



# ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026

# DEAR CHURCH,

I hope you are all doing well. It's such a privilege to belong to Arena Church and to see all that God is doing in and through our lives together.

In this annual report, you'll read about so much of what has been happening across the church over the past year. It's been encouraging to see continued growth, increasing health in church life, and the way our word for the year — Foundations — has truly been established among us.

It's also wonderful to see our vision to go, grow, love, and serve our world being lived out in practical ways. Across our generational ministries, we've seen an increasing reach into our local community through our impact initiatives and the way we serve people with care and compassion.

Alongside the local impact, it's also exciting to see the global difference being made through our partnerships with a number of incredible missionaries and mission organisations around the world. Together, they are making a real difference in the communities they serve.

As you read on, I hope you'll be encouraged by all that God is doing. Let's continue to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

God bless and thanks for all you do,



*Kristian P Thorpe*  
Senior Pastor  
Arena Church

# TO ALL AT ARENA CHURCH,

As we emerge from our season of challenge and commitment with regard to Legacy Giving, let me extend hearty thanks to you for your generous and sacrificial response. First indications are that this will be the highest amount ever committed by Arena Church, going way back to 2018 and Legacy's inception.

Please take time to read and look over again the Legacy Builders 2026 brochure. In that is articulated the call and the consequence of heartfelt obedience. Acts 16:5: "So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers."

Our multi-site model of six locations brings demand regarding manpower, the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings, and the ongoing witness to see the kingdom of God extended. Legacy fuels this and perhaps positions us for more church plants.

Then there is ongoing reach into our local communities, and so really making a difference. The work done by a relatively small group of sacrificial staff and volunteers is breathtaking. The teaching of Jesus in Matthew 25:31-46 is implemented with the "bowl of water and towel" again and again. Not going as Jesus, but TO Jesus.

"Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."

Then what about away from the doorstep of our local situations to the cause of global mission? There is always so much more to do. By God's grace and leading, we have over the years built significant relationships with partners reaching into The Balkans, particularly the Roma people; the Iranians (Persians) who have fled Iran and live in Greece; and an emerging young generation in what was once the most atheistic country in the world, Albania.

We support a young family planting and training in Namibia in South East Africa, and many simple churches are being planted by simple means in our commitment to Mission India. Add to that deep relationships with apostolic ministries in Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania.

All our sowing is into “good soil” and it is producing a harvest. Our commitment to Compassion and Open Doors is also ongoing. As Jesus prayed, may we ever lift our eyes and see the fields are ripe for harvest. All this takes brilliant administrators too. Administration is a gift and “adds to ministry.”

Julie Turner, our Executive Pastor, and Violet Christopher, our Finance Manager, along with their teams, do a sterling job to make sure all stays on track. In addition, the Arena Church Board and the Arena Community Board meet regularly throughout the year, with all accounts independently audited and submitted to the Charities Commission on time.

The legal demands on a local church operating as a charity become more stringent and demanding year on year, and in complex times this is no bad thing. Rest assured the areas of HR, Health and Safety, Safeguarding, the welfare of Arena staff, and much more are dealt with in a spirit of competency and integrity.

I am glad to belong to a church — a multi-generational, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural church — that calls us to stretch our faith because the vision remains strong and is getting even stronger.

May God help us to truly be “the church” in these days — multiplying, increasing, and influencing where we live, to the nation and the nations.  
To Go and Grow and Love and Serve Our World!



*Phil Pye*

Arena Church Board Member

# LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY

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Arena Church has a Triangular Leadership Foundation made up principally of 3 groups:-

## **DIRECTED BY THE SENIOR PASTOR'S OFFICE**

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This team led by the Senior Pastor brings Directional, Spiritual, Vision and Strategy to the whole of Arena Church.

## **GUIDED BY CAMPUS PASTORS**

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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**

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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**

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The Senior Pastor's Office, 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:

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**KNOW GOD**

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**FIND FREEDOM**

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**DISCOVER PURPOSE**

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**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

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2025 WORD OF THE YEAR: FOUNDED

**AS FOR YOU,  
BE FRUITFUL  
AND INCREASE  
IN NUMBER:  
MULTIPLY ON  
THE EARTH AND  
INCREASE UPON IT.**

*Genesis 9:7*

*Arena Church*  
**6 CAMPUSES**

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**BELPER**

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**ILKESTON**

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**ILKESTON HUB**

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**MANSFIELD**

---

**NOTTINGHAM**

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**TOULOUSE, FRANCE**

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THEREFORE EVERYONE WHO  
HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE  
AND PUTS THEM INTO  
PRACTICE IS LIKE A WISE  
MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE  
ON THE ROCK. THE RAIN  
CAME DOWN, THE STREAMS  
ROSE, AND THE WINDS BLEW  
AND BEAT AGAINST THAT  
HOUSE; YET IT DID NOT  
FALL, BECAUSE IT HAD ITS  
FOUNDATION ON THE ROCK.

*Matthew 7:24*

*Average Campus*  
**ATTENDANCE**

**24**

BELPER

**205**

ILKESTON

**23**

ILKESTON HUB

**189**

MANSFIELD

**38**

NOTTINGHAM

**28**

TOULOUSE

**507**

TOTAL AVERAGE  
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

1000 PEOPLE ON THE ARENA CHURCH DATABASE

*Generational*  
**MINISTRIES**

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE ACROSS ALL CAMPUSES

**77**

KIDS

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**40**

STUDENTS

---

**110**

SENIORS

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WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT SEEING  
A GENERATION CHANGED AS WE EMPOWER  
PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, TO LIVE  
A LIFE COMMITTED TO JESUS.

