



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

*Our mission is to go and grow  
and love and serve our world.*

*Every Year we focus our hearts and minds around a single word. The word Presence was what God spoke to us and it served us well as we navigated the turbulent year of 2021. His Presence made the difference in individuals and in us as a church. His Presence has enabled us to Stand and confront fear, anxiety and uncertainty and declare with absolute certainty like Jacob said “Surely God is in this place”. Genesis 28:16*

*So God has been with us and as you will see from the following information, reports and stories that God has continued to build his church and extend his reach through Arena Church over this past year of 2021. Every number represents a person as we seek to connect the pounds to people! Nothing short of Remarkable!*

*Thank you to everyone who has tithed, generously given, faithfully prayed and sacrificially served- you are sowing seeds of legacy for generations to come. Thank you for loving, praying for and serving the leaders and pastors of Arena Church. It was needed and valued.*

*We are praying that 2022 will be a season of renewed plowing, sowing and harvesting producing the fruit of community transformation, miracles, healings and salvations as we continue to “Go and Grow and Love and Serve Our World”.*

*We Love You Arena Church!*

***Pastor Kristian and Caroline Thorpe**  
**Lead Pastor***

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*To all at Arena Church,*

*As we reflect on another financial year end, this comes on behalf of the Arena Church Board to extend a hearty thanks for your faithful and generous giving in 2021. The ongoing challenges of the global pandemic stretched out longer than any of us could have first imagined. Despite this, our regular monthly giving across the church remained very stable, as well as the generosity expressed to the Legacy Fund. Your consistent commitment to support the work of God expressed through Arena Church is so appreciated.*

*All of this has allowed us, despite the aforementioned challenges, to continue to make progress. Seven Arena Church Campuses, including the Online outreach. Yes, some of these still fledgling and fragile in their growth and development, but all still on track and looking to go forwards. The reach into community through our amazing Community Teams has continued unabated. You don't need me to confirm that demand is not diminishing but increasing. The ongoing consistent ministry into a great deal of brokenness and need is something to behold. We are pleased to report also that all of our global connections, out of relationship, have remained intact, and we have not curtailed one penny of support to our partners in the faith.*

*Allow me to underscore how carefully and conscientiously we carry this call of being a prevailing local church through our fiscal arrangements and accountability. The 'Arena Organisation' is expressed in Church and Community. All church matters relating to accounts, spends, policy and organisation come to the Church Board for discussion and sign-off. The Community is managed by a separate Board of Trustees, each one of them passionate about community transformation.*

*All accounts are managed in terms of spend and cash flow on a weekly basis by our Executive Pastor Julie Turner and Finance Manager Violet Christopher. Regular reports are then submitted to both Board and Community Trustees respectively.*

*We also have a very close working relationship with our external independent accountant and all accounts are audited and scrutinised annually, as well as being submitted to the Charities Commission.*

*If there are any questions at any time of the year, our Executive Pastor is available to seek to bring an answer.*

*The demands upon being a credible local church in this day are huge, and rightly so. Arena Church understands that with great growth comes great accountability and we determine, by God's grace, to continue to rise to the challenge.*

*Again, many thanks for your contributions. By your attendance, your giving and bringing your part to make the whole work, we really could not do it without you.*

*May in 2022/23 as we commit deeply and deliberately to FOLLOW, we increasingly see the ongoing outworking of the purposes of God in and through Arena Church, to touch where we live, the nation and the nations*

*To 'Go and Grow' and 'Love and Serve' Our World!*

***Phil Pye***

***Chairman of the Arena Board***

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# LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY

*Arena Church has a Triangular Leadership Foundation  
made up principally of 3 groups:-*

## ***Directed by a Senior Leadership Team***

*This team led by the Lead Pastor brings Directional, Spiritual,  
Vision and Strategy to the whole of Arena Church.*

## ***Guided by Campus Pastors***

*The Campus Pastors and their localised teams bring a “grass  
roots” pastoral and outreach lead to each location. This team  
cares for and shepherds the individual campuses and reaches out  
and serves their geographical location.*

