

YEAR OF MULTIPLICATION

**20
20**

VISION

2019 EDITION



WHAT IS THE POINT OF DREAMING SMALL?
IF YOU ARE GOING TO DREAM...

DREAM BIG

Hey Arena

Wow! We are now into the 2nd year of the 2020 vision that God spoke to us about 18 months ago.

In 2018 it was amazing to see such generosity spring up from the entire church as we saw business people, widows, young children, newly marrieds, singles, young people, the elderly and families sow generously so that as a church we can do more, bless more, serve more and impact more! Over £107,000 given above and beyond the tithe.

STOP FOR A MOMENT BEFORE YOU READ ON AND LIFT UP YOUR VOICE IN PRAISE AND GRATITUDE FOR JESUS AND THE GENEROSITY OF HIS CHURCH!

In the pages of this brochure you will read stories and see pictures of what we have done with this money. If you require a full financial breakdown of the monies spent then please contact Arena Finance Offices. Also you will hear from the receivers of the money and some short testimonies from those who gave!

But first as we enter 2019 I believe this a YEAR OF MULTIPLICATION

Isaiah 54 v2-3 has been a tremendous prophetic encouragement to us over the years
“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, **do not hold back**; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. 3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.

Isaiah 54 v2 reminds us that we are called to stretch our tent curtains wide and strengthen the stakes. This speaks of extensions and deeper foundations. Why because God is about to do something spectacular in our midst.

He is looking for a people who he can trust to steward his love, his power, his resource to be a blessing to the world! But there is a caution in v2 it says “DO NOT HOLD BACK”.

2018 was amazing. The fruit was lush and green. The offering was above and beyond what many expected but its now when we could be tempted to step back, hold back. But I am encouraging EVERYONE to press into the more of God and for us to believe for an even greater offering this year, even greater fruit, even greater impact, even more needs met, even more people reached!

This 2020 legacy offering allows us to do so much more than we could otherwise. It creates ROOM and MARGIN for us to go to places we wouldn't naturally be able to go and to do things that we wouldn't normally be able to do. It's your generous, freewill offering that allows us to do this.

As I finish this introduction I do so by quoting a paragraph that I wrote in last year's brochure

“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 is not about how much we give but about how much we are willing to release. Legacy is not leaving something for people, it is 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 again, take up the challenge.

Take Courage

Kristian and Caroline 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 7 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 300 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 100 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!



A grayscale photograph of a person standing on the edge of a rocky cliff, looking out over a vast, hazy valley. The person is small in the frame, emphasizing the scale of the landscape. The sky is overcast and the valley floor is covered in dense vegetation.

YEAR OF MULTIPLICATION

2019

AS FOR YOU, BE FRUITFUL AND INCREASE IN NUMBER;
MULTIPLY ON THE EARTH AND INCREASE UPON IT.
GENESIS 9:7

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 two years 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.

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

STORIES OF GIVING

I didn't complete a pledge form for 2020 at first, for no particular reason, although I really struggled with the response I needed to make. Trying to work out how much to give, how often etc. Over a month the request came from church regarding 2020 Giving. I work for a charity and they need £7000 a day to stay open as well as my job being a temporary contract until December, and then another need was brought to me to raise funds for a different good cause. On top of that I was also struggling with my neighbours and thought I might need to move house.... expensive!

Where do you start? With God first (obviously) but it didn't seem that straight forward. Anyway, eventually I realised that God gives me the opportunity to work outside my 9-5 job doing something I find so rewarding. So, the income from that gift needs to go back to Him. In addition to that the neighbours moved out of next door within a couple of weeks so I don't need to move anymore. One of the other needs put before me was removed and my job made permanent. All this was slightly unbelievable, but then we serve a mighty God who can do Immeasurably more in every situation.

ANON - Partner and Dream Team of Arena Ilkeston

When we were first told about 2020 we didn't hesitate. We saw the vision Arena had and the excitement the leadership felt. We also saw how lives could be richly blessed and souls added to God's kingdom so after praying about it we felt God wanted us to be part of 2020. We've found in our Christian walk the more we've given to God the more He has blessed us, not just financially but in all areas of our lives. Hope this will encourage anyone who is considering 2020.

ANON - Partner and Dream Team of Arena Mansfield

STORIES OF RECEIVING

We came back to Britain and took on a church 2 years ago that had a lot of good people within it, but was slowly dying. We knew we had to bring significant change to the church in all areas and we knew that this change would be strongly challenged. We are so grateful that it is during this period that we were led to join the 'moving forward' group launched by Arena Church to serve Pastors. There have been countless times over the past two years that we have entered the company of these people feeling, battered, discouraged and deflated, but have left encouraged, inspired and ready to face the next challenge. Arena church, and its leadership, have made a huge difference in our ability to bring Kingdom based leadership principles to our church. We have already seen significant growth in both, numbers within the church, and our ability to positively impact our community. We would not have been able to bring such great change, in such a short time scale, were it not for the generosity, care, support and prayer of those involved in the 'moving forward' initiative.

