



ARENACHURCH



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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*Dear church,*

*What a year!*

*In an ever changing world our mission to go and grow and love and serve our world has and continues to stand us in good stead. This enables us to keep “OUR WHY” ever before us.*

*Over this year we’ve seen rising costs, an energy crisis, interest rates have increased and global challenges which include wars, famines and natural disasters, but God has remained faithful! He is a faithful God. But as I pause I reflect on you, the valuable people of Arena that have once again proved to be resolute, loyal and faithful throughout the year. It has been a year of “Follow”. Our followership and discipleship has become clearer, deeper and stronger may this continue.*

*Overall we have continued to see our numbers increase on Sundays across the locations, we have seen lives saved and transformed, we have reached children, youth and seniors and we have served thousands of people each month through our food banks, shops, outreach to children, Christmas giveaways and so much more. Its been a full and productive year!*

*As we look forward we do so with gratitude in our hearts for you and all God has done through you. But we also look forward with faith, expectancy and optimism, believing our best days are still ahead.*

*Thank you for loving, praying for and serving the vision and the leaders and Pastors of Arena Church and thank you to those who tithe regularly and sacrificially give, you make a difference and without your giving we simply couldn’t do all that we have this financial year.*

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*I always like to finish a report like this with a challenge - It's simply this, Let's go again with a we get to attitude! We get to gather, we get to pray, we get to be in a group, we get to serve, we get to help the community, we get to love one another, we get to share Jesus and we get to give financially. Let's keep living with a we get to attitude and let's see what God "gets to do" amongst us!*

*Keep Jesus first (Matthew 6:33)*

*We love you, Arena Church, you are the best!*

*Kristian and Caroline Thorpe*



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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 thank you for your faithful and generous giving in 2022/23. There are many ongoing challenges as we navigate global issues and the cost of living challenges but despite this, our regular monthly giving across the church has increased, 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. Six Arena Church Campuses and the reach through our Online presence have all continued to grow and have impact in our Communities. Yes, some of these are still fledgling in their growth and development, but all still on track and looking to go forwards. The reach into the 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*

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*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 2023/24, as we commit deeply and deliberately to WE GET TO, 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 PURPOSE***

***MAKE A DIFFERENCE***

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

2022 word for the year:  
**FOLLOW**

# **6 CAMPUSES**

***Belper  
Ilkeston  
Ilkeston Hub  
Mansfield  
Nottingham  
Toulouse, France***

*“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

***BELPER // 18***

***ILKESTON // 129***

***ILKESTON HUB // 16***

***MANSFIELD // 113***

***NOTTINGHAM // 16***

***TOULOUSE // 26***

TOTAL AVERAGE  
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

***327***

*Number on database as of December 2022: 523  
(Database figures prior to Covid-19: 652)*

## GENERATIONAL MINISTRIES

# ***Average Attendance across all campuses***

***Kids***

**34**

***Students***

**35**

***Seniors***

**100**

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





## ***Story from Lucie***

*We have been involved with Arena for many years, as missionaries in Albania we were delighted to host several people who helped us serve our community. Several times Arena Church blessed us financially enabling us to do outreach to the children and young people. The church also provided money for a bridge over the open sewage canals in our community that meant people could safely get across to go to school, shops or friends.*

*When we first arrived in Albania, three amazing men from Arena (who didn't know us) drove over in a van with some of our belongings to help us make our home there. Towards the end of our ministry there we were so encouraged by a visit from Pastor Phil and Pastor Kristian who brought incredible encouragement.*

*Returning to the UK our sons went to Arena Youth. Then when lockdown happened, we joined Arena online, and we knew it was time to move to the church as a family. We started attending Mansfield, our most local campus and have been so welcomed and have been enabled to serve the church which is such an honour. As parents seeing your children thrive and grow in God is such a blessing and we have seen the difference Arena has made to our children.*

*We knew Arena shared our heart for people, we knew it was a church that believes in loving God and serving our neighbours, we knew it was a church where people get to grow, love and serve and we wanted to be a part of that! In Arena we have found a place where our whole family can grow spiritually, where we belong and find opportunities for our faith to be alive.*

TOTAL RESPONSES  
TO FOLLOW JESUS

**142**

## ***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 IN 2022

# 21

### *Story from Lexie*

*For me I always thought of baptism as something I needed to do, not something I wanted to do. Being at Arena I got excited about going to church and it became something I enjoyed. I remember Tim leading one time and he said “just say yes” and it was on my mind for the next few weeks. That’s when I decided that baptism was my next step. Having the support of everyone around me was so important and it became something I wanted to do rather than needed to. I was so nervous to publicly declare my faith but it was the best decision I could’ve made! I have never doubted that I made the right decision, I am continually growing my relationship with him and everyday I am more grateful for being saved.*





I AM FREE

I AM FREE

I AM FREE

I AM FREE

I AM FREE

**I AM FREE**

I AM FREE

TOTAL SMALL GROUPS

19

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

## ***Story from Henry***

*I come to Small Group at Arena Church Nottingham because it's a chance for fellowship with friends. The three F's that are so important - Friendship, Fellowship and Food! Yum!*



