



ARENACHURCH

GOODNEWS

CHRISTMAS EDITION

ONE CHURCH IN TWO LOCATIONS



MANSFIELD

ILKESTON



**INSIDE:
Bieber is a
believer**

TESSERACT

**Christmas on Four
Continents**

**Woolworths be-
comes The Project**

**100 Years of
Theatre, Cinema,
Pool and Church**

To Go & Grow, and Love & Serve our community and the world

Arena Church and Arena Community work in both Ilkeston and Mansfield, serving the community as a small charity with a big vision. But it wasn't always this way - Arena Church had humble beginnings.

Founded in 1929, Arena Church Ilkeston was pioneered and guided by many faithful leaders. Our Lead Pastor Kristian Thorpe arrived along with his wife and family in February 2000. Since then, the church has dramatically changed, including moving into a new building. Kristian has led the church since 2007, the same year in which Teaching Pastor Phil Pye and his wife Sharon joined us.

The church operates with a clear vision to "Go & Grow and Love & Serve the World", actively engaging with people in the community and becoming fully relevant to modern

lives whilst developing a pioneering vision.

As time went on, Arena looked to plant a new church in an area close by, but far enough away to be a separate entity. Through the grace of God an old cinema was purchased in Mansfield in 2009, and the march to Arena Church Mansfield began.

The redevelopment and restoration of the building progressed, and the congregation grew. The pastors split their time between the two locations, as did the teams working and serving at the church, with a morning service being held in Ilkeston and an evening service being held in Mansfield. In 2016 a pastor for the Mansfield campus was appointed, and Stephen and Aline Robbins (and their children) joined the Arena family via South Africa, Brazil, and Scotland - a very long route to arrive in Nottinghamshire! As 2017 rolled around, both campuses were strong enough to run services at the

same time, and now both deliver fantastic life-giving messages and passionate praise in multi-generational and multicultural services, always helping new people to find Jesus every Sunday morning.

We continue to plant and re-purpose new churches both locally and further afield, giving support and working in partnership with churches internationally. Hundreds of people serve on our Dream Teams, impacting and serving thousands of people every month throughout local communities. We have outstanding connections with local charities, business owners, Government leaders, MPs and the Police. Everybody is somebody at Arena Church, and all are welcome to connect through our Small Groups, where strong relationships are formed and discipleship is nurtured.

Come and join us!



**ARENA CHURCH GOOD NEWS
THE CHRISTMAS NEWSPAPER**

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With contributions from many others.

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You can find us or write to us at:
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Everybody is somebody at Arena Church, and all are welcome to connect through our Small Groups, where strong relationships are formed and discipleship is nurtured.

Come and see how exciting and vibrant church can be when the focus is clear and people are free to seek God with passion.

WELCOME HOME



Welcome to Arena Church and our Christmas themed newspaper publication.

My family and I have lived locally for 17 years now and love the area and its people. We love leading Arena Church and Arena Community with an amazing staff and team. We are committed to a mission of Loving and serving the world. You will read of the many different ways in which we seek to work with others to bring meaning and transformation to the community and people. In this publication you will read of people's stories of how Jesus has turned people's lives around and how through the many varied activities we

seek to practically serve and help people too.

An important message of Arena is HOPE! We passionately believe this Hope is available for all and is extended to everyone. This message of Hope is declared as we announce that we believe everyone is important. Everybody is somebody and that people deserve second chances. This message of Hope is rare in this world today! Hopelessness is all around us - it affects a wide range of people. From children to the elderly, from the poor and even the well off all can be affected. This lack of hope causes people to live with so much stress and sadness which manifests itself in a lack of purpose and can cause isolation, depression and in some severe cases suicide. Hopelessness is an epidemic within our nation!

The message of the bible and Jesus is Hope. Jesus makes a difference! We literally have hundreds of people who call Arena home who are now living with HOPE. These people are locals who are ordinary, imperfect people who have simply experienced the genuine grace, love and

forgiveness of Jesus. And as a result of this encounter they are now filled with Hope and a sense of purpose.

A powerful verse of the bible that shows why God sent Jesus into the world is found in the gospel of John chapter 3 and verse 16 " For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God's mission in sending Jesus into the world was to BRING HOPE, to make a way for mankind to live at peace with God. To remove our sin, our guilt our pain and to give us a brand new start. He loved and loves the world. We are not talking about rules and religion but about a living relationship with God.