Mark and Liz Holdcroft, Pastors of Life Stream Church, Biddulph.

Dear Arena Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness. Thanks to your support The Moving Forward Group has provided Kenny and I with the support, encouragement and guidance we have so desperately needed as we seek to plant a life giving church here in Birmingham. Because of your support people are being trained and developed, the gospel is being preached and community of believers are gathering in Birmingham every week sharing the love of Christ with our city. Thank you so much.

Kenny and Errol Lawson Pastors of The Bridge Church, Birmingham

Arena 2020 is a fund that we wanted to create to allow us to do so much more than we were previously 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. Thank you for those who generously gave over £107,000 during the first year. We are believing for £100,000 each year over the next 2 years to enable us to move forward even more.

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.

I have been absolutely amazed and thankful for the tremendous giving in Arena Church to our 2020 Fund. We have given or pledged £107k to this fund in 2018 all with the purpose of giving it away.

Our 2020 Giving has created margin and release. In previous years, where this hasn't been the case, we now have margin to be able to meet needs wider and further than ever before. We have been able to launch new projects and initiatives - reaching further into our Community, our Nation and our World.

I believe our 2020 giving has taken us into a whole new realm of seeing release, breakthrough and possibilities and 2018 was just the start.

This is where your giving has made a difference:

Ministry School	£26,429.77	Community Transformation	£37,315.47
Church Planting and Revitalisation	£27,972.88	World Ministries	£6,299.64
TOTAL	£98,017.76		

If you would like a full breakdown of these figures please email finance@arenachurch.co.uk

Arena Church thank you for your OVERWHELMING GENEROSITY - together we can do MORE, together we are MAKING A DIFFERENCE that will last through generations.

THANK YOU and believing the MORE over your lives as you continue to faithfully serve and give.

Julie Turner, Executive Pastor



TOULOUSE FRANCE

BELPER DERBYSHIRE



NOTTINGHAM CITY

THE HUB ILKESTON



NEW CAMPUSES 2018/19

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, administration, 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.

Church plants are taking place in multiple locations including Toulouse, Belper, The Hub on Belfield Street, and Nottingham - and this is just the beginning.

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

Over the past 8 years we've seen God work supernaturally to help us transform communities around the M1 corridor and further afield. We are called to preach, live, and share the gospel as depicted in Matthew 25, and we have tried to reach as many people as possible. Every week, over 200 hours are given by volunteers to aid our community work - if these volunteers were paid for their time, the cost would be well over £100,000 per year.

THE REALISATION OF AN OVERFLOW OF OPPORTUNITIES

As the new rooms have been completed in Mansfield, we want to use them to the full benefit of the community. We also want to launch a foodbank specifically for Mansfield as the need we saw in Ilkeston prevails in Mansfield also. A five-seater van needs to be purchased to serve multiple needs including transportation, food collections, and more.

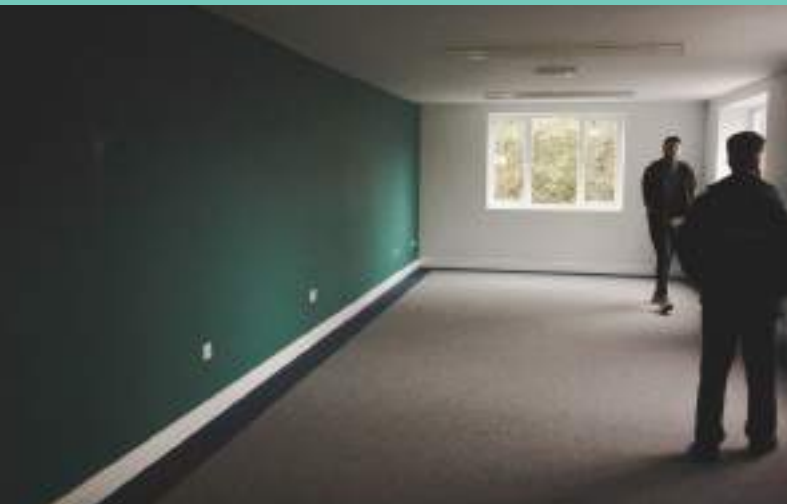
In Ilkeston, we have purchased a minibus and invested into Acorns. Administration support and staffing has been increased, and a new ceiling has been installed at the Hub to keep the clients warm and make it a more welcoming experience. The 2020 fund has facilitated the installation of a shower at the Hub giving great benefit to the homeless of the town.

