



ARENACHURCH



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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

*Every January, we pray and fast as a church to dedicate our year to God. As we set our focus on Him, we invite His Spirit to work in our lives and through our church. And as each year closes out, it's with great expectation that we collect data and information to see what God accomplished in our church. Our annual report is a celebration of His faithfulness and answered prayers. Every number represents a person, and every person is a soul God is reaching. Thank you for everything you do to invest in our church. We are believing that 2020 will be a year of genuine growth, favor, and miracles in the family of Arena Church - even the ones who aren't here yet!*

*We are continuing to see the hope of Jesus reach our communities. Please continue in praying for and investing in our church and your community. We love you!*

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

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*Whilst we ever want to press on and move ahead, we must also take time and occasions together to reflect and remember, this fuels the forward advance!*

*On behalf of the Arena Church Board, I extend a hearty thanks for your faithful and generous giving in 2019. As you will have noted giving increased by 16% as well as the 2020 Legacy Offering exceeding £70000. Again, many thanks.*

*All of this has contributed to the general costs of a growing and expanding church as well as empowering the implementation of vision. Our prophetic word in 2019 was **multiplication** and we did and how! Now six Arena Church campuses, the pioneering of the Arena Ministry School, the continual expansion of community projects and reaching out to our missions' partners around the world. All this true to the passion and vision of Arena Church - Planting and Revitalising Churches, Training and Releasing Ministry, Community Transformation and Global Connections. Truly we say 'The Lord has done this and it is marvellous in our eyes' - Psalm 118:23.*

*To make all this happen requires a great organisation that enables us to stay on track, be compliant with the ever increasing governance demands of a complex 21st century, as well as ensuring that Arena Church remains a safe place for everyone who attends. I am continually in awe of the load a small paid staff carry, with their unique expertise, knowledge and grace as well as*



*an army of volunteers that on many occasions go above and beyond. Please be assured every contribution of time and skill set is appreciated.*

*Lastly, let me 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, Community and Conferencing. 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. The Conferencing arm is the use of the buildings outside of 'church times'. The Conferencing Staff again are outstanding in their commitment and any profit here comes back into the work of the church.*

*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 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 contribution. By your attendance, your giving and bringing your part to make the whole work, we really could not do it without you.*

*In 2020 may we see the ongoing establishing of the purposes of God in and through Arena Church, to touch lives where we live, in the nation and the nations.*

*To 'Go and Grow' and 'Love and Serve'.*

**Phil Pye**  
**(Chair of 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.*

2019 - YEAR OF  
MULTIPLICATION

*Increase  
from  
2 to 6  
Campuses*

ILKESTON  
MANSFIELD  
BELPER  
NOTTINGHAM  
ILKESTON HUB  
TOULOUSE, FRANCE

*"As for you, be fruitful and increase in number;  
multiply on the earth and increase upon it."*

*Genesis 9:7 (NIV)*

TOTAL AVERAGE WEEKLY  
ATTENDANCE

497

43% INCREASE IN  
ATTENDANCE

*"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)*

AVERAGE CAMPUS  
ATTENDANCE

***ILKESTON // 225***

***MANSFIELD // 112***

***BELPER // 55***

***NOTTINGHAM // 47***

***ILKESTON HUB // 38***

***TOULOUSE // 20***



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

**KNOW GOD**

**FIND FREEDOM**

**DISCOVER THEIR  
PURPOSE**

**&**

**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

TOTAL NEW PEOPLE  
ATTENDING EACH WEEK

22

*Here's a few comments from our first time guests*

*"Friendly and warm"*

*"A great welcome"*

*"Really enjoyed it"*

STUDENTS, YOUTH AND  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
REACHING