We would love to welcome you to one of our services and we would for you to see what church is really like. Many have a stereotypical view of church as being boring and God being angry with them. Both of these views you will NOT see or hear at Arena. We believe church is a family and the services and outreaches of Arena are to be ENJOYED not ENDURED. Arena is full of life and fun. We actually don't do boring!!! We also declare that God loves people and does not hate them. He's not against you but he's for you.

I pray that you will have a peace filled and joyful Christmas. Why not come along and see us. Hope to see you soon

Have a great Christmas
Kristian and Caroline
Lead Pastor Arena Church



1 RUTLAND STREET, ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE, DE7 8DG
66 LEEMING STREET, MANSFIELD, NG18 1NG
With live music, an inspiring message
and full kids programme during the service for ages 1-11

YOU ARE INVITED

EVERY SUNDAY AT 10.30AM

I love Christmas! I love it because it is an opportunity to celebrate Jesus coming to earth all those years ago, but I also love all the trimmings and celebrations, the Christmas trees, the giving of gifts, the food and the family time. What is not to like? I have been privileged to celebrate Christmas in various locations and diverse ways down the years and recently I was reflecting on my Christmas memories.

SOUTH AFRICA

My first memories of Christmas were in South Africa my home country, Mum & Dad always made Christmas a special time and church was a big part of this. We would often go to my Gran and Grandpa's home in Queensburgh, near Durban on the 25th and the family would gather and have a BIG Christmas lunch. To be honest it was a very British Christmas meal, but the major difference was it was summer time, so it would be shorts and tee shirts and cricket or soccer (as we call it in SA) in the back garden and running about outside with our cousins. My grandparents had five children and had a big house that they lived in even after all of them had left home, so there was always lots of space and exploring to do. Boxing day and the days around Christmas were often spent with my Gran and the other side of the family, my favourite memories were Boxing Day around the pool and summer holidays when we were in Durban always included some beach time too. As a child I never remember a time when I believed Santa Claus was real, it may sound like I was deprived, but I didn't feel like I was. To be honest the snow & Reindeer, along with Santa and his sled always seemed like a fairy tale anyway not very realistic for a boy growing up in Africa. Baby Jesus in the manger, with the shepherds, wise men etc. seemed closer to my reality and while my parents joined in the fun and I remember my Dad dressing up as Santa one year, we always knew it was just a bit of fun.

USA

I left Africa for the first time

when I was 24, and moved to America and apart from what I had seen on TV, I didn't really know what to expect. My best friend growing up was from Indiana, but I have never been there myself and so Boca Raton, Florida became my home for the next 3-4 years and I experienced Christmas USA style! Let me just say it from the outset, America does Christmas with style! Better than anywhere else I have been, even in sunny Florida the lights, decorations and all the trimming were second to none. I got used to the phrase "Happy Holidays!" because of the strong Jewish influence and people celebrating Hanukkah as well as Christmas. I did miss family though and although I had friends around me and eventually met Aline I still missed the wider family celebration. Churches in Florida also go big during the Christmas season and put on productions which attract plenty of guests, in fact churches get a reputation for putting on a good Christmas show and people that usually wouldn't go to church will go and watch the shows almost like they would go to the theatre. I love that! Church should be at the centre of Christmas and for whatever reason people come, just the fact that they come to church is amazing and what a fantastic opportunity to entertain and share the wonderful news of a Saviour who left his throne to come to earth FOR US!

BRAZIL

After some years in Florida, Aline and I moved to Brazil and so our first Christmas as a married couple was in Rio Bonito, Rio de Janeiro state in Brazil and I learned to say "Feliz Natal" which is "Happy Christmas" in Portuguese. I am biased of course, but the people of Brazil

CHRISTMAS ON FOUR CONTINENTS

are probably the friendliest that I have experienced (not just because of my wife). There is warm weather but also a warm people, they celebrate Christmas on the 24th December and have a big meal and stay up until midnight to open presents etc. and then the morning of the 25th is more about sleeping in and recovering from the night before. On our first Christmas in Brazil we spent the evening with Aline's extended family and it was an amazing & unique experience for me. Brazil is a predominantly Catholic country so although Jesus is a big part of Christmas it was mostly about the family and the party, to be honest that is what Brazilians love anyway!