## ***Protected by Trustees***

*The board of trustees bring their considerable marketplace  
wisdom, skills and expertise to appropriate legal and financial  
governance to Arena Church.*

*The last part of our leadership foundation is found in external  
ministries and ministers. We are strengthened by Apostles -*

*The Senior Leadership, Campus Pastors and Board of Trustee  
teams of Arena Church recognise the need for proven Apostolic  
gifts input into the church.*

*These relationships add weight, security, wisdom and strength to  
Arena Church as a whole.*

***Arena  
Church  
Update***



*Our vision for every person who  
connects with Arena Church is to*

**KNOW GOD**

**FIND FREEDOM**

**DISCOVER THEIR  
PURPOSE**

**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

2021 - Year of  
**PRESENCE**

*Increase  
from  
6 to 7  
Campuses*

ILKESTON  
MANSFIELD  
BELPER  
NOTTINGHAM  
ILKESTON HUB  
TOULOUSE, FRANCE  
ONLINE

*"As for you, be fruitful and increase in number;  
multiply on the earth and increase upon it."  
Genesis 9:7 (NIV)*

DURING OUR SEASON OF LOCKDOWN  
AND COVID RESTRICTIONS WE MET  
LIVE AND ALSO ONLINE

AVERAGE CAMPUS ATTENDANCE

***ILKESTON // 76***

***MANSFIELD // 56***

***BELPER // 17***

***NOTTINGHAM // 9***

***ILKESTON HUB // 10***

***TOULOUSE // 20***

***ONLINE\* // 175***

***\*AVERAGE UNIQUE ATTENDANCE APPLIED***

TOTAL AVERAGE WEEKLY  
ATTENDANCE

363

NUMBER ON DATABASE AS  
AT **DECEMBER 2021:**  
652

*"Increase is coming, so enlarge your tent and add extensions to your dwelling.  
Hold nothing back! Make the tent ropes longer and the pegs stronger. You will  
increase and spread out in every direction. Your sons and daughters will  
conquer nations and revitalise desolate cities."*

*Isaiah 54:2-3 (TPT)*



## ***Story from Ruth & Steve***

*There are so many reasons as to why we have come to Arena Church. The main one being that God wants us here, but we don't have a clear view why - yet! The story is longer than written here but we do feel that it was God's leading and guiding.*

*Anyway, the story of how we got our present home is pretty miraculous in itself, but finding the house was only part of the equation. The church had to be right too. After watching Arena Church Online it was enough for us to know that the church was right for us.*

*God had flung wide a door that had, after two years and much prayer, been shut tight. The prospect of being at Arena Church seemed to be the 'icing on the cake'!*

*We moved on 22nd December and got to Arena as quickly as holidays would allow. As we walked through the door, one word – home. We felt welcome, like we fit immediately. Getting to know the people will take some time, but everyone feels like family already, even those we haven't met yet.*

*We belong.*

STUDENTS, YOUTH AND  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
REACHING

**52**  
*and growing*

*We are passionate about seeing a generation changed as we  
empower young people to live a life committed to Jesus.*

## TOTAL RESPONSES TO FOLLOW JESUS

# 117

### **OUR PRAYER FOR YOU**

*"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people."*

*Ephesians 1:17-18 (NIV)*

# *First baptism since before the pandemic*

## ***Story from Izzy***

*Since becoming a Christian and learning about baptism it has been something that has made me feel so excited! The thought of shouting about my relationship with Jesus from the rooftops has always made my heart feel so warm. Mainly because me, like many other people in my area, are surrounded by people that don't know Jesus yet! I'm excited to show my family what it is to know Jesus but also to grow in my relationship with Him and make it even more beautiful! Being baptised is my next step in faith and I can't wait!*





***I have decided to  
follow Jesus  
No turning back,  
no turning back...***

TOTAL SMALL  
GROUPS

15

*We believe real life change happens in the context of authentic relationships, which is why we are a church made up of small groups.*



## ***Story from Mel***

*After joining an Arena Church small group I didn't know what to expect, but I'm happy to say I was pleasantly surprised!*

*I have made many good friends and we meet once a month to discuss and learn more about the bible together.*

