

Minutes

Community Outreach

Monday 10 November 2025

19:30 in Brightons Ministry Centre



Decisions highlighted in green. Actions highlighted in pink.

Present

Cammy Dick, Rachel Gilmour, Jim Kerr, Jamie McIntosh (Chair/minute taker), Margaret Scott and Maralyn Stirling.

1. Welcome / Opening

Jamie opened the meeting with a devotion based on Psalm 24.

Jamie thanked group members for attending tonight's meeting. He extended a special welcome to Jim Kerr, with tonight being his first meeting since joining community outreach.

2. Apologies

Scott Burton, Jill Dickson and Roy Graham.

3. Minutes of last meeting – 5 August 2025

These were accepted with no changes required.

4. Matters arising

Margaret intimated that since she was stepping down as a ruling Elder, community outreach required a liaising Elder. Rachel said on becoming a ruling Elder, she would be community outreach's liaising Elder. Group members congratulated Rachel on her appointment.

5. Strategy part 2

a. Recap from last meeting

Jamie summarised what group members agreed at the August meeting.

b. Get back to basics

Group members discussed the purposes of community outreach:

- Coordinate activities – some activities community outreach organises, while some activities others organise, so we support them
- Activities should reach out to the community beyond churchgoers
- Activities should provide opportunities for church members to bring friends
- Activities should provide opportunities for people to talk
- Activities should appeal to different ages and genders, and sometimes be intergenerational
- Activities should plant seeds – someone might attend an activity as a one-off, however it might take time before they want to attend another activity
- We should be open to where God wants to lead us
- Activities should not only offer social opportunities, but support people in our community/parish e.g. Martha's Pantry
- Some activities will be overtly Bible-based and likely to be held partly/fully in the sanctuary, however these activities were no more important than secular activities taking place in the church halls or offsite

c. Identify focus areas

Group members discussed two specific areas:

- Partnership with CAP
Group members decided to pause Upper Braes Church's support of CAP. While we agreed CAP's work was worthwhile, this decision recognised community outreach must think strategically about where the church is best placed to serve.
- Banners/posters
Group members identified some banners did not refer to Upper Braes Parish Church, therefore required updating. There was also a discussion concerning how to utilise the wayside pulpit.
Jim would investigate potential designs, ensuring banners and posters were up-to-date and there were a variety of scripture verses to show.
- Hogmanay ceilidh
Group members observed there was a conference ceilidh in October, and there will be a YWAM exchange ceilidh later in November. Group members felt three ceilidhs three months in a row would be repetitive. Group members unanimously decided not to hold a 2025 Hogmanay ceilidh.

Group members recognised we could neither organise nor support every possible community outreach activity. We began categorising activities to identify the most appropriate activities to organise/support.

Venue – community outreach activities should take place in different venues e.g. outdoor, church halls and in church.

Audience – community outreach activities should appeal to different demographics e.g. lost/vulnerable, families, young people, women, and men.

Timing – community outreach activities should take place throughout the year. Group members agreed to work towards one community outreach activity a month.

d. Review our rolling calendar and identify actions

Group members reviewed the rolling calendar (see appendix 1).

Group members discussed key roles that would support community outreach:

- Marketing (external) – develop relationships with local businesses, clubs and organisations, including putting up posters in Auntie Ann's, Tesco, and Sainsbury's.
- Marketing (internal) – ensure relevant dates are on the church website, newsheet, church social media, church magazine, and back of Christmas card.
- Partnerships – build and develop relationships with Christian and secular groups and identify opportunities to promote and support their activities.

Group members agreed to refine and allocate roles at the next meeting.

6. Any other business

There was no further business.

7. Choosing the date of our next meeting

The next meeting should be a Monday in February 2026 (date tbc).

8. Close

There being no further business, Jamie closed the meeting in prayer.

Appendix 1: 2025/2026 Community Outreach calendar

Date/Month	Frequency	Status	Activity	Organisation/ Individual Lead	Venue
Wednesdays	Recurring	Confirmed	Martha's Pantry	Monica MacDonald	Slamannan
Thursdays	Recurring	Confirmed	Coffee Morning	Margaret Scott	BMC
Fridays during term time	Recurring	Confirmed	Pupil support – chaperone including commute	Volunteer required	Braes High
All-year round	Recurring	Confirmed	Additional Support Needs group	Rachel Gilmour	Braes High
All-year round	Recurring	Confirmed	Banners on church railings and notice boards	Roy Graham	BMC & SMC
All-year round	Recurring	Confirmed	Fundraising activities for Strathcarron Hospice, MacMillan Cancer Support and Christian Aid	Maralyn Stirling	BMC
Saturday 13 December 2025	One-off	Confirmed	Searchlight performs a Christmas drama	Scott Burton	BMC
Saturday 20 December 2025	Annual	Confirmed	Nativity Fun Day	Belong	BMC
December 2025	Annual	Confirmed	Prison outreach at Christmas	Maralyn Stirling	Polmont YOI
Monday 19 January 2026	Annual	Confirmed	Host Scottish Blood transfusion service	Alan MacFarlane	BMC
Saturday in February 2026 (avoid Saturday 14 February when schools are on holiday)	Annual	Tentative	Games' night	Youth Fellowship	BMC
Saturday 14 March 2026	Annual	Confirmed	Litter pic(k)nic during Spring Clean Scotland month	Maralyn Stirling	Brightons area
Saturday 4 April 2026	Annual	Tentative	Easter Fun Day	Belong	BMC
Easter Sunday is 5 April 2026	Annual	Confirmed	Prison outreach at Easter	Maralyn Stirling	Polmont YOI
Friday 24 April 2026	One-off	Confirmed	Strathcarron 45 th birthday coffee morning	Maralyn Stirling	BMC
To tie-in with Scottish General Election on 7 May 2026	One-off	Tentative	Hustings	Scott Burton and Brent Haywood	BMC
Sunday in June 2026	Annual	Tentative	Church family BBQ	Caroline Whittit	BMC

Key:

- BMC = Brightons Ministry Centre, Polmont YOI = Polmont Young Offenders Institution, SMC = Slamannan Ministry Centre
- Frequency is one of three stages: one-off / annual / recurring. One-off can mean a new activity or an existing activity that happens ad hoc. Status is either tentative or confirmed. Tentative can refer to the activity going ahead, but a date has still to be confirmed.