THE UK

When we moved to the UK in 2005, it was my first experience of a real cold Christmas and I experienced my first snowy Christmas in 2010 when Scotland had snow lying on the ground (not falling) for the whole of December. It was also the first Christmas with frozen pipes! There was a frozen pipe under the pavement outside the house which meant no water for almost a week between Christmas and New Year, we had finished Christmas lunch and had quite a

few people over and then in the afternoon of the 25th before we had even washed the dishes the water stopped working! We had to pack the dishes in the car and take them around to my sisters to wash them, it did cross my mind that we should just throw the whole lot out and buy new dishes/pots, but we didn't do that, let's just say the excitement of a cold and snowy Christmas was well and truly forgotten and I was dreaming of a Christmas by the pool!

It is great remembering Christmases gone by and that can bring happy or sad memories, Aline and I are blessed to mostly have wonderful memories but what I have realised is that this Christmas should not be judged against the ones we have already had, because they are so different from each other, but we should make this Christmas matter and make new special memories! You see remembering the past can be a good thing, but living in the past will only harm us and although Christmas may not have everything perfect, it can still be an amazing season filled with love, family, friends, food, gifts, decorations and most importantly Jesus.

by Stephen Robbins



NEW BELIEBER

Justin Bieber is one of the most well-known celebrities in the world. His every move is followed by the media, and at some of the lowest points in his life, he's been the biggest headlines in the newspapers. But recently, a lot of the hype and noise around Justin Bieber has died down - what's changed?

Justin Bieber started his career on YouTube in the late 2000s. The singer Usher is often credited with discovering him and certainly took him under his wing to begin with. Along with the support of some major recording labels and the marketing machine that goes with them, the young singer was quickly selling out shows and growing a massive following worldwide.

But the sudden popularity had some downsides. Many people disliked him strongly due to what was perceived as his manufactured pop star status - he was a marketing dream, an absolute money-spinner for the pre-teen female audience. Because of this, he was made the punchline of countless jokes. But on the other side, his fans were absolutely hysterical, following him everywhere, buying every piece of merchandise, getting increasingly more crazy - including when the hashtag #CutForBieber went viral, and young fans deliberately self-harmed in an attempt to get noticed by him. With so much attention at such a young age, it's unsurprising that he had to do a lot of growing up in public. While every teenager makes mistakes, not every one of them is plastered all over the news.

Judah Smith, the pastor of City Church in Seattle, befriended the young Justin. According to Smith, 'His mom came to a conference and heard me speak. She got a couple of my cassette tapes, and would play them for him while he fell asleep at night. When we first met several years ago, he said, "You used to put me to sleep with your preaching." I said, "Justin, that's not what preachers want to hear."'

When Justin reached his lowest point in 2014, Pastor Smith called up his good friend Carl Lentz, a pastor at Hillsong Church in New York, and says

he needs some help. The papers are chock-full of the lunacy that surrounds the young pop star, and Justin has reached breaking point. One night, while Justin and Carl are both in Carl's apartment, Justin drops to his knees, sobbing, and says that he needs Jesus. The two of them pray, and Justin asks to be baptised. While the pastor is very organised and begins to look for a date that is convenient to conduct the ceremony, Justin asks for it to be done immediately. He knows that baptism means a fresh start, a new beginning, and he has no time to waste.

It's on!

After an aborted attempt to use a swimming pool in a Manhattan hotel, Pastor Lentz calls one of his friends, Tyson Chandler, a professional basketball player. In the building where Chandler lives, there is another pool - but they can't gain access to it. It seems that Justin Bieber isn't going to get baptised as quickly as he would like.

