

LargsNaz

HOSPITALITY • HEALTH • HOLINESS

02 February 2025 Annual General Meeting

Largs Church of the Nazarene Vision Statement

Largs Church of the Nazarene will fulfil our mission to make Christlike disciples, to incorporate believers into fellowship and membership, and to equip for ministry all who respond in faith, by focusing on hospitality, health, and holiness. *Hospitality* entails providing a welcoming safe space and fellowship at the Lord's table, while *health* includes promoting good stewardship of ourselves and our environment, and *holiness* is perfect love and heart cleansing that transforms the way we think and act. Following the example of the early church in Acts 2, we believe that God will bless our efforts and empower us with the Holy Spirit to bring wholeness and healing to our community.

LARGS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
21 AITKEN STREET, LARGS KA30 8AT

Largs Church of the Nazarene
AGM Pastors' Report February 2025

To the family and friends of Largs Church of the Nazarene, greetings in the powerful name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. In just a few months we will celebrate our sixth anniversary as co-pastors here in Largs, and we are thankful to God and to our church family for the blessing of these many years of ministry among such wonderful people. God has been faithful, and both the congregation and the community have been an unfailing source of support to us. As we look back at 2024 it is clear that God has been leading and guiding and providing new opportunities for those who so faithfully build the Kingdom, and we are certain that He will continue to do so. In fact, as we have shared with you all recently, we believe that God has promised that 2025 will be our most meaningful year yet! But even as we look ahead with expectation, we look back at the year behind us with grateful hearts, truly thankful for what God has done.

During 2024, our format of Sunday morning worship and our methods of hospitality ministry continued to provide a model for churches on our district, our region, and around the world. Additional details are included in the Hospitality Ministry's separate report.

Attendance at our Sunday morning services continues to strain the limits of our worship space. We are thankful not only for the faithful presence of those who have been a part of LargsNaz for some time, but also for so many new faces at our services and events. We thank God for the harvest He has provided and for the growth He continues to bless us with as we keep an ear out for a larger worship space. We know that God has a place for us and we look forward to finding it in its time. Meanwhile our current facilities serve us well and we appreciate so much the work of all those who keep our building functioning and attractive.

Our Sunday services are the result of the efforts of many volunteers who offer their time and energy to ensure that things go smoothly. Our setup team, our cooks and bakers and helpers, and our breakdown and clean-up team, are indispensable to our ability to offer what has certainly been a gift from our creative and inspiring God, who through the Holy Spirit is bringing revival to our church and our community. In addition to being well-attended, our services are also Spirit-led thanks to God's presence, the openness of our congregation and the faithfulness of our dedicated worship team ([REDACTED]).

Our services also continue to be recorded and uploaded to YouTube and followed internationally. Views of each of our services represent several hundred individuals, and

our channel recently surpassed twenty-four thousand individual views since we began it in November of 2020. In 2024, our services were viewed more than eight thousand times, compared to 2023, when they were viewed over 6200 times. We continue to praise God for the overwhelming response to our media and we are thankful for this technology and the way that it is being used to spread the good news. Our monthly newsletter and social media presence also continue to be popular and effective ways to communicate with our community.

Our Wednesday evening prayer meetings, with their devotional/Bible study component, were well-attended and much appreciated during 2024. We know that prayer is the lifeblood of any flourishing church, and we are blessed with a church family who appreciate the power of prayer and put it into action, whether they attend the midweek gathering or not.

Our Thursday Common Ground community meals were a valuable ministry to our community during 2024, and will continue into the future. At Common Ground our friends and neighbours find a welcoming place in our church building where their spiritual, physical, and mental health needs are met through fellowship, shared conversation and a communal meal. There are more details about Common Ground in our Hospitality Ministry's report.

We continued some traditions in 2024, such as our summertime Psalm Beach sermon series, and our Food for Thought Sermon series. Our congregants and viewers have expressed their thanks for our other new sermon series such as Anatomically Correct, Animal Tales, and Faith Seeking Understanding. Our church family has also expressed their appreciation for our occasional Hallelujah Sundays featuring praise and worship as well as scripture and testimony.

