

Brightons Parish Church

Join our
team!



**A CHURCH FAMILY AT
THE HEART OF BRIGHTONS**

WE SEEK TO INVITE, ENCOURAGE, AND ENABLE
PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST

Who we are

Welcome to our church family at the heart of Brightons. We are:

- A family of all sorts of people, journeying in community towards wholeness.
- Meeting with God in a personal and life-changing way.
- Maturing in faith and character as God's people.
- Sharing our lives and the good news of God's love in word and deed.

We have 384 members on our congregational roll, and an additional 24 adherents and regular attending non-members.

We have around 165 adults, children and young people attending in person on a Sunday, with others joining us online.



Church life

Church life has adapted to changes following the COVID-19 pandemic and full programmes are now being offered in most areas.

Although attendance in person at Sunday morning worship is slightly lower than pre-pandemic (with a small number of members still not feeling confident to return to the Sanctuary for in-person worship) we have been encouraged by a number of new members and non-members who attend the services regularly.

Morning services continue to be 'live-streamed' from the Sanctuary, with a significant number of views both at the time of morning worship, and over the following week.

All-age communion is now a regular feature with two of our quarterly communion services being all-age.

Monthly Sunday evening services (with communion) and monthly half-hour Thursday services (with communion four times a year) are also held, meeting the needs of a number of our church family.

Church life

During the last two summers, a short 30-minute all-age service was held in the Sanctuary, early on a Sunday morning before the normal 11am service, to allow a space for families to worship together.

This year, one service will be held at 11am, with a Summer Club for age 3-p7 being trialled to run at the same time instead of Sunday School.

We are grateful for the effort from the Minister and the many volunteers from our church family who are involved in our services, giving significant amounts of their time and gifts to ensure worship is meaningful and runs smoothly. Indeed, with the increasing breadth of worship services and events and people involved in these, the 'Worship Team' within our Team structure of the Kirk Session has been reinstated.

Church Life is busy with many life-giving activities being offered through the week including Sunday School and Young People Groups, Pre-5s, Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Fellowship Groups, Book Groups, Alpha, Art Group. 'Friends of Jesus' Group for adults with learning difficulties,





Thursday coffee morning, Guild, Belong (intergenerational outreach event) and Friendship Plus. These are all run by volunteers from our church family and are valued by so many.

Our church calendar is available on our website <https://www.brightonschurch.org.uk/>, along with our weekly newsheet and quarterly magazine which have much more about our activities.

The last year has been on in which has grown in Discipleship and Prayer. The 'Huddle' groups that were started in 2021 and 2022 meet regularly to support one another as they continue in their journey of faith.

A small group successfully trialled a discipleship program called 'Safar' and an invitation has now been offered to the rest of the church family to work through these discipleship materials in pairs.

Church life

Fellowship and book groups continue to be valued with two new book groups launching, providing exciting opportunities to explore God's Word together.

Prayer ministry and sharing of testimonies have become a regular part of morning and evening worship, encouraging our church family to step out in faith and minister to each other. Congregational prayer times before the morning are well attended and uplifting.

A number of members were also invited to test out a preaching gift, following a pilot training course run by the Minister and a retired Minister (and member of our congregation). This has enabled the preaching team to expand.



Our governance

Brightons operates under the Model Deed of Constitution. Our Kirk Session meets seven times a year and comprises 23 Elders. Our Deacons' Court comprising a further 7 Deacons meets six times in a year.

Many responsibilities are delegated to our teams, including Pastoral Care, Discipleship, Outreach, and Up and Coming (i.e., children and young people), Finance, Property, Communications, Worship, Safeguarding, Health and Safety, and others.

Our Minister

The Rev Scott Burton joined us in January 2019 after completing his training for the Church of Scotland and serving in the Highlands as a Locum Minister. Scott has a background in youth work and organisational development, and he is passionate about partnering with God to see the Church renewed and God's kingdom experienced in the Braes area.