The Hub itself is launching as a church campus, with other church plants taking place in Belper and Nottingham. To reach the communities around these new campuses we need to invest in renovations, and creative ways of connecting with people. This all costs money, but the 2020 fund has made visions like these much easier to bring to fruition.

We also recognise a great need to launch a Seniors Ministry that serves and influences the elderly, lonely and hurting of our communities - often a forgotten generation. This fund will allow us to further extend and launch a ministry to the Seniors.



MANSFIELD CAMPUS RENOVATIONS 2018/19





ARENA MINISTRY SCHOOL 2019

3. ARENA MINISTRY SCHOOL

PART OF OUR HEARTBEAT IS TO TRAIN AND RELEASE MORE LEADERS
AND TRAIN IN MORE AREAS.

We have launched a formal Ministry 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.

This year we are looking to renovate and refurbish our newly purchased site. This will house the Arena Ministry School students next year, giving a dedicated space for them to learn, grow, and excel.

“Training was one of the big foundational blocks of the 2020 vision launch. So I am delighted to say the very first Arena Ministry School-over twelve weeks of a Thursday night and Friday - has started. There are twelve plus students, and the atmosphere and feel of the school has been excellent from the start. Thanks Arena Church for your investment in training, it will produce a harvest!” - Phil Pye, Arena Ministry School Leader

THE AIM OF THE SCHOOL

The heart of the School is to engage the head but always with intention of touching the heart, deepening the discipleship journey in everyone. With instruction and inspiration and most crucially impartation, the Ministry School promises to provide a life-changing experience for all who attend, and a blessing for those who are reached by the students in the future.

4. WORLD MINISTRIES INVOLVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

We have ongoing relationships with leaders worldwide, including places like France, Albania, Romania, Slovakia, Namibia and Kenya. We work with church planters across the globe, as well as Roma Church Outreaches and other 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





REACHING OUR NEIGHBOURS AND THE NATIONS

STORIES OF GIVING

I am a widower who decided to give to the 2020 vision. I do not presently attend any church so why did I give? I gave because I know Kristian personally and fully support the work of Arena Church. I read through the brochure that they produced explaining the areas that 2020 would give to and I thought it was inspiring. It was very evident the good that it would do and the people who would benefit. As a member of the community I wanted to help support this great work.

Mr. Stephen Addison Ilkeston

I am a single parent due to my husband's death several years ago. My journey of restoration happened through the local church at this time.

I have the pleasure of serving on the team at Arena community and as such believe whole heartily in the work we do and the lives we change. This is the reason I gave to 2020.

Debbie Hill - Dream Team and Attendee of Arena Ilkeston

When we heard about the 2020 offering we decided we definitely wanted to give a certain amount. Then in May last year my hours got reduced at work which made things a bit tighter for us but we still gave the amount we decided on before I lost those hours. One month later I was offered a job in an area I have no experience in and know nothing about for one day a week working together with Kev. The whole situation made no sense and came out of nowhere but we have been blessed with this extra source of income. More than anything else we have loved seeing what has been done with the 2020 money especially in our community to help people in need and are really excited to see how we can keep positively impacting our local area.

Kev and Hannah Albis - Arena Church Ilkeston

STORIES OF RECEIVING

IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

2020 has been revolutionary in many ways for us at Arena community. As many of you are aware we operate from numerous buildings. 2020 has paid for some much-needed work in some of these buildings to either better an existing ministry/project or create a new one.

Here are some examples of the work that has been accomplished through your generous giving.

- A new ceiling with new lighting at The Hub. The service users are so much warmer now, as are the team.
- A new shower cubicle. This is to help maintain the dignity of the homeless within our community.
- We are in the process of securing a minibus which will be used for many things and is instrumental in launching our Acorns programme this year.
- At our Mansfield campus we are in the process of purchasing a 5 seater van that will be used for a variety of things, some of which will be to collect food donations for our various food programmes such as Snap Kitchen, Care for a Coffee, and in the future we hope to start a food bank.
- Build a storage facility to store food.
- Budget to finance the food programmes outside of donations.

This is a quote from one of the hundreds we serve each week :-

“I love being part of what we do here, it keeps me occupied and has helped with my confidence. If I wasn’t doing this then I would probably be getting in trouble with the law all the time, but now i have a nice place to live and something to keep me occupied”

Luke Seabourne, 24, housing tenant

On behalf of all the teams from all our sites - thank you.

Lisa Harrison - Arena Hub Campus Pastor and Arena Community Pastor



“

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. 2019 is the second year of the fund.

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.

UNITY CREATES SYNERGY

**THIS IS A CALLING TO MORE, WHILST HONOURING EVERYONE
TOGETHER WE CAN SEE SO MUCH MORE DONE!**

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 of us can give.

As we put our resources together, God can do amazing things. 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?”

How could one have chased a thousand, and two have put ten thousand to flight...

Deuteronomy 32:30

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



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