

The Church of the Nazarene

Lurgan

End of Year Trustee's Report for 2024

Our church has been blessed in many ways throughout, this past year and praise God every day, for His mercies and His blessings upon each and every one of us.

We have faced challenges this past years with several members have been promoted to Glory. Each one leaving an empty seat and yet precious memories that will never be forgotten. Namely, Annie Castles, Elaine Humphries, David Adamson and Olga Johnston.

In the past year, we hosted a Community Fun Day in the church car park and a Vintage Car Rally both held in August. We also hosted our Drive-In Carol Service support by Hamiltonbawn's Silver Band and not forgetting our own band making their debut. All these events were very well supported and attended by the community and the church family.

Coffee, Chat & Craft Group

This group has continued to be a blessing to many with a lot of projects being given to those in need in our local community and in Romania. Unfortunately, Romania is not able to accept the blankets, hats, scarves but it has been suggested they continue to make and possibly arrange a craft fair at some point in the year. This concept is still be thought about and discussed with group. The suggestion is instead of giving the items to Project Romania but at the craft fair sell them and the proceeds go to them, and they can purchase items at the point of need.

During the year we had a visit from the PSNI who completed and informal chat about keeping our homes secure and being scam wise.

We also had a visit from Marie Cairns who did a workshop on complete a Christmas table arrangement and all those who attended were able to take their masterpieces home. I must admit I was amazed at the creation and even my own surpassed my expectations.

Walking Group

This is a bi-weekly group, which gets together and walks in the Lurgan Park. Not only has this been an opportunity to get the steps in but an amazing time to share fellowship with each other. Following the walk the group head to the coffee van and share in more fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee.

Prayer Meetings / Bible Study

Weekly meetings with a prayer meeting at 11am on a Wednesday and 7.30pm on a Thursday. I Thessalonians 5 v 17-18 instructs us to ‘¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.’ (King James Version).

Music Lessons

Our own Church of the Nazarene band made their debut performance at the drive in Carol Service where they played Jingle Bells and were absolutely amazing! Rev Philip and his son Silas give up part of their Friday evening to teach local kids brass. One of kids who attends wants to know if she is going to trumpet every day.

Church Services

We continue to hold two services each Sunday with a service at 11.30am and again at 6.30pm. We have been blessed to see our numbers grow at the evening service. Praise God for answered prayer.

Splash Sure Start

Sure Start, continues to use the Spence Hall for their 2–3-year-old program. Unfortunately, their budget has been cut, and the program was reduced by third for the year 23-24. This had a big impact on the finances of the church.

Finances

NI Water

We approached NI Water and requested a site visit to ascertain if the Manse was on the same supply as the church and if so had the domestic allowance been allocated. Following the inspection, it was determined the manse and church were on the same supply and the domestic allowance had not been allocated. NI Water went back over the past four years bills and recalculated previous bills and where necessary issued a refund as appropriate.

Electricity

SSE Airtricity was the supplier for the Church and the Manse and following review of other suppliers for Northern Ireland it was decided we would switch to Click Energy and a very noticeable saving has been made but switch provider.

Broadband

We remain in contract with BT but will be again reviewing the package at the time of renewal not only with BT but with other suppliers within Northern Ireland thus ensuring the best possible deal available.

Compassion In Action

During 2024 we have been blessed to have been asked to support local families with Compassion in Action (CIA) – shopping and this was especially noted on the run up to Christmas. Family who cannot afford at that time to purchase the basic of needs and everyday items. When the church completes a CIA shop we endeavour to provide enough for three good meals. (Before completing a shop we contact the individual(s) to see what the need is and also what they like and do not like).

Missions

As a church we continue not only to support locally but also globally for the continued work of God around the world. It is hard to imagine that in 2025 there are countries were Christians must meet in private and in secret. Many people put their lives on the line day and daily to serve the God.

Accounts

During the past year our External Examiner, decided due to ill health to put his calculator aside. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Norman McCleary for the support he has provided to the Church here for many years. Praying God will be His strength in years ahead.

We try to locate another examiner and found a suitably qualified person in our Lisburn Church (Joanna Pierce) and look forward to working with Joanna in the years ahead.

In conclusion, I ask you pray for the Church, Pray for the Trustees, Board Members, Members and attendees. Pray that in all our efforts that God's name will be uplifted and glorified, that God's Kingdom will continue to grow daily. If there was and is a time that people needed the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives its today. (II Corinthians 6:2 "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.")



Darren J McKeown
Trustee/Treasurer/Secretary

On behalf of the Pastor: Rev. Philip Evans

Trustees: Mr Keith Girvan
Miss Rosemary Spiers (Incoming)
Mrs Dorothy McCullough(Retiring)