However, Tyson Chandler is still a basketball player. He's over seven feet tall. He has a bathtub fit for a king...and that's where Justin Bieber enters was baptised, in Tyson Chandler's bathtub. Justin Bieber starts his new life in the strangest of places, but once you have the heart to follow God, there should be nothing capable of stopping you. Interviewed on his life and situation, Justin said, 'My faith has gotten me to where I am. My faith has brought me to a whole other level. I love talking about my faith. I think that with Christians, they've left such a bad taste in people's mouths. Just like, overly pushy with the subject, overly churchy and religious. I'm not gonna let my voice not be heard anymore. I'm gonna use my voice for a reason...I just wanna honestly live like Jesus. Not be Jesus - I could never - I don't want that to come across weird. He created a pretty awesome template of how to love people and how to be gracious and kind. If you believe it, he died for our sins. Sometimes when I don't feel like doing something, but I know it's right, I remember, I'm pretty

sure Jesus didn't feel like going to the cross and dying so that we don't have to feel what we should have to feel. What Jesus did when he came to the cross was basically saying, "You don't have to feel any of that stuff." We could take out all of our insecurities, we could take away all of the hurt, all the pain, all the fear, all the trauma. That doesn't need to be there. So all this healing that you're trying to do, it's unnecessary. We have the greatest healer of all and his name is Jesus Christ. And he re-

his feet after a string of widely publicised tabloid troubles. And when a fan in the audience - one of a dozen or so selected by the singer's team for a question-and-answer session - asked if he had any advice on how to get through a romantic breakup, he demurred, flashing a bit of the humility that every religious leader knows is crucial in establishing a bond with one's flock.'

After the terrorist attacks in Paris, Justin stopped singing and performing to lead the audience in prayer. 'God, we just thank you so much through all the pain and all the darkness,' he said, eyes closed. 'God, you still shine your



ally heals. This is it. It's time that we all share our voice. Whatever you believe. Share it. I'm at a point where I'm not going to hold this in.'

And he did not hold it in at all. On his "Purpose" album, the track 'Life is Worth Living' includes lyrics like this: 'God sent an angel to help you out. He gave you direction, showed you how to read a map but that long journey ahead said it ain't never over even in the midst of doubt... They try to crucify me. I ain't perfect, won't deny. My reputation's on the line. So I'm working on a better me...People make mistakes. Only God can judge me.'

Subsequently, Justin has invited Judah Smith on stage during a concert, and according to the LA Times, it happened like this: 'He talked about the importance of maintaining a positive spirit and surrounding himself with encouraging people. He credited his connection with God for helping him to get back on

light. Help us to just focus on you through it all.'

After the more recent attacks in London and Manchester, during the "One Love Manchester" concert, Justin didn't just perform but also had a message of faith to offer as well: 'God is good in the midst of the darkness. God is good in the midst of the evil...God is in the midst no matter what's happening in the world. God is in the midst, and He loves you and He's here for you.'

He continued, 'I just want to take this moment to honour the people that were lost, that were taken. We love you so much. To the families, we love you so much...Put both hands up to honour those people right now. Everybody say, 'We honour you. We love you.'"

The crowd answered, 'We honour you, we love you!'

It looks like we're all Beliebers now.

Photo: Adam Sundana

CONFERENCING



Churches are used around the country every Sunday, but what happens during the rest of the week?

At Arena Church, we are fortunate to have modern buildings that can be used for a variety of purposes. We have rooms of differing sizes and shapes, all of which lend themselves to serving our community.

We can accommodate formal business meetings, conferences and training courses for 2 to 200 delegates, offering a full service of refreshments, buffets and equipment including a full in-house PA system, digital projectors, tables, chairs and even flip charts.

Arena Conferencing has been running in Ilkeston for over 13 years. We have the privilege of hosting clubs, businesses, charities and private functions from all over Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire including Slimming World, St. John Ambulance, Weight Watchers, DKL Academy of Dance, Derby Baby Sensory, Leonard Cheshire, Assemblies of God, Erewash Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, Family Mediation Service, National Blood Donor Service, Probus, Dynamite Dance & Fitness and many more.

The Arena Coffee Shop, located at our Rutland Street site, is open from 9am to 2pm on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and offers a wide selection of light lunches and snacks, deli-

icious cakes and specialist coffee. The coffee shop is a great place to meet up with friends to enjoy quality food and service in a relaxed atmosphere.

It has been very exciting to see an increase in people hiring our Leeming Street building in Mansfield during 2017. This is a great venue offering varying sized spaces for meetings and courses. A number of social groups meet at this site to play pool, table tennis, air hockey and table football.

We are looking forward to seeing the continued growth at Mansfield as we continue to renovate the building and create further spaces for businesses and groups to use.

Our teams of professional, friendly staff, work very hard to ensure that everyone who comes through our doors receives a warm welcome and is catered for to the highest possible standard. The business arm of Arena continues to grow due to recommendations and repeat bookings.