Some additional notable highlights of the past year include:

- We were blessed to see the addition of five new members in 2024, and we continue to follow the Lord's guidance as He provides for the growth of the Kingdom here in Largs.
- Pastor Steve authored four scriptural commentaries for the Wesleyan lectionary resource website, "A Plain Account," last year.
- Pastor Steve also taught four workshops for those on the ordination track on the BIND district: Christian Leadership; New Forms of Church; Growing Healthy Churches; and Theories and Strategies of Evangelism.
- [REDACTED] were invited to speak to the P5 class at West Kilbride Primary in February 2024. We thank God for this outreach opportunity.

- On Harvest Sunday in October, LargsNaz collected an overwhelming offering of donations for the Largs Food Bank, for which they were especially grateful.
- In September, members of LargsNaz gave generously to support the relief efforts in the US following Hurricane Helene.
- Our church's generous Alabaster offerings in September will help support missionary efforts around the world through the general church.
- In July our church board voted to form our Visitation Committee, headed by Wilma Capocchi and to name Tom Fullerton as our locally-licensed Visitation Pastor.
- Pastors Tasha and Steve represented Largs Church of the Nazarene in the opening day parade at the Largs Viking Festival in August.
- LargsNaz participated in the Largs Food Bank's fundraiser in June, and our Hospitality Ministry provided prepared meals to the foodbank as well (more details are in the separate Hospitality Ministry report).
- [REDACTED] wrote the "Thoughts for the Week" for the Largs and Millport News in July, and [REDACTED] provided them in November.
- LargsNaz enjoyed a fruitful continuing relationship with the other churches in Largs District Churches Together, and were happy to participate in many cooperative efforts, such as the service for the Week of Christian Unity, the Walk of Witness during Holy Week, and the Service of Light and Remembrance, among others throughout the year. There is such a sweet spirit of cooperation and unity among the churches in our area, and we know that this is helping to further God's work among our neighbours.
- [REDACTED] joined the leadership team of the Largs Food Bank, and continues to serve on the Largs Community Council Access to Food group.
- [REDACTED] served as a postgraduate advisor for the Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary, a role in which he continues at present.
- As they have done for several years, [REDACTED] represented LargsNaz at the District's Ministerial Exploration Centre on the campus of the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester in September.
- One of the most memorable happenings of 2024 was surely the work-and-witness visit by [REDACTED] members of Midland Valley Community Church of the Nazarene, along with the South Carolina District Superintendent,

[REDACTED] in May. Personally, we were so happy to see [REDACTED] at that time. None of us will ever forget the friendships that were formed with our people, who generously provided accommodation for the team and volunteered alongside them to help renovate our church building and to work in the community. Our worship space was transformed in a matter of days, and we enjoy the changes that were made to our sanctuary on a daily basis. Their donations, not only financial (totaling more than £10,000), but also of tools and supplies that continue to be used, are very much appreciated, and the Midland Valley team continues to give, as their financial gifts will also go toward new carpet and the renovation of our kitchen in 2025.

- We appreciate the allowance of time to visit our family in the States in November, and the special speakers, [REDACTED] who so graciously filled our pulpit during that time.
- The freeze dryer that our Hospitality Ministry acquired in 2024 has proven to be a remarkable piece of equipment that has expanded our ability to combat food waste and to preserve and utilize donated foods for our own LargsNaz programs and for others. More details about this amazing technology are in the Hospitality Ministry's report.
- Our community enjoyed another holiday concert by the wonderfully talented Celtish in December. We look forward to future visits from [REDACTED] and we appreciate their willingness to share their talents and gifts with us.
- 2024 ended with another very successful Christmas Community meal, at which about 80 of our neighbours enjoyed food and fellowship. We are so grateful to the dozens of volunteers, both from our LargsNaz family and from the community, who did so much to make the day a success. There are more details in the Hospitality Report.

All of our ministries in 2024 were made possible by generous donations to LargsNaz and to the Hospitality Fund, and we want to take this opportunity to thank you again for supporting the church and all that we do. All the ministries of the church here at LargsNaz—salaries and expenses and utilities—all of that is financed through your regular giving—through donations and offerings and the tithes of individuals just like you. Our church also gives generously to the general Church of the Nazarene and to

missions throughout the world. As you can see in the clear and detailed Treasurer's Report, LargsNaz continues to be financially strong, and we are able to give generously to our community and to missions because our church family gives generously to the work of the Kingdom. We gratefully acknowledge the untiring work of our Treasurer, [REDACTED] for his impeccable keeping of our church accounts.

As always, we want to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to our church board, whose energy, wisdom, good humour and encouragement have been such a blessing to us and to LargsNaz. Our current board members are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and we are grateful for their service and their faithfulness to the church.

