



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 Monica MacDonald.

Order of Service – Sunday 12th July 2026 (10.30am)

We offer ourselves to God in worship

Welcome, Notices and Gathering Moment

(Judith Norton)

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

Call to Worship

Hymn MP 188 - God is our strength and refuge

All Together Time:

(Summer Kids Club)

Hymn 49 – Be bold, be strong!

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

Prayer and Lord's Prayer*

Hymn MP 275 – I heard the voice of Jesus say

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-20 (Page 983)

(Marion Zachs)

Message

We respond to God

Hymn MP 799 – All I once held dear

Prayer for Others

(Richard McManus)

Hymn MP 862 ~ I'll go in the strength of the Lord

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Doxology with May the God of peace go with us*

(Tune: Ae fond kiss)

** The words for the Lord's Prayer and Doxology will appear on screen. The Doxology is also printed within the newsheet.*

We have groups for children and young people up to S3, and a creche space.

Refreshments are available after in the Heriot Hall.

➤ *New items are identified 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 primary school aged children are welcome either to stay during the service or to go out to Summer Kids Club/session for young people to S3. 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.

Summer Services at Brightons Ministry Centre

From 28th June to 9th August inclusive, the services at the Brightons Ministry Centre will move to a 10.30am start time, with the morning prayer at 10-10.15am. There will also be a Summer Kids Club and summer provision for young people.

Is Upper Braes your spiritual family? Consider joining!

We've had some interest in folks exploring the meaning of membership and formally identifying the Upper Braes as their spiritual family and home. If you would like to join in this conversation, after the summer break, then let Scott or Judith know.

➤ **Please Remember in your Prayers**

It is with sadness we announce the peaceful passing of Mrs Helen Chalmers on 8th July at FVRH. Please remember Helen's husband George, daughter Janet and wider family in your prayers. Funeral service details will be shared in due course.

Please also remember the family of Mrs Jean Reids, a legacy Blackbraes and Shieldhill member. Jean's funeral will be on Wednesday 15th July at Grange Manor Hotel at 1pm, followed by a burial at Old Polmont cemetery at 2pm.

➤ **Opportunity to donate to DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal - (Today and next week)**

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) has launched an appeal for those affected by the earthquake, with match funding from the UK Government. If you are able you can donate by cash or contactless payments (choose 'retiral offering') on the way in or out. You can also donate online via Christian Aid (DEC member charity): <https://caid.org.uk/HelpVenezuela>

Staff Holidays

Scott is on study leave 6th July for 2 weeks, then annual leave for 2 weeks, returning Sunday 2nd August. During this leave, please speak with Monica or Gayle for pastoral matters or Judith for wider church matters. Caroline is on leave 13-19 July, Gayle is on leave 13-14 July, Monica is on leave 26 July to 1 August.

Recruitment of new Treasurer

After a number of years' service, Sharon Glass has stepped down as Treasurer from 1st July 2026. We are deeply thankful for all Sharon has done, which we will mark at the Stated Annual Meeting (SAM). In the meantime, Jason Glass is temporarily taking on the functions of the role, and can direct you to the appropriate members of the Finance Team (or otherwise) when your query is better taken forward by someone else. The Treasurer email address is monitored by our external Finance Consultant, Louise Collingwood, who we will introduce at the SAM too. We need to find a replacement Treasurer in due course, a role the Kirk Session have significantly revised, reducing time commitments and role responsibilities now we have an external Finance Consultant as part of our Finance Team. We will update on recruitment to fill this crucial post at the SAM.

Upcoming events



Weekend of Prayer in September

Please save the date for our next Weekend of Prayer, running from 11–13 September. We'll be holding 48 hours of non-stop prayer for our church, our community, and anything God has placed on your heart. We will have a sign-up sheet nearer the time where you can sign up for an hour to pray in the prayer room, which will be set up in the small hall at the Brightons Ministry Centre.

Coffee Morning with a Difference

On Saturday 5th September there will be a Coffee Morning held. This is a call to all men (and boys) associated with the Upper Braes to take part in the "sure to be fun" event. The Coffee Morning will be organised by men and delicious cakes and sweets will be served. We hope to benefit 3 charities supported by Upper Braes. Further details will follow nearer the time. Please speak to Roy Graham if you are interested in this event.

Volunteering opportunities



➤ Bible Alive Storytelling Session - Volunteer Training Opportunity

Valerie Sim, the Bible Alive Development Coordinator is going to be leading a Storytelling Session on Tuesday 18th August at 7.30pm at Brightons Ministry Centre. Everyone loves a good story! As Christians, we have the best story to tell, but how can we do this in a way which will engage, be memorable and cause children to reflect and respond? Come and explore techniques to improve presentation, enhance your storytelling and fascinate even the most wriggly child! If you intend to come to this session please let Caroline know

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?

Minister	Rev Scott Burton	☎: 341590 scott.burton@churchofscotland.org.uk On Study Leave/Holiday 6th July – 1st August
Pastoral Assistant (lead)	Rev Monica MacDonald	☎: 07833 102874 monica.macdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk Sabbath on Friday
Pastoral Assistant	Gayle McLachlan	☎: 07720 256336 gayle@upperbraes.org.uk On Holiday 13th-14th July, Sabbath Fri 4pm-Sat 4pm
Youth Development Worker	Caroline Whittit	☎: 07848 480801 cwhittit@churchofscotland.org.uk On Holiday 13th – 19th July
Session Clerk	Judith Norton	☎: 07919 998300 sessionclerk@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 12 th July	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Brightons Ministry Centre
	10.15am	Summer Kids Club	Brightons Ministry Centre
	10.30am	Morning Service Live Streamed	Brightons Ministry Centre
	10.40am	Morning Prayer	Slamannan Ministry Centre
	11.00am	Morning Service	Slamannan Ministry Centre
Monday 13 th July	12.00pm	Pastoral Staff Meeting	Brightons Ministry Centre
	1.00pm	Blood Transfusion Service	Brightons Ministry Centre
Wednesday 15 th July	8.45am	Property Team	Brightons Ministry Centre
	1.00pm	Martha's Pantry	Off Site Event
	7.30pm	Band Practice	Brightons Ministry Centre
Thursday 16 th July	6.00pm	Alpha Course	Brightons Ministry Centre
	8.15pm	Thursday Evening Live Prayer	On Line Event
Sunday 19 th July	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Brightons Ministry Centre
	10.15am	Summer Kids Club	Brightons Ministry Centre
	10.30am	Morning Service Live Streamed	Brightons Ministry Centre
	10.40am	Morning Prayer	Slamannan Ministry Centre
	11.00am	Morning Service	Slamannan Ministry Centre

*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.