If you would like any more information, please see our website at

arenaenterprises.co.uk

or give us a call on
0115 944 2996



CHARITY SHOPS

We have two charity shops, which sell good quality items; one is located in Ilkeston and one in Mansfield.

Arena Hope is located on the Market Place, Ilkeston and has been opened since September 2009. It is managed by Sue and ably assisted by Scott and a team of volunteers.

On sale there is a selection of good quality clothing, bric-a-brac, books, CDs, and we are now selling a selection of furniture and white goods which can be delivered. We are also able to take debit and credit card payments.

For the annual Christmas light switch on Friday, 1st December, we will be serving free drinks from the front of the shop. We may even have a few carol singers outside too!

Hope opening hours are 9.30am-4.00pm on Mondays to Saturdays.

The shop is closed on Monday to Wednesday, 25th to 27th December inclusive and Monday, 1st January over the Christmas and New Year period.

Open Door charity shop has been opened since 2000 and is situated on Ladybrook Place in Mansfield. It is managed by Sara and ably assisted by Vanessa and team of volunteers. Early November we said goodbye to Glenys, our long serving manager,

who has been with us since 2000 and who was part of the team who set the shop up and got it ready for opening. However she still keeps her hand in as she has now joined our team of volunteers.

The shop sells clothing, bric-a-brac, DVDs, CDs and books. It has a small seating area where you can have a drink and a chat, as we also sell light refreshments, including tea, coffee and hot chocolate, and a variety of snacks, crisps and chocolate bars.

If you pop in during November you will see the team dressed up for the BBC Children in Need appeal and on 25th November they will be involved in the Christmas event on Ladybrook Square.

Open Door opening hours are 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 12.45pm on Saturdays.

During the Christmas period, the shop is closed from Monday, 25th December and will open again on Tuesday, 2nd January.

Both shops accept donations of clothing, bric-a-brac etc and if you are interested in volunteering at either shops, please ring:

Susan Deverill at Arena Hope Ilkeston on 0115 9323653 or

Sara Dallman at Open Door Charity Shop on 01623 636004

FROM THE ASHES

'You exist and you're a friend of mine, you're alive and it's not the end of the line', these are the words from a song called Phoenix by the band Tesseract.

Now you won't find their music played on daytime radio unless you have tuned into a specialist rock and metal station, however the man behind the lyrics, Dan Tompkins, can be found in church every Sunday morning at Arena Mansfield.

Dan will attend church with his wife Emma and his two young children where if you were to meet him you would not suspect that his job takes him all over the world entertaining crowds of thousands.

"We make a point of attending church every Sunday which sets us up for the week and gives us strength and focus, it replenishes us" Dan tells me this whilst wearing a smile on his face as we are sat in his studio at home where he does a lot of his recording work and also delivers his vocal coaching seminars.

It is clear to me that his relationship with God is key to him as we sit down and talk through his journey to faith and he quotes bible verses taken from The Message version.

16 "Stay alert. This is hazardous work I'm assigning you. You're going to be like sheep running through a wolf pack, so don't call attention to yourselves. Be as cunning as a snake, inoffensive as a dove." Matthew 10:16

As he travels the world on tour and when working at home in his studio he tells me that this is a verse he turns to daily to remind him of the importance of living as a christian.. Dan tells me,

"This is how I like to exist within the world of rock and metal. I want to be the light that God tells us we are so people are drawn to me, so I can talk to them about my Christian faith. I won't get a good response if I just try to shove it down people's throats."

Dan's journey did not see him come straight out of school and into a band, it wasn't quite the x-factor

overnight success that we see a lot of today.

When Dan first left school there was a push for him to find a career;

"I feel there has been a big generational shift, a lot of our parents came from the background of, work hard, raise a family and knuckle down and I felt that pressure was on me.

I knew there was more and I needed more in my life but I didn't know how to get there or what to do."

After working at Wickes for a short time Dan entered into the Nottinghamshire police force where he found himself exposed to a world that not many people experience in life;

"I was fighting with people, dealing with thieves, rapists and murderers. I would find people who had committed suicide. This stuff happens in society and fortunately a lot of people are shielded from it, I was on the front line."

At the time Dan admits he was not a Christian and far from it, describing himself as being between an atheist and agnostic. To deal with his line of work Dan found himself building a very hard exterior towards people and became a bitter person in the process.

