



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 Jim Cowan.**

Order of Service – Sunday 22nd April 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 201 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Prayer of Approach, Confession and Lord's Prayer

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

Scripture Reading: Mark 13:1-13

(Linda McGarry)

Hymn MP 1072 In Christ alone

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Others

(Monica MacDonald)

All Together Time

Hymn MP 746 What a friend we have in Jesus

Message

We respond to God

Hymn MP 1094 Men of faith

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Doxology with May the God of peace go with us* (Tune: Ae fond kiss)

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.

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.

➤ Please Remember in your Prayers

Please continue to remember May Anderson, daughter Sandra and family in your prayers after the passing of James (Jim) Anderson on Wed 15th April at FVRI. Jim's funeral service will be on Monday 27th April at 1.45 in Falkirk Crematorium.

Teens - Meet with a Mentor!

Our mentoring scheme gives teens a space to talk, reflect and receive honest guidance from a supportive adult. It's free, flexible, and designed to help young people grow in confidence, faith and life skills. If you are or you know a young person who'd benefit, just let Caroline know.

National Christian Hustings

With the Scottish elections coming up on 7th May, Logos Scotland held the only national Christian hustings on YouTube. We encourage you to visit the weblink and watch what the seven candidates have to say about their beliefs and the role of Christians in politics, education, housing and more.

<https://tinyurl.com/LogosHustings26>

➤ Playlist during the prayer stations at tonight's evening service

If you enjoyed the playlist or wish to listen to the full playlist again, it can be found on the church's YouTube channel or by using this link

<https://tinyurl.com/ubpc-apr26>

Volunteering opportunities



Helping Slamannan Thrive - Can You Help?

Following the two Thrive Sundays at SMC, we've identified a few actions to progress. Firstly, we invite members of the Slamannan area to complete the community survey via the printed form or this link <https://tinyurl.com/marthaspantrysurvey25>

Secondly, do you have a Christian (auto)biography you can donate to our lending library? Please leave in vestry. Thirdly, we might start a local toddler group, but need a setup team and refreshment team - can you help on a rota basis? Please let Scott, or one of the office bearers or Elders know.

Kintsugi Hope - Train the Trainer!

Kintsugi Hope is a wellbeing programme that creates safe, supportive spaces for people to explore emotional health and resilience. We are looking for volunteers to help run sessions in Braes High School and with adults in the community. No previous experience is needed, but a heart to care for and support others is essential. Please pray, and if you feel led to be part of this, or would like more information, let Caroline Whittit know (contact details on the back of the newsheet).

Upcoming events



Thrive Sunday - 26th April (TODAY)

Today, we will have a Thrive Sunday on 26th April at our Brightons Ministry Centre where we'll hear feedback on the community audit project and take time over lunch and afterwards to discuss the way forward together. Please put this date in the diary and come with a packed lunch. We will explore how to make the time all-age accessible and to finish by 2pm.

Faith in the Public Square Conference – 24th April 2026

Two tickets for this conference have been funded to enable two church members to attend at a discounted cost of £10. The keynote speaker is Tim Farron MP. For more info contact Scott, Brent Haywood or see <https://tinyurl.com/Logos2026>. Two discounted tickets for students are also available.

Half Hour Service

Please note that the next Half Hour Service will held on Thursday 30th April at 11.30am in Brightons Ministry Centre.

Scottish Women Of the Word

The Scottish Women of the Word are holding a Day Conference on Saturday 9th May at Castlecary Hotel, Castlecary. There will be two speakers - Sheila Park and Ruth Box. I have been to these day conferences before and they have been a real blessing to me. For more details see www.scottishwomenoftheword.org or speak to Wendy Dick.

Youth Workers! A Save the Date!

To all youth workers at UBPC, please save the date for our training and upskilling half day event which takes place in the morning of Saturday 9th May! If you volunteer, working with children or youth at the church, then this invite is for you! This is a free event, and more info will come through via email - so save the date for now and speak to Caroline if you'd like any more info! Looking forward to it!

Upper Braes Joint Service – Sunday 3rd May

There will be joint service for Upper Braes Ministry Centres on Sunday 3rd May at Slamannan Primary School. If you require help with transport, then please let Judith know.

Kirk Session Meeting

Please note that the next Kirk Session Meeting is on Tuesday 28th April at 7.15pm in the Small Hall at Brightons Ministry Centre.

