

# BRIGHTONS Parish Church



We seek to  
show Christ's  
love to  
all and to be a  
blessing to the  
wider world



Scottish Charity Number SC001385

# BRIGHTONS Parish Church

**After ten years of faithful service, our minister has been called to another charge and so here at Brightons Parish Church, as we approach the 175th anniversary of our congregation, we are seeking to call a minister on the basis of Unrestricted Tenure.**

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## We are looking for a minister to join us who...

Believes in and preaches the Word of God, sharing with us and our wider community the truth of the gospel.

Will confidently encourage and challenge us to develop and enhance our faith, worship, pastoral care and mission...and be willing to be surprised and challenged by God.

Is answering God's clear call to work alongside us to increase His kingdom here in Brighton.

Wants to work with an active group of willing and capable volunteers and be motivated by the challenges and opportunities we have.

Will communicate effectively across all age groups, aspirations and abilities in our church, leading and inspiring us to realise the vision we have for our church family in Brighton, the community and the world around us.



## Our vision for the next 5 years is to...

Increase and enhance our prayer life, seeking God's direction and having Him as a reference point for all that we try to do together.

Remain vibrant, relevant and accessible to all and always true to God's word.

Expand our outreach, recognising the need to be 'church in the community' rather than wait for the community to come to us.

Secure the future of the Church through creative work with children, families and young people, encouraging and supporting their involvement in the life of our church family.

Encourage our non-attending members to return to fellowship.

## Our commitment to you, if you choose Brightons Parish Church to be your home, is to offer...

A leadership team of Elders and Deacons who see your appointment as a chance to review where we are at and identify new opportunities.

Teams within the Kirk Session, covering Discipleship, Pastoral Care, Community Outreach and Up & Coming (youth) made up of Elders and members who carry out much of the work in these areas.

An active group of willing and committed volunteers who help run the many groups and organisations.

Established connections within the local community, including schools, prison, youth groups and a local Ministers' fraternal ( Braes Fraternal ).

Recognition of your own family life and respect for your holidays, time off each week and opportunities for study leave.



Help and support as you set up your home here in Brightons.

## The Kirk Session

Voted on the matter of departing from the historic and current doctrine and practice of the Church in relation to human sexuality. The Session decided by 24 votes to nil NOT to depart.

## Our People

Our current congregational roll membership is 594, with an additional 14 Adherents and a further 40 on the Supplementary Roll. Just under 200 members regularly attend Communion. A summary of our Congregational statistics for the last three years is shown in Appendix 1.

Our Kirk Session meets 8 times per year and comprises 9 female and 24 male Elders with the most recent ordinations being in 2016. The age profile reflects that of our congregation and we are keen to encourage younger members. We have a Deacons Court, which meets 7 times per year, comprising the Elders together with 8 female and 8 male Deacons.

Some years ago, in developing our vision, we embarked on an initiative of sharing the work of God's family at Brightons among various teams, each under the oversight of a convener and made up of volunteers drawn from Elders, Deacons and members of the congregation (see below). This has worked well but we recognise our need of an empathetic and supportive leader who will work with us to ensure we do not become complacent but seek to refresh and keep our vision current as God guides.

In May 2017, we received a 5-yearly visit from the Presbytery of Falkirk and, as part of the preparation for this, we drew up our congregational input to the process.



Documents submitted to Presbytery as part of this process are attached as Appendix 2 along with a copy of the report from Presbytery as Appendix 3.

## Our Worship

**Sunday morning worship** is at 11am with an average of 205 worshippers including approx 45 children from Crèche to S6. During July and August, we meet at 10.30am. Our Sunday School groups are staffed by volunteers and there is a team that prepares and presents the Children's addresses. Members also contribute by reading the scripture lesson and offering the prayer of thanksgiving and intercession each week. Morning Services are recorded, and CDs are available on request. Musically, our worship is enhanced by an Organist, Choir and Praise Band and we use a variety of hymns and worship songs primarily from, but not restricted to, Mission Praise. A printed Order of Service and Newsheet is given out to the congregation at each service.

A small group meets in the Vestry at 10.15am for a time of prayer, asking for God's guidance and blessing on our worship.

**An Evening Service** is held on the last Sunday of the month (September to June) and is attended by a small group of worshippers. Under the guidance of our last minister, some of these services were conducted by various organisations within the Church.

**Communion** is celebrated quarterly on the first Sunday of the month (March, June, September and December), both morning and afternoon.

**Special Services** are held to celebrate Christmas, Easter, Remembrance and Harvest. We hold an annual Bereavement Service and an annual service of Dedication for our organisations' members and leaders. Our local Primary School Christmas and Easter services are held in our Church. We participate in the Braes Holy Week Services (held in a different Braes Church Monday to Friday) and The World Day of Prayer, hosted by a different Braes Church each year.



After our services there is the opportunity to meet in the halls to catch up over tea/coffee.

