



# 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 Debbie van Welie.**

## **Order of Service – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (11.00am)**

*We offer ourselves to God in worship*

Welcome and Notices

(Judith Norton)

Gathering Moment with **MP 38 – As we are gathered**

**The Choir: One day when heaven was filled**

Call to Worship

**Hymn MP-14 All heaven declares**

**Hymn MP-13 All hail the power of Jesus' name**

All Together Time

**Hymn MP-32 An army of ordinary people**

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

Prayer and Lord's Prayer\*

Update on Weekend of Prayer

(Caroline Whittit)

Scripture Readings: Genesis 38: 26-30 and Luke 18:1-8

(Isabel Scougal)

Prayer for Others

(Jason Glass)

**Hymn MP-50 Be still for the presence of the Lord**

Message

*We respond to God*

**Hymn MP-249 How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him**

Benediction and Threefold Amen

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

*\*\*We have Sunday groups for children and young people up to S4,  
as well as a creche space available for those under 3.\*\**

*Refreshments are available after in the Heriot Hall.*



### **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.

### **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.

#### ➤ **Nan Chisholm**

A thanksgiving service for Nan Chisholm will be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 11.00am in Brightons Ministry Centre, followed by a committal at Gransable Cemetery. Please remember the family in your prayers.

#### ➤ **Kirk Session Meeting**

Please note that the next Kirk Session Meeting will be held at Brightons Ministry Centre on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm.

#### ➤ **Website Resources: Updated Home Page**

On our home page we now have two new sections of resources. One for the ‘Season of Change’ material, dating back to last August, and the other for new folks around the Upper Braes. There are also QR codes in both ministry centres to the resources for visitors. We hope both sections will support and equip each of us, by summarising the journey we have been on and what is available to help everyone move forward together.

## Volunteering opportunities



### Volunteer Opportunity at Braes High School

Scripture Union at Braes High School is looking for a committed volunteer to help lead our Monday lunchtime group during term time. The role involves giving short talks, building positive relationships with young people, and helping the young people grow in their faith. We're seeking someone who can attend most Mondays and has a heart for supporting young people. To apply or find out more, contact Caroline at [cwhittit@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:cwhittit@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### Contact details



|                                 |                      |   |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| <b>Minister</b>                 | Rev Scott Burton     | ☎: 341590<br><a href="mailto:scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk">scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk</a><br><b>Sabbath on Friday 16:00 - Saturday 16:00</b>                      |
| <b>Lead Pastoral Assistant</b>  | Rev Monica MacDonald | ☎07833 102874<br><a href="mailto:monica.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk">monica.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk</a><br><b>Sabbath on Friday</b>                                 |
| <b>Pastoral Assistant</b>       | Gayle McLachlan      | ☎: 07720 256336<br><a href="mailto:gayle.miller@churchofscotland.org.uk">gayle.miller@churchofscotland.org.uk</a><br><b>Sabbath on Friday 16:00 - Saturday 16:00</b>                |
| <b>Youth Development Worker</b> | Caroline Whittit     | ☎: 07848 480801<br><a href="mailto:cwhittit@churchofscotland.org.uk">cwhittit@churchofscotland.org.uk</a><br><b>Sabbath on Saturday</b>   |
| <b>Session Clerk</b>            | Judith Norton        | ☎: 07919 998300<br><a href="mailto:sessionclerk@upperbraes.org.uk">sessionclerk@upperbraes.org.uk</a>   |
| <b>Safeguarding Coordinator</b> | Eileen Hope          | <a href="mailto:safeguarding@upperbraes.org.uk">safeguarding@upperbraes.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Church Office</b>            | ☎: 713855            | <a href="mailto:info@upperbraes.org.uk">info@upperbraes.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Church Website</b>           |                      | <a href="http://www.upperbraes.org.uk">www.upperbraes.org.uk</a>  |
| <b>Newsheet Notices</b>         | Heather O'Neill      | ☎: 07745 564094<br><a href="mailto:heather.oneill5@btinternet.com">heather.oneill5@btinternet.com</a><br><a href="mailto:newsheet@upperbraes.org.uk">newsheet@upperbraes.org.uk</a> |



### ➤ **Evening Service Themes for January to May 2026 (Updated)**

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 Martyn Link from Business Connection tonight, who has much experience of sharing faith in the workplace.

### **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.

### **Thursday Evening Live Prayer**

Join us online (via Zoom, YouTube or Facebook) 8.15-9pm on the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **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.

### ➤ **Guild**

The next Guild Meeting will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm at Brightons Ministry Centre. This will be a Scottish Afternoon by Wallacestone Primary School pupils.

## The Week Ahead at Upper Braes Parish Church



|   |         |                                 |                           |
|---|---------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| TODAY<br>Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup><br>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 |
|   | 11.00am | Youth Church                    | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 6.30pm  | Evening Service                 | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup><br>January          | 2.00pm  | Art Group                       | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 2.00pm  | Guild                           | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup><br>January         | 9.30am  | Pre 5s                          | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 6.15pm  | BB Anchor Boys                  | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 7.15pm  | Kirk Session                    | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| Wednesday<br>28 <sup>th</sup> January       | 8.45am  | Property Team                   | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 1.00pm  | Martha's Pantry                 | Off Site Event            |
|   | 5.45pm  | GB Juniors/Explorers            | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 7.00pm  | Alpha Course                    | Off Site Event            |
|   | 7.30pm  | GB Brigaders                    | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 7.30pm  | Band Practice                   | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| Thursday<br>29 <sup>th</sup> January        | 10.30am | Coffee Morning                  | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 11.00am | Funeral Service<br>Nan Chisholm | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 7.30pm  | Choir Rehearsal                 | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 8.15pm  | Thursday Evening<br>Live Prayer | Off Site Event            |
| Friday 30 <sup>th</sup><br>January          | 6.00pm  | BB Junior Section               | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 7.30pm  | BB company                      | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup><br>February          | 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 |
|   | 7.00pm  | Ian Lawson Fellowship Group     | Brightons Ministry Centre |
|   | 7.15pm  | Youth Fellowship                | Brightons Ministry Centre |

