



UPPER BRAES PARISH CHURCH

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

**Welcome! We join in the sanctuary to worship God in the Name of
Jesus Christ. Our service to God is led by Rev Scott Burton.
God's Word will be preached by Rev Sandra Mathers.**

Order of Service – Sunday 23rd February 2025 (6.30pm)

Welcome and Notices

Gathering Moment and Call to Worship

Hymn – Hymn of the Saviour

Hymn MP-1009 The King of love

Hymn MP-1376 Worth is the Lamb

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-25 (page 1025)

(Jean Meek)

Message

(Sandra Mathers)

Time of Prayer

The Sacrament of Holy Communion during which we sing

Hymn MP-1215 O perfect love

Sharing the Peace and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn MP-1012 These are the days of Elijah

Benediction and The Grace

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.

Period of Sick Leave for Pastoral Assistant

Monica has the shingles and so will be on leave until able to return. Please keep her in your prayers and also respect her need for rest and recuperation.

New and updated Governance Policies

We recently drew your attention to our new and updated congregational governance policies which are available on the Governance page of our website and in the policy booklets available in both Ministry Centres (which can be borrowed if you wish to read a hardcopy.) Two policies we want to draw particular notice to are: 1. Vehicle Use - for employees/volunteers who use their own vehicle for church business, and have a responsibility for driving others (eg to church for Friendship plus; to young people's groups; or to hospital), particularly noting the need to check with/notify your insurer that you are covered for volunteer driving. Note this does not apply if you are driving a friend to church or a group; only if you've been asked to drive others in a volunteer role. 2. Lone Working - for employees/volunteers who may work in the church, carry out home visits or travel alone, particularly noting the principles and responsibilities we ask you to observe to keep yourself safe. If you have any questions about any of the above please see Judith Norton (Session Clerk) or James Falconer.

Thank You

Sandra Blair would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers, phone calls and visits during her recent surgery. It was very much appreciated.

Half Hour Service - Thursday

Please note that the next Thursday Half Hour service is this Thursday, 27th February, at 11.30am in Brightons Ministry Centre and will include Communion.

Retiral Offering

Please note that at next weeks' Communion service, there will be a Retiral Offering for the Scottish Bible Society. Donations can be made either in cash or by using the contactless card machine.

Team Minutes

There are new Minutes for the Kirk Session, Sunday School and Up and Coming Teams available on the website and there are also paper copies available in the document holder at Brightons Ministry Centre.

Kirk Session

Please note that the next Kirk Session Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th February at 7.15pm in the Small Hall at Brightons Ministry Centre.

The Guild

Please note that the next Guild Meeting is tomorrow at 2.00pm in Brightons Ministry Centre. All are welcome for a Fun and Games afternoon.

Pastoral Visitors Needed

The Pastoral Care Team is looking for six people who would be willing to do occasional visits in Slamannan and surrounding area to folk in the congregation who are mostly shut in. Volunteers would be “partnered up” with a specific person/family. If this could be you, please speak to our Pastoral Assistant Rev Monica MacDonald, or to Rev Scott Burton.

Youth Mentors Needed

We need at least 6 volunteers for a new mentoring program for our young people. You will meet with a young person for 1 hour every fortnight for 12 weeks, with an option to share your skills (e.g., music, reading, running, chatting with coffee!) with them and talk about our Christian faith following a relaxed guide. Dates and times are flexible to suit you and young person. **Register your interest using the sign-up sheets found on pews or at the front of the church.** For more info, contact Caroline via WhatsApp/email/phone call or in person (contact details on the back of the notices)

Volunteers for Creche

We are looking to restart the crèche in the small hall as we did prior to COVID times to let parents return to the service. This would be on a 4 weekly rota basis to help with the care of our under 3s. I am looking for at least 8 helpers to accommodate this. We are also looking for an additional helper for the junior section (P2 to p4). If you hear God calling you to either of these posts please get in touch with Alie Drackford at sundayschool@upperbraes.org.uk.