**150**  
*and growing*

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



## ***Story from Chris***

*I've been a Christian nearly 6 years now. The church I was attending closed down, and I just felt a bit lost really. I wasn't going anywhere else and wasn't really looking if I'm being honest. After many miles, and many Sundays driving around trying to find somewhere, I finally walked into Arena Church. Oh man must I admit, I've never felt so at home until then. The welcoming was amazing. It's been just over a year now at Arena and the friendships I've made are incredible. My faith has grown so much and I've learned an immense amount about Jesus! I literally couldn't be happier.*

TOTAL RESPONSES  
TO FOLLOW JESUS

284

**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)*

# TOTAL BAPTISMS

# 28

## ***Story from Siobhan***

*My Baptism really was the public display of a real turning point not just for myself but for the children as well. We'd all been abused for years, we'd escaped, we were not free and were dealing with the aftermath of it all. I chose to come to Jesus, to come to freedom, love, and forgiveness, not just for me, but to forgive my husband for what he'd done. The only way I have been able to move forward with my life, to be able to put it behind me was to address my anger and turn hatred into forgiveness. Once I had made this decision calmness entered, love and compassion flowed back into my life. I now see a future of hope and love. I am loved and I'm never alone. Jesus has given me a purpose. I intend to grab hold of it with both hands, and it all started with saying 'I believe and trust in him' in a public declaration of my faith.*





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

TOTAL SMALL  
GROUPS

18

*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 Lindsey***

*I initially joined a small group to learn more about Jesus and I wasn't sure what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised with what I found; a safe, welcoming environment where I could ask questions, get to know people and share everyday challenges. Over time this has developed friendships as we learn from each other, pray together and support each other on our faith journey.*

TOTAL DREAM TEAMS  
(VOLUNTEER TEAMS)

40

OVER 250 DREAM TEAM  
MEMBERS AND GROWING

LAUNCH OF ARENA  
MINISTRY SCHOOL

**15**

***Students in  
Attendance***

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

## MISSIONS

***Albania***  
***Namibia***  
***Romania***  
***Slovakia***

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

*We also 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**  
**£59,433**

LOCAL £51,653  
NATIONAL £2,831  
INTERNATIONAL £4,949

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

## OUR COMMUNITY INFLUENCE

**5000 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

**5,286 meals served**

*through our Ilkeston foodbank*

**2,007 food parcels**

*given away*

**Ilkeston homeless  
outreach**

*and shower project launched*

**Hundreds impacted  
each month**

*in Mansfield through Care for a Coffee*

ARENA COMMUNITY

***Income***

***£292,663***

***Expenses***

***£334,922***

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

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

ARENA CHURCH INCOME

***Tithes & Offerings***  
**£210,066**

***AOG Gift Aid***  
**£34,711**

***Special Offerings***  
**£1320**

***Other Income***  
**£28,195**

**TOTAL INCOME**  
**£277,292**



## ARENA CHURCH EXPENDITURE

***General Ministry***  
**£7,396**

***Youth & Pastoral***  
**£23,677**

***Tithes***  
**£17,433**

***Salaries***  
**£76,821**

***Mortgage & Rent***  
**£59,713**

***Building, utilities  
& repairs***  
**£27,491**

***Administration***  
**£24,461**

***Events***  
**£8,640**

***Other Expenses***  
**£9,254**

***TOTAL EXPENSES***

***£254,885***

ANERA ENTERPRISES LTD

***Income***

***£100,320***

***Expenses***

***£86,507***

THE PROJECT CAFE

***Income***  
***£60,271***

***Expenses***  
***£60,800***

## 2020 FUND

*In 2018 we (the church leadership), with the full cooperation of the church, launched a three year vision. This was for £100,000 per year to be given each year above our regular tithe.*

***INCOME // £50,244***

***EXPENSE // £52,920***

INTO THE BELOW 4 AREAS:

***Community Transformation***  
***£5,594***

***Chruch Planting***  
***£44,848***

***Ministry School***  
***£1,397***

***World Ministries***  
***£1,080***

# ***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 2020 as we continue to believe for the immeasurably more through our lives.*

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



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*Arena Church is a registered charity no. 1052643*