God has more in store for LargsNaz in 2025 than we can ask or imagine, and we your pastors are so excited and blessed to be traveling along with you all. We are confident that God will continue to make a way—and that 2025 will be for each and every one of us, our most meaningful year yet.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

02 February 2025

Hospitality Ministry Report

It has been an exciting and busy year for the Hospitality Ministry Team! Thank you to everyone who has prayed for, supported (with time, effort and/or finances), baked, cooked, cleaned, and attended the amazing opportunities for the LargsNaz family to show the love of Jesus to our community.

In response to the energy crisis, in November 2022 we began a weekly gathering on Thursdays from noon until 6pm (later changed to 3-6pm) called Common Ground, that provided a warm space, hot soup, homemade rolls, tea and coffee. After that very first event, we felt that we needed to be more intentional about providing support for families and school aged children, so we began offering a full dinner buffet served from 4:30-5:30pm with a suggested donation of £2 for adults while kids eat free. The response was and continues to be tremendous! On most Thursdays between 25-35 kids and adults are coming for dinner right here in our sanctuary and it has become such a beautiful place for people of all ages to eat together. In 2024, we hosted twenty-four Common Ground community meals! In addition to the generous donations of our LargsNaz family, we continue to receive additional funding from folks in the community, from those who attend Common Ground, and the Largs Community Council Access to Food group to help support this ministry.

Back in 2023 we became the foodshare partner with our local CoOp which means that every evening at 8:30pm we pick up any healthy "orange sticker" food and either preserve it to be used in our community meals, distribute to our local foodbank and food hub or stock our hospitality fridge so that others can share in the abundance. This programme has continued through 2024 and is such an incredible way to save healthy food that might otherwise end up in the landfill. We are so grateful to our friends at the CoOp for the opportunity to participate in such a worthy programme.

Thanks to a generous gift, paired with the CoOp foodshare partnership abundance, this year we were able to provide hundreds of nourishing weekly takeaway meals to our local foodbank and monthly meals to the Brisbane Evangelical Bus Ministry.

In the Spring we received our freeze dryer and it continues to be an amazing asset by preserving individual ingredients received through the various programmes we are part of – for example, carrots, leeks, potatoes and so on that we can then use for preparing meals. In addition to this type of preservation, the freeze dryer allows us to preserve full meals that are completely shelf stable for years and need only hot water to be transformed into warm, nutritious meals. We look forward with

expectation knowing God will lead us into new ways to show the love of Christ to our brothers and sisters in need.

In addition to our weekly ministries, we hosted seven Largs Community Council organizing meetings, several Largs District Churches Together meetings and we've participated in numerous ecumenical services and acts of worship throughout the year and assisted with several Largs Foodbank and Larder fundraising events including a successful Coffee Morning held at Dunn Memorial Hall in June.

In September, [REDACTED] and I were blessed to serve yet again as caterers for the joint North and South District's Ministry Exploration Centre (MEC), held annually at the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester. During the three-day event, we provided nutritious meals and snacks for both participants and facilitators. We are grateful for opportunities like MEC that allow us to not only give back to our district, but to also share Christ's love to those who feel called to serve in ministry.

During Advent, our hospitality team coordinated two carol singing events for the residents at Hutton Park. Our 2024 Christmas Day Community Meal was wonderfully attended by 80 people this year. Again, the leadership of St Johns generously donated the use of Dunn Memorial Hall. The Boys Brigade, along with a number of volunteers from LargsNaz and our local community helped with setup and decoration. Beautifully wrapped gifts for the children attending were supplied by William Hill. This year, each person attending received a box of Boxing Day treats, hand-assembled by a team of volunteers, which included a selection of tea sandwiches, coleslaw, mince pies, pastries, chocolates, and cakes.