TOTAL DREAM TEAMS  
(VOLUNTEER TEAMS)

40

OVER 150 DREAM TEAM  
MEMBERS AND GROWING



ARENA MINISTRY  
SCHOOL

**12**

***Students in  
Attendance***

*'What is the point of dreaming small?  
If you are going to dream... DREAM BIG!'*  
*Kristian Thorpe*

## MISSIONS

***Albania***  
***Greece (Thessalonika)***  
***India***  
***Kenya***  
***Namibia***  
***Romania***  
***Slovakia***

***Not forgetting our  
heroic church planters  
in Toulouse, France.***

*We sponsor children through the ministry of Compassion  
International in Mugumo Village in Kenya.*

*We must also never forget those persecuted for faith in Christ.  
At Arena we do this through the great work of Open Doors.*

MISSIONS GIVING

**TOTAL**  
**£26,040**

LOCAL £8,810  
NATIONAL £1,583  
INTERNATIONAL £15,647

*'We must be global Christians with a global vision  
because God is a global God!'*



# ***Financial Update***

ARENA COMMUNITY

## OUR COMMUNITY INFLUENCE

***1000's of people  
per month***

*reached through our community buildings,  
charity shops and business*

***Impacting our  
communities***

*through Serve Day*

***6 supported  
living houses***

*serving up to 13 tenants*

***Operating from  
16 buildings***

*3 high street shops/cafe*

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

***1360 food parcels***  
*given away*

***Ilkeston homeless  
outreach***  
*and shower project launched*

***Hundreds impacted  
each month***  
*in Mansfield through Care for a Coffee*

***Food Club Launched***  
*in Arena Mansfield*

ARENA COMMUNITY

***Income***

***£358,467***

***Expenses***

***£385,424***

THE PROJECT CAFE

***Income***

***£60,271***

***Expenses***

***£60,800***

***“The world of the  
generous gets larger  
and larger; the  
world of the stingy  
gets smaller and  
smaller.”***

***Proverbs 11:24  
(MSG)***



# ***Financial Update***

ARENA CHURCH



ARENA CHURCH INCOME

***Tithes & Offerings***  
***£233,453***

***Room Hire***  
***£11,666***

***Gift Aid***  
***£57,344***

***Special Offerings***  
***£3,144***

***Other Income***  
***£57,145***

***TOTAL INCOME***  
***£362,752***

## ARENA CHURCH EXPENDITURE

***General Ministry***  
***£21,991***

***Youth & Pastoral***  
***£9576***

***Tithes***  
***£19,971***

***Salaries***  
***£162,890***

***Mortgage & Rent***  
***£54,992***

***Building, utilities  
& repairs***  
***£68,802***

***Administration***  
***£23,107***

***Events***  
***£7922***

***Other Expenses***  
***£7602***

***TOTAL EXPENSES***

***£376,853***

LEGACY FUND

***INCOME // £67,145***  
***EXPENSE // £67,145***

INTO THE BELOW 4 AREAS:

***Community Transformation***  
***£20,000***

***Campus Development***  
***£12,145***

***Ministry School***  
***£30,000***

***World Ministries***  
***£5000***

***“The one who  
blesses others is  
abundantly blessed;  
those who help  
others are helped.”***

***Proverbs 11:24  
(MSG)***

# ***In Conclusion***

*What a testimony to the faithfulness of God, and yet we continue to believe and trust for more.*

*We look forward with great anticipation to what is ahead for our church. It is an honour to serve under the exceptional visionary leadership of our Lead Pastor, Kristian and the wider leadership team of Arena.*

*We are thankful for a vision to continue to reach the hurting, the broken and the many who have yet to come into a loving relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*On behalf of the leadership and pastors of Arena Church we thank you for your giving and support to make this report possible. Only heaven will tell the full impact of this story which continues to be written...*

*Looking forward to all that God will do through Arena Church in the year to come and as we continue to believe for the immeasurably more, to leave a legacy for others.*

***Julie Turner***  
***Executive Pastor***



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*Arena Church is a registered charity no. 1052643*