



**20
20**

VISION

These past 18 years of Arena Church have been exciting!

We continue to Go and Grow and Love and Serve our World believing that Everybody is a Somebody at Arena Church. It is awe-inspiring to see the hundreds of people at Arena getting to Know God, Find Freedom, Discover their Purpose and Make a Difference.

We've extended, influenced, planted and multiplied, yet I keep hearing the Lord impressing upon me, "There is more!". I believe we have been positioned to take more ground and influence multiple thousands across the M1 Corridor and beyond. We are here for such a time as this.

I suppose it could be easy for us to settle back, thinking that we've done our bit, ready to leave the next step to others. **But I do not see this as a possibility.** Where much has been given much is required. We are encouraged to Go and Take the Land (the opportunities) that have been promised. I believe we have been given an Overflow of Opportunities and Resources. It is our responsibility to act as stewards for these opportunities for the service and influence of others. This brochure is a prophetic call to those who call Arena home. Everyone together will play their part in seeing this vision come to pass.

As we talk about money, sowing, and sacrificial giving, we do not do so as a desperate plea, but from a strong healthy place, seeking to position everyone to receive blessing and be a blessing to others. It's not about how much we give but about how much we are willing to release. Legacy **is not** leaving something for people, it's leaving something in people. Our sowing will change thousands of lives, and change families and generations to come - all for God's glory! I do not consider anything more compelling!

May we take up the challenge.

Kristian Thorpe
Lead Pastor



“

NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR
MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN ALL THAT WE
ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE
POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO HIM BE
GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST
JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS,
FOREVER AND EVER.

AMEN.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Over the past 5 years we have seen tremendous growth in Arena Church. We welcome hundreds of people each week, including scores of children, young people, families, and seniors too. Over 250 people actively serve in a Dream Team. More and more people are being saved, baptised, and joining small groups.

We touch the lives of around 5000 people each month, mainly through community outreaches involving over 80 volunteer staff. But there is always room for more. A leader of a great church in a major city spoke about Arena, saying “It’s incredible to see what God has done in places that no-one has ever heard of!”

It would be easy for us to settle, to sit back and enjoy the scenery, and even the “accolades”. We could stay where we are and enjoy the season we are in.

But Arena Church is called to more! We are called to abundance and overflow! Whilst there is breath in our lungs and strength in our bodies we want to engage the brokenness of this world and declare through word and deed that there is a Saviour and his name is Jesus. We want to rescue people from the clutches of hell! There is no greater quest or mission on the earth today. We are pioneering faith-filled adventurous people. Settling is not for us!



BRINGING THE VISION INTO FOCUS

WHAT IS THE POINT OF DREAMING SMALL?

IF YOU ARE GOING TO DREAM...

DREAM BIG

WHAT IS ARENA 2020?

As we approach the milestone year 2020, we have begun to ask the question, “What is the next thing of God for us here at Arena Church?”

We honestly believe that God has put the leaders and the church together on purpose. You are not here by accident, you are here by design. Our goals and vision are intertwined with all we do. We want to see people come into relationship with Jesus and find real freedom, and then see people live out their new found faith and freedom to change the world.

Over a year ago, Kristian spoke a message at a First Tuesday celebration entitled “Legacy”. It was an impassioned prophetic plea for us to live, give, work and build with others in mind. For us to live beyond ourselves and invest and sow into God’s kingdom work here on earth. This message was the genesis of what we are calling Arena 2020 & Beyond.

We have identified four areas of ministry that are Legacy-minded mission fields for us to invest in and build into for the next few years. We believe the next 3 years to be pivotal as we deepen the foundation of OUTWARD FOCUS to touch the world.

Arena 2020 is a fund that we want to create that will allow us to do so much more than we are presently doing.

We are boldly asking you to consider how you can get involved.

We are asking everyone to consider how they can give financially to this vision, above and beyond your regular giving.

For some this may be a sacrificial act of obedience. We are believing for £100,000 each year over the next 3 years to enable us to move forward.

We also need people to get fully involved. For those who carry a leadership, entrepreneurial gift to arise to serve and train and invest. For those who carry a burden to pray and intercede for you to do this with intensity and determination.

We understand that real power comes on our knees.

There are four specific areas that we want to sow into, but it's obvious that people are central to all we do and will be key in driving these projects forward. Therefore, we will make an allocation in each area for the resourcing of additional people and staffing.

1. CHURCH PLANTING AND CHURCH REVITALISATION

Part of our identity as a church is to plant new churches as well as to serve existing struggling churches. There are leaders who continue to seek help and who are actively leaning into us as a potential life source to them. This has been seen over the last few years, and our reach is now much further than Ilkeston and Mansfield.

We continue to sow faithfully into these campuses and want them to continually grow, but our strategy for growth includes the planting of more campuses, small groups, new expressions and churches.

Whilst our sight is set on the Kingdom, we must work in the world. As John 15:19 says, "you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world" - as such, we must work with the ways of the world, and so this work needs money.

Every campus and new expression will need seed money for publicity, room hire, ministry resources, equipment and more. The best way to make an impact in any area is through the planting of teams into new territories. We also have the opportunity to serve other "struggling" churches.

2. COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION ACROSS THE M1 CORRIDOR & BEYOND

We believe that our mandate is not just to preach the gospel, but also to live it and share it practically, as depicted in Matthew 25. Over the past 7 years we have seen God do something supernatural as we have worked to achieve this. However, this takes an enormous amount of resources. We have over 200 volunteer hours given each week to the community work. This would equate to over £100,000 of salaries.