The Church is open on a Thursday morning for a time of Prayer and Meditation between October and June, and during term time a coffee morning is held in the halls, which is well attended.

## Working Teams

**Pastoral Care Team:** To provide, in conjunction with our Pastoral Assistant (a retired Minister), pastoral care and support to the Church membership and parish as and when required.

- To pray with and for the sick and anxious.
- To provide support for the dying and bereaved.
- To visit the sick in hospital and care homes.
- To provide a hospital transportation service for members attending cancer treatment appointments.
- To provide transportation to Church.
- To meet the needs of housebound members.

**Discipleship Team:** To assist people in developing their Christian life through prayer and learning. Activities and groups include:

- Prayer - weekly meeting: also prayer cards are available on the pews for people to request prayer.
- Discipleship courses – including Alpha Course, Grace Course, Enquirers classes (Open Doors).
- Fellowship Groups: 6 groups, including the Friends of Jesus Group, which is a Fellowship group for people with learning difficulties. There are around 50 members in all who meet fortnightly, September to June.
- Friendship Plus group: This groups meets monthly September to April. There are 40-50 members of senior years from the community and local care homes. The afternoons are an opportunity to meet under the banner of faith and enjoy friendship, tea and entertainment.
- Encourage the purchase and use of daily Bible reading notes for personal use – we have a “sale or return” arrangement with the Christian bookshop in Stirling to help with this.
- Coordinate the Welcome Team for Sunday services. The team is made up from members of the congregation and is in place to personally



welcome all who come into church, enabling everyone to get to know each other.

**Community Outreach Team:** To encourage participation in, and create links with, groups and events which focus on the needs of the hurting and marginalised in our society.

- To make, and sustain, links with the local Prison, Care Homes and families in need.
- To encourage practical support and giving to the Falkirk Foodbank.
- To work with other Churches in the Presbytery to provide practical support to Refugees who have moved into the area.
- To support and raise funds for Christian Aid, Missionary Partners, CrossReach etc., and other groups as agreed by the Kirk Session.
- To support church groups in outreach e.g. Holiday Club, Pre-5s group.
- To encourage other church groups to interact with the community e.g. Praise Group singing for local Care Homes.
- To participate in Presbytery arranged outreach events e.g. Christmas and Easter events in Falkirk Town Centre.

**Up and Coming Generation:** To share Jesus with our young people (aged 0-20ish), and to support families in bringing up their children in a Christian environment. To provide co-ordination, strategy, training and support for children and leaders in:

- Crèche (0-3 years): 5
- Sunday Schools (3 years to P7): approx 30
- Youth groups (S1 to S6): approx 10
- Annual Holiday Club, Nativity Fun Day, Easter Fun Day, Light Party (alternative to Halloween)
- Girls' Brigade: 55
- Boys' Brigade: 75

**Communications Team:** To enhance communication within the Congregation, Parish and Community.

- Co-ordinate the production and distribution of "Bright Lights", the Church's quarterly magazine which is hand-delivered to all members of the congregation by the Elders, assisted by volunteers when necessary.



- Keep the Congregation aware of forthcoming events within the Church locally and nationally via the weekly Order of Service and Newsheet and the local press.
- Co-ordinate the production and distribution of Easter and Christmas cards which are hand delivered by volunteers to the Parish and the local Prison and Young Offenders Institution.
- Ensure Welcome Packs, which are given to visitors and people who move into the parish, are current and accurate.
- Use information technology to its full potential, including developing and maintaining the Church website and Facebook page and providing audio-visual facilities for services and meetings in the Halls.
- To record weekly services and provide those recordings to housebound members of our congregation.

**Deacons Court:** Responsible for the management of the temporal aspects of the life of the congregation.

- Finance – copies of the most recent accounts are available on request from the Session Clerk.

- Maintenance of Church property (Church, Halls and Manse) and gardens. We have a team of volunteers who maintain the church and manse grounds and do routine maintenance and improvement to the buildings week by week. Larger jobs are dealt with through the normal Church of Scotland procedures for contractors, tendering etc.
- Fire Safety, Health and Hygiene are also part of the remit for the Court, with one of our congregation having obtained qualifications to allow him to carry out PAT testing of electrical equipment. We offer this facility to other congregations within Presbytery.
- Social – occasional social events are organised as well as film nights.

**Safeguarding Panel:** Ensuring compliance with Church of Scotland Safeguarding Guidelines and Requirements

- 119 people are PVG registered for working with Young People or Vulnerable Adults.
- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item for Kirk Session meetings.



- Our two Safeguarding Coordinators monitor the availability of training courses within Presbytery and encourage participation in a timely manner.

## Other Groups

**The Guild:** Our Guild has 59 members and meets on two evenings and one afternoon each month from September through to March. They actively support the Guild Theme and Projects along with many topics from guest speakers. One of our Guild members is a member of the National Council representing Falkirk Presbytery. As a member of the Council's Outreach Group, she is Guild Representative on the Scottish Committee for the World Day of Prayer. In the recent past, two of the Guild National Conveners have come from our congregation.

