



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

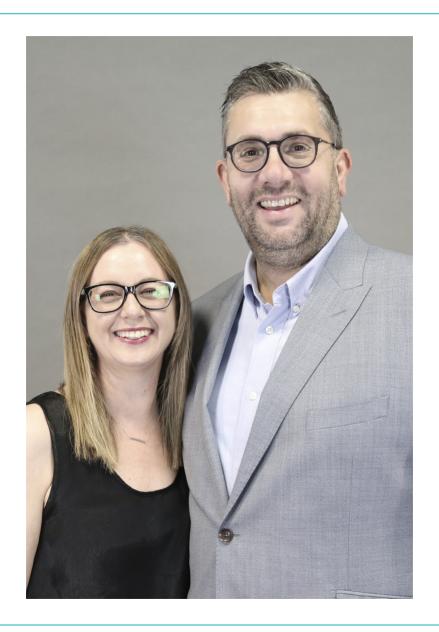
So God has been with us and as you will see from the following information, reports and stories that God has continued to build his church and extend his reach through Arena Church over this past year of 2021. Every number represents a person as we seek to connect the pounds to people! Nothing short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



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

#### 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



#### 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)



We belong.

# STUDENTS, YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES REACHING



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



#### **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



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

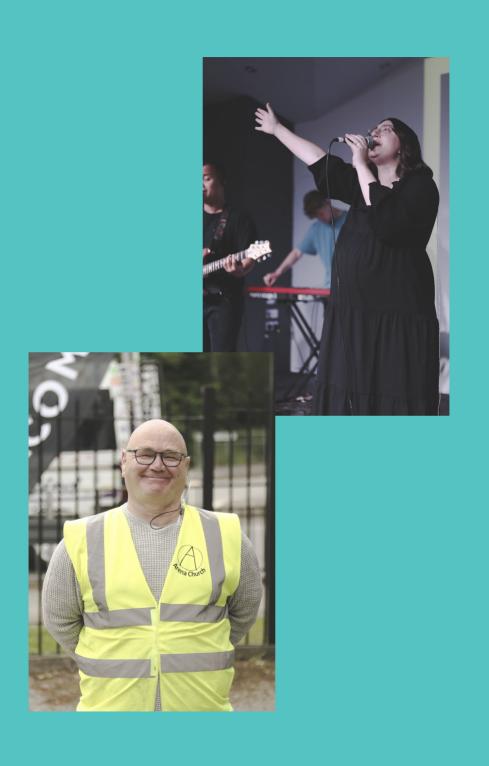
After joining an Arena Church small group I didn't know what to expect, but I'm happy to say I was pleasantly surprised!

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)



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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