



# 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 will be preached by Gayle Miller.**

## **Order of Service – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 (11.00am)**

*We offer ourselves to God in worship*

Welcome and Notices

Gathering Moment with **MP-38 As we are gathered**

The Choir: 'O little town of Bethlehem'

Call to Worship

**Hymn – Hallelujah**

**Hymn MP-782 Worthy, O worthy are You Lord**

All Together Time (Gayle Miller)

**Hymn – Step by step**

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

Presentation of Long-Service Awards

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (page 965-966) (Jennifer Gallivan)

Prayer for Others (David MacAskill)

**Hymn MP-162 From heaven You came**

Message (Gayle Miller)

*We respond to God*

**Hymn – Yet not I but through Christ in me**

Benediction and Threefold Amen

*\* The words for the Lord's Prayer will appear on screen, if you find these helpful.*

*\*\*We have an all-age Sunday School today as well as  
a creche room available for those under 3.\*\**

*Refreshments served afterward in the Heriot Hall.*

## **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. \*\* All children are welcome either to stay during service or to go out to the various Sunday School groups. Families are welcome to accompany them if they wish. 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.

## **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.

## **Funeral Details – Catherine Davidson**

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 Grandsable Cemetery afterwards.

## **Funeral Details – Robert Inglis**

Robert Inglis, a farmer late of Avonbridge died on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024. After a private burial, a memorial service is to take place in the Brightons Sanctuary on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> December – 5<sup>th</sup> January inclusive. Ian Baillie is on holiday from 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:heather.oneill5@btinternet.com).

## **1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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

22<sup>nd</sup> December – Alison Cassells, Lesley Mann, Pauline O'Rorke, Ian Lawson  
29<sup>th</sup> December – Janet Crosthwaite, Jennifer Gallivan, Christine Hastings and Maralyn Stirling.

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

The Flowers in Church today have been provided by Helen Chalmers.  
Delivering the Flowers after today's service will be Denise Beggs.  
Delivering the Flowers after next week's service will be Helen MacLeod.

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

Linda Clarke, Laura Eckles, James Falconer, Kaiden Falconer, Jennifer Gallivan, David MacAskill, Jamie McIntosh, Susan McIntosh, Ewan McManus, Richard McManus, Neil Matheson, Jean Meek, Gayle Miller, Heather O'Neill, Andrew Philp, 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>On holiday 26th December – 5th January (inclusive)</b>
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Ian Baillie	☎: 719641 or 07795 034728 ianb@upperbraes.org.uk <b>On holiday from 23rd December. Retiring 31st December.</b>
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Rev Monica MacDonald	☎: 01324 832782 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

## The Week Ahead at Upper Braes Parish Church

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
TODAY 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
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	10.30am	Catherine Davidson Thanksgiving Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.30am	Catherine Davidson Burial Service	New Grandsable Cemetery
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm	Early Watchnight Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service – mince pies from 11.10pm	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service – mince pies from 11.00pm	Slamannan Ministry Centre
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Half-hour Christmas Day Service (bring a present!)	Brightons Ministry Centre
Sunday 29 <sup>th</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	All-Age Morning Service Live Streamed (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)	Brightons Ministry Centre