**Pre 5s:** This group offers friendship and support for Mums and toddlers from all across the area. Meeting weekly, with two sessions (morning and afternoon) there are around 90 members with around 70 accompanying adults.

As well as a chance to meet other mums, there is also the opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith and a number of people have followed this up, in some instances coming into membership.

**Brightons Parish Church Praise Group:** A “one-off” Easter pageant in 1994 was the stimulus for this group. It is made up of around 40 members with a conductor and accompanist. They are self-funding and rehearse weekly. Their programmes are made up from sacred and selected secular pieces and they have sung across the UK as well as Indiana, USA. They have acquired a great reputation and, through giving concerts and recording CDs, have raised in excess of £30,000 for charity.

**Brightons Art Group:** A small but very enthusiastic group of members and others meet and use the Halls on a weekly basis. The group has, in recent years, produced a calendar of their work and the monies raised have been shared between Church funds and local charities.



## Our Church 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.

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.

## 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 East Hall (now the Heriot Hall) was added in 1967 and the West Hall (now the Rankine Hall) in 1973. The Halls are very heavily used by our own church organisations (see table below) but we try, wherever possible, to help other groups and recently we have been able to offer a local Girl Guide group the use of one of the Halls. 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.

Day	Activity	Time	Frequency	Location
Sun	Prayer Meeting Crèche	Morning Morning	Weekly Weekly	Vestry Small Hall
	Sunday Schools, Triple S & Flaim Praise Group Fellowship Group	Morning Afternoon Evening	Weekly Weekly Fortnightly	Heriot Hall & Rankine Hall Heriot Hall Small Hall



Mon	The Art Group The Guild The Guild	Afternoon Afternoon Evening	Weekly Monthly Fortnightly	Heriot Hall Rankine Hall Rankine Hall
Tue	Pre Fives Pre Fives SC/Dep.SC /Treasurer Meeting	Morning Afternoon	Weekly Weekly	Heriot Hall & Rankine Hall Heriot Hall & Rankine Hall
	BB Anchor Boys Girl Guides Kirk Session & Deacons Court	Morning Evening Evening Evening	Weekly Weekly Fortnightly	Vestry Rankine Hall Heriot Hall
		Evening	Monthly	Rankine Hall
Wed	Fellowship Group Friendship Plus GB Juniors Prayer Time GB Brigaders Praise Band	Morning Afternoon Evening Evening Evening Evening	Fortnightly Monthly Weekly Fortnightly Weekly Weekly	Vestry & Small Hall Rankine Hall Rankine Hall Small Hall Heriot Hall Church
Thurs	Coffee Morning Prayer & Meditation	Morning Morning	Weekly Weekly	Rankine Hall Church

Day	Activity	Time	Frequency	Location
Thurs	GB Explorers Friends of Jesus Prayer Meeting Choir	Evening	Weekly	Heriot Hall
		Evening	Fortnightly	Redding Church
		Evening	Fortnightly	Small Hall
		Evening	Weekly	Church & Heriot Hall
Fri	BB Juniors BB Company & Seniors	Evening	Weekly	Rankine Hall
		Evening	Weekly	Heriot Hall, Small Hall
Sat	Film Nights	Evening	Occasional	Rankine Hall

( Three other Fellowship Groups meet fortnightly in members' homes - one on a Sunday evening and two on a Monday evening.)

## Your home

The Manse at Brightons is a modern detached home built in 1967. There is a single integral garage. The manse is set within its own grounds, and also within the boundary of the Church and Halls. The house overlooks a park which sits at the centre of Brightons known as Quarry Park.



Accommodation comprises:

- **Ground Floor** - Kitchen; Dining Room; Toilet; Study; Lounge
- **First Floor** - 4 Bedrooms; Bathroom

The Session has recently agreed to modernise the property during the vacancy and ahead of the appointment of a new minister. Some items of planned work are:

- To increase the size of the ground floor toilet to include new shower facilities.
- A full bathroom refurbishment.
- Installation of new carpets throughout.
- Full redecoration throughout with input from you on the colour scheme.
- Improvements to central heating.

## 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.

We hope that you choose Brightons to be your new home, where you can enjoy many of the benefits of living in this part of Scotland.

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 and Restaurants

- Local shops, Post Office, a 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 manse is located on a frequent bus route to Falkirk.
- Polmont Train station ( 5 minutes walk) has frequent services to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling plus access to further afield.
- M9 providing easy access to major cities such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling & Perth.
- Edinburgh Airport: 25 minute drive.
- Glasgow Airport: 45 minute drive.
- There is a good range of local clubs and recreational activities within easy walking distance.
- Council sports hall with 3 others 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 (40 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.
- The Falkirk Wheel, the world's only rotating boatlift, is a 15 minute drive away or a ½ hour cycle run.
- 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





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Thank You for  
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