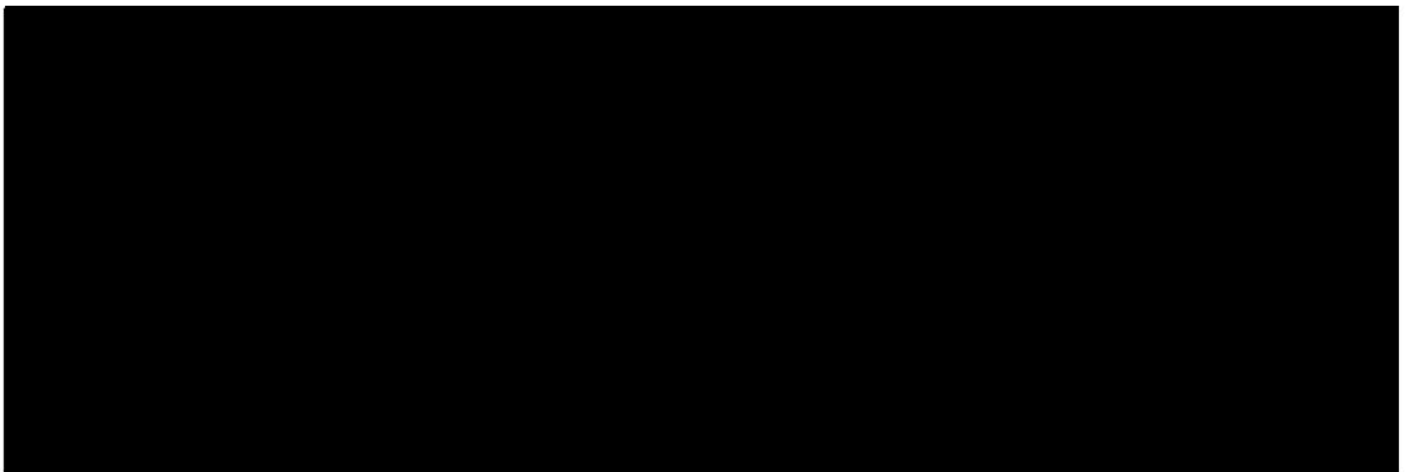
The incredible volunteers who helped make the day special were from all around the community and from each of the churches in Largs. It was an absolutely brilliant day and we are so thankful to those who helped make it happen through your prayers, your giving and your participation. In addition to donations from those attending the meal, we received gifts and funding from local individuals, the Largs Community Council, the North Ayrshire Council, Largs CoOp, the Largs Foodbank, the Stakis Foundation, and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

In addition to the ministries and events mentioned in this report, the LargsNaz Hospitality Ministry committee is also responsible for setting up, cleaning up and providing delicious food for our Sunday morning services. I am endlessly thankful for those who help make Sunday morning and each one of the LargsNaz ministries a reality. It is a blessing to work alongside all of you.

Thank you for to everyone who has supported the Hospitality Ministry over the years – those who have prayed, cooked, baked, packaged, cleaned, donated, and delivered. Because of your faithfulness and with God's guidance and blessings, we continue to have the privilege and opportunity to share the love of Christ through radical hospitality with our neighbours in Largs and surrounding areas. Thanks be to God!

As we look forward to 2025, we believe that God is going to show us how to serve the community in ways we've never seen before. So please continue to pray for God's leading as the LargsNaz Hospitality ministry reaches out to our neighbours in creative ways to share the love of Christ, and helps to create a welcoming safe space and fellowship at the Lord's table. We are so very excited to see what God has in store for this next year and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,



LARGS NAZARENE - Financial Statement OCT '23 - SEP '24

INCOME

TOTAL FUND B/F 34085.36

General Giving	30944.33
HMRC Gift Aid	9743.66
Other	564.74
Interest	116.42
Hospitality Giving	2704.73
Special Giving	619.64
Hospitality Gifts	14272.97 *
BIND	3240.00
WiFi	330.48
LCC	1474.00
Midland Valley	13472.21
Build material refund	431.42

* Inc Legacy gifts (£13000)

TOTAL INCOME 77914.60

TOTALS 111999.96

EXPENSE

Pastors rent	6600.00
Pastors salary	22290.00
Pension adjustment	-490.50
NEST	766.40
Payroll Fee	580.80
WiFi	382.16
Gas	1825.41
Electricity	3106.31
Bins	339.62
Hospitality	11697.23
Insurance	714.39
BIND NMI	2910.56
BIND	3840.00
ICO data protect	35.00
CCLI	333.72
CHUBB	81.79
Pastors Assembly expense	529.68
DS Special project + Gift	181.62
Midland Valley	8816.88
Brisbane Evangelical	200.00
James Gray - Electrician	248.24
Church Office	528.71
Junk Genie - site clearance	120.00
Miscellaneous	56.94

TOTAL EXPENSE 65694.96

TOTAL FUND C/F 46305.00

TOTALS 111999.96

U	18888.75
R	17299.83
M/V	4655.33
TS	10116.42