"I would go home and I didn't want to talk because of the day

I had. When sleeping at night I would constantly relive the day I had. If you fight with someone and you're not a confrontational person and you are thrown into that world daily, it can have a very real effect on you.

I was depressed and received counselling as well as carrying a lot of physical injuries as well. It was a hard time for me."

Despite all this, his passion for singing which developed at an early age, never wavered. Throughout the week he would travel all over the country meeting with bands and rehearsing. Through his commitment to want to follow his passion it led to an audition with Tesseract, who at the time of auditioning were about to get signed.

Signing with a band would mean recording and touring commitments that whilst holding down a job as a policeman would be very difficult to juggle.

After asking the police for a career break several times and being told No, it was Emma who stepped in and offered her support for Dan to be able to take a step of 'faith' and leave the police, there was a condition though.

"Financially, on paper, it was a crazy idea. I went from earning just over £30k p/a with the police to earning a fraction of that in my first year with the band.

The condition of Emma supporting me would be that I would have to pray."

Emma had come to Christianity through a friend at university who persisted in asking her to attend church with her. As there are only so many excuses, Emma gave in and attended Arena, Ilkeston. From the first time of going she loved it and soon became a Christian.

Dan agreed to the condition and began a full-time career in a band, as well as beginning to pray.

"The first time I was praying it felt alien. There were times when I had prayed before but I didn't realise who or what I was praying to.

I never felt anything significant, I wasn't in tune with God, but I prayed in the faith that something amazing would happen."

Shortly after this Dan would begin to attend church with Emma and found that he would enjoy himself more and more. Dan's hard exterior he had developed in the police force started to change.

"I would soon begin to respond to what was being said at church but on the first few times I just put my hand up in response and didn't do anything about it.

On the fifth time of responding, I broke down. God had broken through the hard exterior I had built up over time. I felt something unique. Ever since I have never stopped going and continued this journey, as we are all on a journey."

Christianity did not take Dan away from the work he was doing, he was placed into a world where he is not surrounded by Christians but he can be the help to those around him.

Being in a band is not a Monday to Friday job, it requires extensive time away from home as you can imagine. Whilst away, Dan says that his Bible is never far from him.

"On the road I always have my bible with me, I make my bed on the tour bus (the only one to do so) and my bible is always on my bed, out in the open and I don't shy away from my faith.

I always now pray before I go onto stage. I simply pray that when I step on stage, God uses me to make a difference."



A NEW PROJECT

for the old Woolworths

The old Woolworth's store in Ilkeston has become The Project, an initiative of the Arena Church. The cafe and restored furniture store is providing employment opportunities and a place of welcome for everyone.

In January of 2009, Woolworths stores nationwide closed down due to problems created by the worldwide financial crisis. The old and dilapidated Woolworth's store at the bottom of Bath Street became vacant as a result, and due to the actions of a benevolent landlord, a 15-year lease on the property was secured.

A large grant from Erewash Borough Council kick-started the renovations. With the generous support of Arena Church and the help of other local businesses and people, Project Manager Kev Harrison of KH Civils and a small team of tradespeople converted the old building into a vibrant and attractive high

Project manager Lisa Harrison says: "We hope to generate training and employment opportunities for our varied community through the programme we have in place."

"Our furniture is of good quality and our cafe is very well priced and spacious. We are looking forward to generating more business on Bath Street and working with local businesses."

"As our church Lead Pastor Kristian Thorpe often says, we are here to love and serve our community."

To Love and Serve the Community

The intention is for The Project to be open and inclusive, with a vision "To Love and Serve The Community". With this in mind, the goal of The Project is to create a high-quality high street store that sells refurbished furniture and new craft items, and is used as a place to train and enhance skills for ex-offenders, the unemployed, and the

ing free hot meals and a food bank, as well as an after-school feeding programme. Arena Community provides supported living with 4 houses that accommodate up to 10 people, a gardening programme that runs from a large allotment, and a support referral service that

works with over 30 different agencies, in addition to a detached youth work programme.

The twin beliefs that "everybody is somebody" and "everybody and everything deserves a second chance" are fundamental to The Project.



street destination, using original wood and materials from the Woolworth store.