TOTAL DREAM TEAMS  
(VOLUNTEER TEAMS)

40

*OVER 150 DREAM TEAM MEMBERS  
AND GROWING*



ARENA MINISTRY SCHOOL

9

***Completed the  
school in 2022***

*BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER  
OF GRADUATES TO 33*

# Story from Roy

*Arena Ministry School 2022, a great opportunity that I couldn't miss.*

*In January 2022 I was going through a professional change, leaving a business I had been apart of for nearly a decade to start a new Journey. The problem I had was that I had my heart set on the Arena Ministry School. I was lucky enough to spend some time with Phil the teaching Pastor prior, and knew this was something that I had to do. I made sure that my new employers were aware of my decision and worked it out with them using holidays to make myself available.*

*The opening session we had established what we as a group were there for, 'a heart and head connection' was the phrase that came out from the group. We all wanted a similar outcome, be it to understand what our head was telling us, to be able to articulate what our heart already knew or to increase our faith by building on our knowledge. Each topic was extremely well thought of and planned, they flowed between each seamlessly and each guest speaker brought something that the others didn't, which allowed myself and the others to learn so much. There was plenty of opportunity to engage, each speaker was sympathetic to each person's views, position on their journey and explain any points with great clarity. Refreshments both the Thursday and Friday were great with great hospitality from Arena as a whole, as they really took care of each of us. The devotionals from the group were a great time to see other people's views, just a small time from each of us to have the opportunity to open up on our thoughts and discuss as a group after. What a great opportunity to create companions and friends for the future. This was all capped off with an especially good lead from Phil Pye, who was great with everyone, has a great vision for the school and his passion is only beaten by his knowledge of 'The Word' and all things Ministry. Whether your new to faith, or want to increase your knowledge, I would say that you make the commitment and spend the time at Arena Ministry School.*



## 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 the Mugumo Village in Kenya.***

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



MISSIONS GIVING

**TOTAL**  
**£34,075**

*LOCAL £10,279*

*NATIONAL £3,529*

*INTERNATIONAL £20,267*

*'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 businesses*

***Impacting our  
communities***

*through Serve Day and giveaways*

***5 supported  
living houses***

*serving up to 10 tenants*

***Operating from  
15 buildings***

*including 3 high street shops/cafes*

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

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

### ***Ilkeston***

*Half-term kids lunch boxes,  
new volunteers added to the team*

### ***Mansfield***

*Hundreds impacted each month through Care for  
a Coffee and Food Club*

### ***Nottingham***

*Newly installed shower unit with laundry  
facilities to reach the homeless*

### ***Belper***

*Launch of parent and toddler group*

### ***Toulouse***

*Reaching and helping immigrants*

ARENA COMMUNITY

*Income*  
*£315,955*

*Expenses*  
*£344,375*



THE PROJECT CAFE

*Income*  
*£41,214*

*Expenses*  
*£57,278*

***“The world of the  
generous get’s  
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***  
***£240,073***

***Room Hire***  
***£64,667***

***Gift Aid***  
***£39,161***

***Special Offerings***  
***£2,675***

***Other Income***  
***£70,887***

***Total Income***  
***£417,463***

## ARENA CHURCH EXPENDITURE

***General Ministry***

***£12,091***

***Youth & Pastoral***

***£17,672***

***Tithes***

***£34,075***

***Salaries***

***£202,058***

***Mortgage & Rent***

***£75,121***

***Building, utilities***

***& repairs***

***£77,749***

***Administration***

***£38,022***

***Events***

***£3,635***

***Other Expenses***

***£7,602***

***Total Income***

***£468,025***



## LEGACY FUND

***Total Income***  
**£54,783**

*A further £10,000 was given through Legacy for a specific need which is not included in this figure*

***Total Expense***  
**£54,783**

*Into the 4 below areas:*

***Community Transformation***  
**£16,506**

***Campus Development***  
**£20,000**

***Ministry School***  
**£9,777**

***World Ministries***  
**£8,500**

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

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



## ***In conclusion***

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*To all at Arena Church and Arena Community*

*As we started this report with a thanks; I also conclude with a heartfelt 'Thank You'. For another year of loving and serving our world, our communities and our campuses. This report only tells a fraction of the many stories of changed lives and the many praise reports we have received.*

*As I meet with Violet, our Finance Manager, to regularly plan and budget, we also pray and thank God for all He is doing through us. When we look back at this report, what a testimony to the faithfulness of God. We will often use a phrase in our meeting 'Look at what God has done'. I am in awe of what God has done in the last 20 years that I have had the privilege of serving at Arena; from one campus to now six campuses, from one building to now fifteen buildings and all used for Kingdom purpose. And yet we know that God still has more people, more campuses and more ministries to reach our communities with the Good News of the gospel.*

*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 and Community in the year to come and as we continue to believe for the immeasurably more, to leave a legacy in others.*

*Julie Turner  
Executive Pastor*

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ARENACHURCH

*If you have any questions about anything in this report  
please email [finance@arenachurch.co.uk](mailto:finance@arenachurch.co.uk)*