Our Minister

Scott is married to Gill and their children are Hope and Innes, with cocker spaniel, Hector.

Besides leading our congregation as our Teaching Elder, Scott likes walking, climbing, drone-flying, reading, a dram and playing the guitar.



Our Halls

We benefit from having three halls. The 'small hall' is the oldest and is used for meetings and crèche on a Sunday morning.

The Heriot Hall was added in 1967 and the Rankine Hall in 1973. The Halls are well used by our own church organisations but we try, wherever possible, to help other groups in the community.

The Blood Transfusion Service has use of the halls twice per year and the halls are the designated gathering place for the local primary school in the event of an evacuation.

Our history

Following the Disruption of 1843, the Church of Scotland in Polmont splintered and the Free Church of Polmont was constituted on 6th July 1843 in Blairlodge School, under the guidance of Rev Robert Cunningham. A.M. The first Elders were elected in October 1843.

By 1845 larger premises were needed and on 15th July 1846 work began on the present Church building.

The church was built from stone quarried in the village and gifted by the quarry owner, Alexander Lawrie. Amazingly, the first service of worship was conducted just over a year later on 21st July 1847. Such was the continued growth that two side galleries were added in 1893.



Our history

In 1900, the Free Church amalgamated with the United Presbyterian Church to form the United Free Church and in 1929 the decision was made to rejoin the Church of Scotland. It was agreed that the existing Polmont Parish Church be called Polmont North and that Polmont United Free Church be called Polmont South.

In 1977 Brightons became a village in its own right and Polmont South Church became Brightons Parish Church.



The Area

Whilst the area of Brightons forms part of the wider Falkirk conurbation, it still retains its own distinct village and community feel with access to beautiful countryside only a 10 minute walk away, yet close enough to enjoy easy access by train and car to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling. Brightons benefits from many services and facilities all within very easy reach.

Schools

There are two excellent schools both within 10 minute walking distance:

- Wallacestone Primary School
- Braes High School



Health & Wellbeing

Health Centre, Pharmacy, Dental Practice and Veterinary Practice all within a 20 minute walk.

Forth Valley Royal Hospital - 15 minute drive.

There are three care homes nearby.

Shops & Restaurants

Local shops, Post Office, Tesco and Aldi all within a 5 minute drive.

Hairdressers & Barbers also nearby.

There are several restaurants within a 5-10 minute drive of Brightons.

A number of supermarkets and high street stores are available in Falkirk.

Transport

The church is located near a frequent bus route to Falkirk.

The train station is only a 5 minutes walk from the church and offers frequent services to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling plus access to further afield.

The M9 is 5 minutes drive from the church, providing easy access to major cities such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling & Perth.

Edinburgh Airport is only 20 minutes drive awayminute drive.

Glasgow Airport is 45 minute drive from Brightons.

There is a good range of local clubs and recreational activities within easy walking distance.

Council sports hall, with 3 others are accessible by car.

MacDonald Hotel and leisure centre (5 minute drive).

The Union Canal (5 minute walk) providing great walking/cycling routes to the picturesque towns of Linlithgow (6 miles), Falkirk (6 miles), and Edinburgh (26 miles) all providing access to excellent train services back to Brightons ...if needed!

Historic Callendar House and parkland is only a 10 minute drive away

The Helix Park, covering over 350 hectares of green space between Falkirk and Grangemouth is nearby and can be accessed by new cycle paths (30 minutes) or by car (10 minutes).

The Helix includes The Kelpies, the world's largest equine statues, a waterside cafe, lagoon and adventure play zone.

Transport

The Falkirk Wheel, the world's only rotating boatlift, is a 15 minute drive away or a 30 minutes cycle.

In addition, Falkirk offers a range of leisure activities you would expect in a large town including a cinema, swimming pools, football club, bowling, dance, gymnastics etc.



**Sharing
our lives and
the good news
of God's love in
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