Friends of Jesus – Visitors Night

The Friends of Jesus Group are having their Visitor's Evening on Thursday May 14th in the Upper Braes church from 6.45pm. We would like to invite everyone to come along and share in this evening of celebration and fellowship, plus refreshments afterwards. There will be a donation box should you wish to support the work of our Friends of Jesus Group and Prospects across Scotland.

➤ **Martha's Pantry AGM**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 9th May 2026 at our premises, No 9 High Street, Slamannan FK1 3EX starting at 11am. Refreshments will be available from 10.30am, providing an opportunity for anyone wishing to find out how our service to the community works and to see how we are set up. Questions? Contact Monica MacDonald on email: marthaspantryfk1@gmail.com

➤ **Thrive'26: Faith at Work: One Church, many workplaces, 28th May, 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Join us here at Brightons Ministry Centre as we host one of Scotland's Thrive'26 Gatherings, connecting Christians who want to live out their faith in their workplace. Over the evening we'll have the opportunity over tea and cake to hear stories from the workplace, pray and have fellowship, as we look to God for encouragement, strength & support in community. There is also an option to join a national online seminar (from your own location) on Saturday 30th May, 10am-12.30pm for teaching, further encouragement and practical tools for workplace mission. Come and discover how God is moving in workplaces across Scotland; and how you can be part of it. Find out more / sign up on <https://thrivescotland.org/Thrive26>. Upper Braes Parish Church members are invited to attend for free with discount code: **upperbraes2026**. Any questions, please see Judith.

➤ **Men's Breakfast - Saturday 16th May 9.30am**

Sign-up sheets for the next men's breakfast are at the front and rear doors - please add your name if you plan to attend. Speaker is Mike Stewart from Ellel Ministries who has encouraging testimony to share about God's work in his life. We look forward to a time of encouragement together!

➤ **Annual Bereavement Service**

The annual bereavement service at Brightons MC will be held on Sunday 10th May at 3pm. Those recently or longer ago bereaved are welcome to attend. The service will be led by Gayle McLachlan. There will be tea & coffee served in the Rankine Hall following the service.

➤ **St Margarets Service**

Please note that the next service at St Margarets will be next Sunday, 3rd May at 2.00pm.

Sermon Notes

key verses:

Since we have some space this week, why not take a note of the things in the sermon or service that speak to your heart?

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|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Minister | Rev Scott Burton | ☎: 341590 scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk |
| Pastoral Assistant (lead) | Rev Monica MacDonald | ☎: 07833 102874 monica.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk |
| Pastoral Assistant | Gayle McLachlan | ☎: 07720 256336 gayle@upperbraes.org.uk |
| Youth Development Worker | Caroline Whittit | ☎: 07848 480801 cwhittit@churchofscotland.org.uk |
| 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



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| TODAY Sunday 26 th April | 10.15am | Morning Prayer | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 10.40am | Morning Prayer | Slamannan Ministry Centre |
| | 11.00am | Morning Service (also online) | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 11.00am | Youth Church | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 11.00am | Morning Service | Slamannan Ministry Centre |
| | 6.30pm | Evening Service | Brightons Ministry Centre |
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| Monday 27 th April | 2.00pm | Art Group | Brightons Ministry Centre |
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| Tuesday 28 th April | 9.30am | Pre 5s | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 7.15pm | Kirk Session | Brightons Ministry Centre |
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| Wednesday 29 th April | 8.45am | Property Meeting | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 10.00am | Braes Ministry Get Together | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 1.00pm | Martha's Pantry | Off Site Event |
| | 7.30pm | Huddle | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 7.30pm | Band Practice | Brightons Ministry Centre |
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| Thursday 30 th April | 10.00am | Coffee Morning | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 11.30am | Thursday Service | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 6.00pm | Alpha Course | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 6.45pm | Friends of Jesus Group | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 7.30pm | Choir | Brightons Ministry Centre |
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| Friday 1 st May | 6.00pm | BB Junior Section | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 7.30pm | BB Company Section | Brightons Ministry Centre |
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| Sunday 3 rd May | 10.40am | Morning Prayer | Slamannan Primary School |
| | 11.00am | Morning Service | Slamannan Primary School |
| | 2.00pm | St Margarets Service | St Margarets Care Home |
| | 7.00pm | Ian Lawson Fellowship Group | Brightons Ministry Centre |
| | 11.00am | Morning Service (also online) | Slamannan Primary School |