



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 Linzi Matheson.**

Order of Service – Sunday 21st 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

Hymn MP 597 – Silent night

Prayer of Approach, Confession and Lord's Prayer

We listen for God speaking to us

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

(Linda McGarry)

Hymn MP 449 – Love divine

Message – Part 1

Hymn MP 393 – Joy to the world

Message – Part 2

We ask for God's help and respond to Him

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Others

(Jim Hope)

Hymn MP 451 – Love came down at Christmas

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 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 for Zoom details. Then we meet in-person on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 8-9pm, in the small hall.

➤ **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.

➤ **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 front vestibule. Envelopes are arranged alphabetically. Please take your own envelope and/or envelopes for friends and neighbours.

➤ **Thank You – Ian Lawson**

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

➤ **Thank You – 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

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 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
Newsheet Notices	Heather O'Neill	☎: 07745 564094 heather.oneill5@btinternet.com newsheet@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