



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (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-784 You servants of God**

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

All Together Time

*We listen for God speaking to us and ask for His help*

**Hymn MP-717 We are here to praise You**

(sung twice)

Scripture Reading: Galatians 2:1-21

(Linda McGarry)

**Hymn MP-1012 These are the days of Elijah**

Message

**Hymn MP-1151 Amazing grace (My chains are gone)**

Prayers for Others

*We respond to God*

**Hymn MP-988 How deep the Father's love for us**

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.

## 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.

### ➤ Teaching Series Over January to March 2026

At the start of each new year, we systematically work through a New Testament letter and this year we are exploring Galatians! Please have a read of the letter during the week sometime and follow with us as we explore this hugely important part of the Scriptures with so much to say to our own lives.

### Guild Projects 25/26 – Build My Church Bulgaria and Playful Beginnings

Next Sunday morning a retiring offering will be taken when you will have the opportunity to help the Guild send a substantial donation to the two Projects they are supporting this session, Build My Church Bulgaria and Playful Beginnings.

Donations can be made with cash, cheque or card.

### Gift Aid – are you on the list? Check over January!

As part of our new year actions, we need to check that everyone who wishes (and is able!) to be on the Gift Aid list of donors is up to date. So, from 11<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> January, please call into the vestry at Brightons Ministry Centre or the Session Room at Slamannan Ministry Centre and see if your name and correct details are on file. This might also be the time to check if you need to be added, as not all Gift Aiders from congregations before the Union have been transferred across, and some people who are new to Upper Braes might not have been added yet. Every name added gives us an extra 25% on your offerings and it makes a huge difference to our church finances – so sign up by filling out the Gift Aid Form.

### Share your stories of faith!

The Preaching Team are keen to include more stories of faith (“testimony”) in the service, either as something said upfront, or in a question and answer format, or as a written story. These could be stories of how God has been teaching you, helping you, journeying with you, answering prayer, or how you came to faith – whatever! Testimony cards are on the pews, and QR codes around the ministry centres.

## Upcoming events



### Help Slamannan Thrive – Sunday 15 February 2026, 11am-2pm

Reserve the date in your diaries for a conversation during the service, over a packed-lunch then for 1 extra hour as we explore how to help Slamannan Local Mission Church thrive over 2026! Come with your ideas and questions. Sign-up sheets at SMC door or let Scott know.

➤ **Friendship Plus**

Please note that the next Friendship Plus Meeting is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 2.00pm. This will be a Burns Afternoon.

➤ **Thursday Live Prayer: In-Person**

Curious how to pray in a simple, real way? Wondering about what prayer is? Sensing a call to deepen your prayer life, to encounter God and his heart for the world? Join us this Thursday as we gather to grow and practice praying for God's Kingdom to come in our patch of the earth. You are welcome. Each meeting we will follow a theme of the 24/7 prayer course and practice using what we learn in a safe and gentle way. This week the focus is : Becoming Still.

➤ **Half-Hour Service: Change of Date**

The half-hour service will now be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 11.30am. Please share with others who usually attend, and consider inviting those who might benefit from a shorter service.

➤ **Evening Service Themes for January to May 2026**

Starting on 25<sup>th</sup> January, the evening service themes for the first half of the year will be "Faith in Civic Society and the Workplace". We look forward to welcoming a guest speaker on 25<sup>th</sup> January with much experience of sharing faith in the workplace.

➤ **Joint Service – 1 February: Testimony Sunday**

We are having a joint service at the Brightons Ministry Centre on the above date and look forward to hearing some testimony being shared. If you would be willing to share a story – recent or past, a "small" or "longer" example of God's involvement in your life, then please contact Scott.

➤ **Prayer Weekend Sign-Up Now Open**

The sign-up sheet for our Prayer Weekend (6th-8th February) is now available at the side entrance of the church. Last year's gathering was a deeply encouraging time for everyone involved, so please add your name soon to book an hour in the prayer room. The prayer room will once again be set up in the small hall, offering a quiet space for reflection and prayer throughout the weekend.

➤ **Did you know it takes just one hour to save a life?**

The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service is visiting Brightons Ministry Centre tomorrow, Monday 19th January. There are a few appointments left. Visit [www.scotblood.co.uk](http://www.scotblood.co.uk) to book your appointment. You must book your appointment by 5pm today, Sunday 18 January. Thank you.

## Song Words



### 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.

## Contact details



<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 18 <sup>th</sup> January	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
	7.00pm	Ian Lawson Fellowship Group	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.15pm	Youth Fellowship	Brightons Ministry Centre
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	1.00pm	Blood Transfusion Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
	2.00pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	Brightons Ministry Centre
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am	Pre 5s	Brightons Ministry Centre
	9.30am	YDP Management Team Meeting	Off Site Event
	6.15pm	BB Anchor Boys	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.45pm	Friendship Practice	Brightons Ministry Centre
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	8.45am	Property Team	Brightons Ministry Centre
	1.00pm	Martha's Pantry	Off Site Event
	2.00pm	Friendship Plus	Brightons Ministry Centre
	5.45pm	GB Juniors/Explorers	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	Huddle	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	GB Brigaders	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	Band Practice	Brightons Ministry Centre
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Brightons Ministry Centre
	11.30am	Thursday Half Hour Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
	6.45pm	Friends of Jesus Group	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	Choir	Brightons Ministry Centre
	8.00pm	Thursday Evening Live Prayer In Person	Brightons Ministry Centre
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	6.00pm	BB Junior Section	Brightons Ministry Centre
	7.30pm	BB company	Brightons Ministry Centre
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	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
	6.30pm	Evening Service	Brightons Ministry Centre

