Alternatively, please e mail heather.oneill5@btinternet.com.

1st Polmont Girls Brigade

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Christingle Service last Sunday evening. A cheque for £172.50 has been sent to Foodtrain Falkirk. Thank you for your support.

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.

What are you doing at Hogmanay?

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.

Men's Breakfast 18th January 2025

Join us for the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday 18th January 2025 at our Brightons Ministry Centre, 9.30am-11.30am, for breakfast, worship and message from Malcolm Field at Wholeness Through Christ (Falkirk). Sign-up sheets at the front and rear doors at both ministry centres.

Gathering Moment

As we are gathered, Jesus is here
one with each other, Jesus is here;
joined by the Spirit, washed in His blood,
part of the body, the Church of God.
As we are gathered, Jesus is here,
one with each other, Jesus is here.

Doxology

May the God of peace go with us
As we travel from this place
May the love of Jesus keep us
Firm in hope and full of grace.

Minister	Rev Scott Burton	☎: 341590 scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk Sabbath on Friday 13:30 - Saturday 13:30 On holiday 26th December – 5th January (inclusive)
Pastoral Assistant	Ian Baillie	☎: 719641 or 07795 034728 ianb@upperbraes.org.uk On holiday from 23rd December. Retiring 31st December.
Pastoral Assistant	Rev Monica MacDonald	☎: 01324 832782 monica.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Judith Norton	☎: 07919 998300 sessionclerk@upperbraes.org.uk
Safeguarding Coordinator	Eileen Hope	safeguarding@upperbraes.org.uk
Church Office	☎: 713855	info@upperbraes.org.uk
Church Website		www.upperbraes.org.uk
Newsheet Notices	Heather O'Neill	☎: 07745 564094 heather.oneill5@btinternet.com