



# 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 today by Rev Sandra Mathers.**

**Order of Service – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (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 with Advent Wreath

**Hymn MP-393 Joy to the world**

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**Hymn MP-211 Hark the herald angels sing**

*We listen for God speaking to us*

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-56

**Hymn MP- 589 See Him lying on a bed of straw**

Message

*We ask for God's help and respond to Him*

**Hymn MP-597 Silent night**

Prayers for Others

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

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.

➤ New items in the newssheet are marked with this icon.

## Welcome and general updates



### 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.

### Sunday Morning 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.

### Thursday Evening Live Prayer

Join us online (via Zoom, YouTube or Facebook) 8.15-9pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Email [info@upperbraes.org.uk](mailto:info@upperbraes.org.uk) for Zoom details. Then we meet in-person on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 8-9pm, in the small hall.

### ➤ Please remember in your Prayers

Margaret Gray, formerly of Slamannan, but latterly a resident at Bankview Care Home, died on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 at the age of 93. Funeral service will be at Falkirk Crematorium on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm. Please remember Margaret's extended family in your prayers.

### Please remember in your Prayers

Please remember the family of Alistair Young who passed away. The funeral service will take place at Brightons Ministry Centre on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon.

### Please remember in your Prayers

Please remember the family of Doreen Henderson who passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Her funeral will take place at 1:45pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at Falkirk Crematorium.

### Prison Outreach at Christmas

As in previous years, we seek to send a symbol of God's loving care to the women and young men who reside in HMP/YOI at Polmont. We send a Christmas card together with a chocolate bar to all the inmates. A suggested donation of £1.50 would be helpful for the approximately 600 individuals. A donation box will be placed at the front vestibule to accept cash donations.

### Free Will Offering Envelopes

Members who use envelopes for their giving can collect 2026 envelopes from the front vestibule. Envelopes are arranged alphabetically. Please take your own envelope and/or envelopes for friends and neighbours.

## Upcoming events



### Men's Book Group

The next Men's Book Group will be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Vestry at Brightons Ministry Centre.

➤ **Nativity Fun Day Sat 20th December - 3.00pm – 5.00pm**

We will be running our popular outreach event for families with young children this Saturday, at Brightons Ministry Centre, but we are needing more helpers. If you have some time to help by chatting, supervising craft or making tea then please contact Rachel Gilmour on 07931170127 . Flyers are available at the doors so please invite friends and neighbours - everyone is welcome for tea even if you don't have young children. Thank you.

➤ **Hogmanay 2025**

Please note that the back of this year's Christmas card mentions a Hogmanay Ceilidh. This was an error as there is no Hogmanay Ceilidh this year. Hopefully you enjoyed the two ceilidhs earlier in the term!

➤ **Save the Date**

We're delighted to be holding our 2<sup>nd</sup> Prayer Weekend at Upper Braes Parish Church, building on the encouragement and good response from the first in September. Get ready to join us for 48 hours of prayer from 6th - 8th February, so please take a note of the date as we'd love to have you with us if you can.

## **Volunteering opportunities**



### **Martha's Pantry**

We need volunteers who can offer one shift a month or those who are happy to be called upon on occasion when we are struggling to complete the rota.

Volunteering involves either a short session on a Monday preparing for the Wednesday, which is usually done by two volunteers from 10-11am or earlier. The second shift is a Wednesday 12:45-3:45pm, when the pantry is open, where you would greet people and help them as they select items. Full training is given.

### **Newsheet**

Our weekly newsheet (both Ministry Centres) is very important in providing information to our congregation and we are looking for some additional help in printing this. It would require approx. 1.5-2 hours on a Friday or Saturday to print up to 200 copies on the church printer. Full training will be given and with a team of 2-4 people we could set up a rota. If you could consider helping with this task, please speak to Heather O'Neill or James Falconer

## 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.

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Scott Burton	☎: 341590 scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk <b>Sabbath on Friday 16:00 - Saturday 16:00</b>
<b>Lead Pastoral Assistant</b>	Rev Monica MacDonald	☎07833 102874 monica.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk <b>Sabbath on Friday</b>
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b>	Gayle Miller	☎: 07720 256336 gayle.miller@churchofscotland.org.uk <b>Sabbath on Friday 16:00 - Saturday 16:00</b>
<b>Youth Development Worker</b>	Caroline Whittit	☎: 07848 480801 cwhittit@churchofscotland.org.uk <b>Sabbath on Saturday</b>
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Judith Norton	☎: 07919 998300 session clerk@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 newsheet@upperbraes.org.uk

## The Week Ahead at Upper Braes Parish Church

TODAY Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10.15am	Morning Prayer	Brightons Ministry Centre
	10.40am	Morning Prayer	Slamannan Ministry Centre
	11.00am	Morning Service Live Streamed	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.00am	Youth Church	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.00am	Morning Service	Slamannan Ministry Centre
	3.00pm	Caledonia Choir	Brightons Ministry Centre
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm	Men's Book Group	Brightons Ministry Centre
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Pre 5s Group	Brightons Ministry Centre
	12.00pm	Alistair Young Funeral Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	8.45am	Property Team	Brightons Ministry Centre
	12.00pm	Friendship Plus Christmas Lunch	Off Site Event
	1.00pm	Martha's Pantry	Off Site Event
	7.30pm	Band Practice	Brightons Ministry Centre
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Coffee Morning	Brightons Ministry Centre
	8.15pm	Thursday Evening Live Prayer	Online Event
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	BB Junior Section	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	BB Company Section	Brightons Ministry Centre
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	3.00pm	Nativity Fun Day	Brightons Ministry Centre
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	10.15am	Morning Prayer	Brightons Ministry Centre
	10.40am	Morning Prayer	Slamannan Ministry Centre
	11.00am	Morning Service Live Streamed	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.00am	All-Age Youth Church	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.00am	Morning Service	Slamannan Ministry Centre