Tea and Coffee Rota

If you would like to be part of the Refreshment Team. Please speak to Maralyn Stirling. Your help would be very much appreciated. A great way to get to know more of your church family! Also, all donations given for your after church cuppa will go to Tearfund.

Help us connect even more with our local community - Community Audit

Over March to October this year, training will be given to help us engage, listen to and connect afresh with our local communities across the whole of the Upper Braes parish. The hope is that this will clarify where we as a new congregation can best get involved, so as to embody the love and kingdom of God in our communities. Over these months, there will be 6 training sessions led by Cinnamon Network. The first is on Saturday 1st March, 9.30am-12.30pm, at the Brightons Ministry Centre (the rest will be on Tuesday evenings). Sign-up sheets are at the door(s). We need as many of the congregation to be involved as possible - there will be work to do between training sessions, but it's really worth it, as it can lead to transformation for both us and our communities.

World Day of Prayer 2025

The World Day of Prayer this year will be held at Wallacestone Methodist Church on the 7th March 2025 at 7.00 p.m. and will be led by the Rev Adam J Stevenson. The theme this year is "I Made You Wonderful" written by the Christian women of the Cook Islands. All are welcome.

E-news and Prayer Updates

For our large congregation we sometimes communicate reminders and updates electronically, although any electronic communication is always added to the news sheet. If you would like the e-news, please consider signing-up by using the following link <https://upperbraes.org.uk/enews>

1st Polmont Girls' Brigade- 100th Anniversary Afternoon Tea

We will be holding an afternoon tea on Saturday 8th March 2025 at 2pm - 4pm celebrating our 100th Anniversary. Tickets can be purchased from GB staff at the price of Adults £6.00, Children £4.00. A selection of memorabilia from over the years will be on display.

An Evening with Graham Kendrick

Graham Kendrick will be appearing at Falkirk Trinity Church at 7.00pm on Friday 28th March. Tickets at £18 each and are available from the Office or online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/falkirk-trinity-church/t-norklxx>

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

Sandra Mathers, Jean Meek, Heather O'Neill, the Audio-Visual Team and the Praise Band.

Minister	Rev Scott Burton	☎: 341590 scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk Sabbath on Friday 13:30 - Saturday 13:30
Pastoral Assistant	Rev Monica MacDonald	On sick leave
Youth Development Worker	Caroline Whittit	☎: 07848 480801 cwhittit@churchofscotland.org.uk Sabbath on Saturday
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

The Week Ahead at Upper Braes Parish Church

Date	Time	Activity	Location
TODAY Sunday 23 rd February	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	Sunday School Groups	Brightons Ministry Centre
	6.30pm	Evening Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
Monday 24 th February	2.00pm	Art Group	Brightons Ministry Centre
	2.00pm	Guild	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.45pm	Fellowship Group (CA)	Offsite Event
Tuesday 25 th February	9.30am	Pre 5s	Brightons Ministry Centre
	6.15pm	BB Anchor Boys	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.15pm	Kirk Session	Brightons Ministry Centre
Wednesday 26 th February	10.00am	Braes Ministry Get Together	Brightons Ministry Centre
	1.00pm	Martha's Pantry	Slamannan Community Centre
	5.15pm	Bible Fun Club	Slamannan Ministry Centre
	6.15pm	GB Explorers	Brightons Ministry Centre
	6.15pm	GB Juniors	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	GB Brigaders	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	Band Practice	Brightons Ministry Centre
Thursday 27 th February	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.30am	Thursday Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	Choir	Brightons Ministry Centre
	8.15pm	Thursday Evening Live Prayer	Online Event

Friday 28 th February	6.15pm	BB Junior Section	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	BB Company Section	Brightons Ministry Centre
Saturday 1 st March	9.30am	Community Audit Training	Brightons Ministry Centre
Sunday 2 nd March	9.45am	Communion Rehearsal	Brightons Ministry Centre
	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	Sunday School Groups	Brightons Ministry Centre
	2.00pm	St Margaret's Service	St Margaret's Care Home
	7.00pm	Ian Lawson Fellowship Group	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.45pm	Young Adults Group	UBPC Manse