*Dream*  
**TEAMS**

(VOLUNTEER TEAMS)

**40**  
TEAMS

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**150+**  
MEMBERS

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OVER 150 DREAM TEAM  
MEMBERS AND GROWING

*Arena Church*  
**MISSIONS**

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**ALBANIA | GREECE**

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**KENYA | NAMIBIA**

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**ROMANIA | SLOVAKIA**

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**MISSION INDIA**

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**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 their faith in Christ. At  
Arena we do this through the work of  
Open Doors.

*Missions*  
**GIVING**

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**TOTAL £36,079**

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WE MUST BE GLOBAL CHRISTIANS  
WITH A GLOBAL VISION BECAUSE  
GOD IS A GLOBAL GOD.

# **ARENA COMMUNITY**

**FINANCIAL  
UPDATE**

# COMMUNITY INFLUENCE

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**1000'S OF PEOPLE PER MONTH**

REACHED THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY BUILDINGS,  
CHARITY SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

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**IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITIES**

THROUGH OUTREACH AND GIVEAWAYS

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**5 SUPPORTED LIVING HOUSES**

SERVING UP TO 10 TENANTS

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**OPERATING FROM 14 BUILDINGS**

INCLUDING 2 HIGH STREET SHOPS/CAFES

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

**4000+ FOOD PARCELS**

GIVEN AWAY 1007 PEOPLE ON OUR  
FOODBANK DATABASE

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**ILKESTON**

100s IMPACTED THROUGH FOODBANK,  
GIVEAWAYS AND SUPPORTED LIVING

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**MANSFIELD**

100s IMPACTED THROUGH  
CARE FOR A COFFEE & FOOD CLUB.  
50 FOOD CLUB MEMBERS AND 65-75 ATTENDEES  
WEEKLY AT CARE FOR A COFFEE AND GROWING  
DUE TO INCREASE IN DAYS AND DEMAND.

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**NOTTINGHAM**

INCREASED OUTREACH THROUGH SHOWER UNIT WITH  
LAUNDRY FACILITIES TO REACH THE HOMELESS

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**BELPER**

EVENTS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

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**TOULOUSE**

REACHING AND HELPING IMMIGRANTS

*Arena*  
**COMMUNITY**

**INCOME £392,492**

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**EXPENSES £413,814**

SHORTFALL COVERED BY ARENA CHURCH,  
FUNDING AND OTHER DONATIONS.

**THE WORLD OF  
THE GENEROUS  
GETS LARGER AND  
LARGER; THE WORLD  
OF THE STINGY  
GETS SMALLER  
AND SMALLER.**

*Proverbs 11:24*

# **ARENA CHURCH**

# **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

# INCOME

**£358,866**

TITHES & OFFERINGS

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**£95,067**

LEGACY

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**£59,752**

ROOM HIRE

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**£57,867**

GIFT AID

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**£11,127**

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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**£46,035**

OTHER INCOME

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**£628,715**

TOTAL INCOME

\*FROM THE SURPLUS WE HAVE FINALLY BEEN  
ABLE TO SET ASIDE A 3 MONTH RESERVE AMOUNT  
INLINE WITH OUR RESERVES POLICY.

# EXPENDITURE

**£36,016**

GENERAL MINISTRIES

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**£59,442**

BUILDING, UTILITIES & REPAIRS

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**£28,376**

ADMINISTRATION

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**£36,079**

TITHES (MISSIONS GIVING)

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**£1,920**

EVENTS

---

**£114,772**

MORTGAGE & RENT

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**£227,692**

SALARIES

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**£504,297**

TOTAL EXPENSES

# LEGACY FUND

**£95,067**  
TOTAL INCOME

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**£33,937**  
CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

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**£61,130**  
BUILDING WORKS

**£95,067**

TOTAL INCOME & EXPENSES

**THE ONE WHO  
BLESSES OTHERS  
IS ABUNDANTLY  
BLESSED;  
THOSE WHO  
HELP OTHERS  
ARE HELPED.**

*Proverbs 11:25*

As we began this report with gratitude, we also bring it to a close with a heartfelt thank you — for another year of loving and serving our world, our communities, and our campuses. This report captures only a small glimpse of the many stories of changed lives and the countless testimonies we've seen.

As I meet regularly with Violet, our Finance Manager, to plan and steward our resources, we take time to pray and thank God for all He is doing through us. From where financially we were over a year ago to now be in a position of finally being able to start to build our reserves, we are deeply grateful for all that God has done. His faithfulness and provision have been truly amazing.

Looking back over this report, it stands as a powerful testimony to God's goodness and blessing over our lives. We often say in our meetings, “Look at what God has done,” and I continue to be in awe of all that He has accomplished over the past 25 years I've had the privilege of serving at Arena — from one campus to six, and from a single building to fourteen, all being used for Kingdom purpose.

And yet, we remain expectant, knowing there are still more people to reach, more campuses to establish, and more ministries to grow as we share the good news of the gospel in our communities. We continue to pray, steward well, and build our reserves, believing that there will no doubt be more buildings, more campuses, and most importantly more people that we can support, love, and serve.

We look ahead with great anticipation for what lies before us as a church. It is a privilege to serve under the visionary leadership of our Senior Pastor, Kristian, alongside the wider Arena leadership team.

Looking forward to all God will do in us and through us in the year ahead as we continue to step out in faith, surrender our lives, and be obedient to His call.



*Jylte Turner*

Executive Pastor  
Arena Church



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