OVERFLOW OF OPPORTUNITIES

We want to see staff raised up and supported in Mansfield as we look to engage children and young people, and work to tackle the large homeless problem. The renovation of our Mansfield building is creating rooms that will serve the community and the outreaches.

Existing and new initiatives include Care for a Coffee, a homeless soup kitchen, and parent & toddler groups. We also need funding for an increase in staff, and other office and equipment needs.

In Ilkeston, our community profile and impact continues to grow. However, we still need a paid staff leader for Acorns, increased administration support and staffing, capital to purchase a new minibus, and investment into the training facility within The Project. We would like to invest a further £25,000 pa, above what we are presently giving. We are also working with a Christian fundraising organisation that are helping us develop funding that will in time we hope could run into tens of thousands of pounds in the coming years.

3. ARENA LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Part of our heartbeat is to train more leaders and train in more areas. It is our hope that we can launch a formal Leadership School and Intern Development Programme that will help establish more churches, more ministries and place more marketplace leaders. We are believing that we will establish more community ministries so that we can make a difference beyond our geography to the ends of the earth.

4. WORLD MINISTRIES INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

We have ongoing relationships with leaders worldwide, including places like Albania, France, and Romania. We work with church planters across the globe, as well as Gypsy outreaches, and Leaderscape Leadership Training. Emergency needs can arise, such as the Tsunami Appeal and The Syria Crisis, and we want to make sure that we create sufficient margin to be able to respond to these needs. This fund replaces the monthly Mercy offering that has given away tens of thousands of pounds over the years.

In the early 1990s, we received a directive that our influence would extend further than Ilkeston, even across and beyond this nation. As Genesis 49v22 says, **“Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall”** - this is pivotal to our vision.

It's never about how much we give but it's about how much we are willing to release



“

FOR I TESTIFY THAT THEY GAVE AS MUCH AS
THEY WERE ABLE, AND EVEN BEYOND THEIR
ABILITY. ENTIRELY ON THEIR OWN, THEY
URGENTLY PLEADED WITH US FOR THE
PRIVILEGE OF SHARING IN THIS SERVICE TO
THE LORD'S PEOPLE. AND THEY EXCEEDED
OUR EXPECTATIONS: THEY GAVE THEMSELVES
FIRST OF ALL TO THE LORD, AND THEN BY THE
WILL OF GOD ALSO TO US.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:3-5



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Arena 2020 in a sentence?

A 3 year fund, raising £100,000 per year to take the gospel to the world through Church Planting, Community Transformation, Leadership Training, and World Missions.

How can I get involved?

By prayerfully considering pledging or giving to this fund each year.

How can I give?

You can give weekly, monthly, annually or in whatever frequency you would like but please ensure when you give that you clearly mark on the envelope or on your online payment "2020" so that we can ensure this money is restricted for this purpose. The easiest way to give is to set up a standing order if you are able. The bank details for this purpose are:-

Account: Arena Church • Sort Code: 40-25-29 • Account No: 61477196 • Reference: 2020

Can I give the gift up front?

Yes. If you are a taxpayer we can claim Gift Aid of 25%, which means £100,000 from UK taxpayers gives us a massive £25,000 extra!

What happens if there is a surplus?

We desire to create a margin that would allow us to do so much more in these 4 key areas. The more we give, the more we are able to sow into ministry locally, nationally and across the world.

Who administers the fund?

This fund is administered by the Financial Team of Arena Church and the Accountant auditors of Arena Church. It will be set aside as restricted funding for these 4 areas only.

Will we still do the Mercy offering?

No. This fund will replace the Mercy Offering.

This is a Calling to MORE, whilst honouring EVERYONE

Arena 2020 is not about the size of the gift, but the heart of the giver. We recognise there are people who have great financial means, and there are also numbers of people who have been gifted with the grace of giving. At the same time, we do see the story of a widow in the Gospels who gave two small coins to the treasury whilst others gave much more. However, the two coins represented everything she had.

We simply ask that you give extravagantly and in some cases, sacrificially. Whether we have much or little, every one one of us can give.

We often celebrate, and rightly so, those who carry leadership in Youth, Worship, and Community, yet we fail to celebrate those who carry a leadership in finance. The bible is very clear that there are those who carry the gift (leadership) of giving and the above enables us to identify those who carry this leadership gift and also celebrate them. For clarity the celebration of them is not to treat them differently, but rather to honour their gifts and callings like any other ministry.

The WRONG question to ask is “How much do I have to give?”

The RIGHT question to ask is “How much do I want to seed into my future?”

Thank you.

I am so glad that you belong to Arena Church. You are loved and valued and we are so grateful for all you do and give. I understand it's a **big ask!** But please hear my heart. We honestly do believe we are living in dark days and the only hope is Jesus that shines from his Church. We simply want to leave this world knowing that we did everything we could to make a difference. For some people this is a sacrificial offering, you give when it hurts. For others it's simply an act of obedience to what the Lord is saying to you.

Let's not shrink back.

I believe that God will reward and bless our sacrifice, obedience and generosity. I would simply ask that you join me, my family, and the leaders in making a difference.

Much Love,
Kristian and Caroline



ARENACHURCH

A: 1 Rutland Street, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 8DG **T:** 0115 9442996

E: admin@arenachurch.co.uk **W:** www.arenachurch.co.uk

Arena Church is a registered charity no. 1052643