



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.

Order of Service – Sunday 21st December 2025 (11.00am)

We offer ourselves to God in worship

Welcome and Notices

Gathering Moment with Advent Wreath

The Choir: 'Little donkey'

Call to Worship

Hymn MP-539 Once in royal David's city (v1-2, 5-6)

Hymn MP-451 Love came down at Christmas

All Together Time

Hymn – God's love is the best love

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

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer*

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14 (page 1063)

(Sandra Anderson)

Prayer for Others

(Caroline Whittit)

Hymn MP-162 From heaven You came

Message

We respond to God

Hymn MP-449 Love divine

Benediction and Threefold Amen

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

There is an all-age Youth Church for children at Primary School,
as well as a creche space.

Refreshments are served after the service in the Heriot Hall.

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



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 the service or to go out to the various Youth Church groups. Families are welcome to accompany them if they wish.

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.

➤ **Willie Rankine**

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Willie Rankine on Tuesday 16th December. Please remember the family, Patricia, Billy, Marion and Kate and Willie's brother, John in your prayers at this time. The funeral is on Friday 9th January 2026 at Brightons Ministry Centre at 10.15am, followed by a committal service at 11.30am at Falkirk Crematorium.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the family of Doreen Henderson who passed away on 25th November. Her funeral will take place at 1.45pm on Monday 22nd December at Falkirk Crematorium.

Prison Outreach at Christmas – LAST DAY TODAY!

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 and card donations will also be accepted at Brightons Ministry Centre.

➤ **Newsletter from Duncans in South Africa**

The latest news from Graham and Sandra Duncan is available at the front and back doors, and is also on the noticeboard in the cloakroom corridor. Please take the opportunity to have a look!

Free Will Offering Envelopes

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

Newssheet Rota Updates

Please note that with effect from January, we will no longer include the Flower rota and the Tea and Coffee rota in the Newssheet. The flower rotas will be placed on the notice board at the front of the Brightons Ministry Centre and the Tea and Coffee rota will be placed on the notice board nearest the kitchen.

Ministry Staff Holidays

Caroline will be on annual leave 22nd Dec to 4th Jan inclusive, and Scott will be on annual leave 26th Dec to 4th Jan inclusive. For pastoral assistance during Scott's leave, contact Monica or Gayle. For wider church business, contact Judith.

➤ **Thank You – Ian Lawson**

Ian would like to thank everyone for the kind birthday wishes, cards, texts and flowers on his 80th Birthday.

➤ **Thankyou – Cathie Playfair**

Cathie would like to thank everyone for the kind wishes, cards, flowers and visits following her recent illness.

➤ **Tearfund**

Send an e-card to your MP and let them know you are praying for them in 2026. Each e-card comes with a unique design and a message which can be edited. This is a good way of encouraging your MP to speak up on an issue you are passionate about. Click on tearfund.org/church-mp-e-card or via the QR code.



Daily Bread

The Daily Bread books are now available for January – March. These are available from Heather O'Neill and are £6.25 each.

Upcoming events



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 2nd 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



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.

Rotas, thanks and contact details

Tea and Coffee- Brightons Ministry Centre

21st December – Catherine McIntosh, Jamie McIntosh, Jane Bell, Agnes Bruce.

28th December – Janet Crossthwaite, Jane Bell, Alison Cassells, Maralyn Stirling.

Flowers in Church – Brightons Ministry Centre

The Flowers in the Church this week are provided by Helen Chalmers.

Delivering the Flowers after this week's service will be Pat Paterson.

Delivering the Flowers after next week's service will be Shona Forrest.

Thanks to all those who contributed in different ways

Jean Meek, Heather O'Neill, AV Team, Organist, Praise Band, Welcome Team and Refreshment team.

Minister	Rev Scott Burton	☎: 341590 scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk Sabbath on Friday 16:00 - Saturday 16:00
Lead Pastoral Assistant	Rev Monica MacDonald	☎07833 102874 monica.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk Sabbath on Friday
Pastoral Assistant	Gayle Miller	☎: 07720 256336 gayle.miller@churchofscotland.org.uk Sabbath on Friday 16:00 - Saturday 16:00
Youth Development Worker	Caroline Whittit	☎: 07848 480801 cwhittit@churchofscotland.org.uk Sabbath on Saturday
Session Clerk	Judith Norton	☎: 07919 998300 session clerk@upperbraes.org.uk
Safeguarding Coordinator	Eileen Hope	safeguarding@upperbraes.org.uk
Church Office	☎: 713855	info@upperbraes.org.uk
Church Website		www.upperbraes.org.uk
Newssheet Notices	Heather O'Neill	☎: 07745 564094 heather.oneill5@btinternet.com newssheet@upperbraes.org.uk

The Week Ahead at Upper Braes Parish Church

TODAY Sunday 21 st 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
Wednesday 24 th December	6.30pm	Early Watchnight Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service	Slamannan Ministry Centre
Thursday 25 th December	10.30am	Christmas Day Service (30mins) – bring your presents!	Brightons Ministry Centre
Sunday 28 th 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	Morning Service	Slamannan Ministry Centre