The building now hosts the Workshop Cafe which sells handmade food and serves first class drinks. The ground floor also stocks vintage furniture and clothing, contemporary cushions and throws, and a large selection of smaller items including craft gifts, toiletries, along with modern mugs, teapots and similar items.

As The Project begins to turn a profit and work progresses to secure further funding, the desire is to improve the facilities available. Already underway is the conversion and renovation of the upstairs space to create classrooms, three separate workshop areas, storage space and offices.

Signs throughout the interior say: "Everybody is somebody at the Project", a slogan which the staff believe in wholeheartedly.

disenfranchised.

The Project is looking to train people in furniture building and restoration, upholstery, machine operation, and the tailoring of clothes. All future volunteers and students will come from referrals from probation, the prison service, and from the local community. The passion is to train, create jobs, and to start and build new businesses through trade.

The profits from The Project are given over to serving the community and outreaches of Arena Church, with at least 10% being given to other local and regional charities.

The Project is the trading arm of Arena Community, a charity located in the East Midlands that has been operating for 9 years. Arena Community has a staff of 9 people and over 70 volunteers ("Dream Teamers") who give hundreds of hours each week to serve all people within the community. We run various feeding programmes includ-



IT'S THE
MOST
Wonderful
Time Of
THE Year

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

at Arena Church Ilkeston

We would love to welcome you at our Christmas Events.
Free admission, everyone welcome.



Sunday 10th December at 10.30am

Community Concert

With our local dignitaries and special performances from local schools.



Sunday 17th December at 10.30am

Arena Kids

The little stars of Arena breathe life into the season with their Christmas presentation.



Saturday 23rd December 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Carols by Candlelight

Our traditional carol service with special appearance from Chaucer Junior School Choir.

Christmas Fayre after the Service

With festive treats: mince pies, crepes, pork cobs, Santa's grotto and bouncy castle.



Sunday 24th December at 10.30am

Arena Christmastime

Our ultimate Christmas presentation features a short film, Christmas carols, and an inspiring message telling the Christmas story like you've never heard it before.

DANGEROUS DISTRACTIONS

I think everyone born before 1990 would acknowledge that the world has changed drastically in the last 27 years.

The devices that we carry around in our pockets today far surpass what even the most extreme of sci-fi movies predicted in the 90s. Being born in '89 I have grown up expecting technological advancement, but

have observed that the real value in my life is not from my work, social connections, achievements, but from the close relationships I develop. These relationships encourage me when I am down, they celebrate with me when I succeed and they are there to keep me on track when I am prone to wandering.

We call our Young People's events Universal, and at these events we are intentional about con-



I am long enough in the tooth to remember a day before constant communication. When I was young, if I wanted to talk to my friend I had to go around to his house and knock on his door and actually speak to him, in real life, but today our young people don't understand this concept.

The explosion of the internet has led to communication being completely revolutionised, our world has changed. This generation measures their friendships by the number of follows, they share what has happened in their day on their Snapchat 'story' and they talk through Facebook chat. These are all great innovations but what is being left behind is the art of being in someone's presence.

In my role as Youth Pastor for Arena Church, this communication challenge is one of the biggest we face, it's so apparent that some of our young people struggle to communicate without a device. This is easily observed when a group of young people are with each other but all are buried in their phones, following, liking and commenting on their social feeds.

On Friday night's we welcome around 100 11s - 17s through our door at Arena, we encourage them to put away their phones and really connect with their peers - to talk, engage and create deep relationships. A study has shown that this generation has more contacts than ever but less real relationships which is leading young people to feel lonely in a world where they know everyone. This may seem dramatic, even hyperbolic, but I

connecting with young people and with them interacting with each other. We run 'connect' nights to encourage this, we teach about the value of real relationships and encourage the young people that attend to be proactive in putting their phones down and being in someone's presence.

Our devices are of course excellent tools, but like any tool, they have to be used correctly. I'm not encouraging abstinence, just a rethink on how we encourage our young people to engage with people and technology.

I can't bear the thought of my little boy growing up without the support, love and excitement that I have received from my friends. I want him to engage with technology, but not at the expense of real relationships. Let's set the standard, let's put the devices down to engage and encourage this next generation to build relationships that last.

--Josh Turner

Universal (for ages 11-17) meets every Friday - 6:30pm at our Mansfield campus, and 7:30pm at our Ilkeston campus. Come along and join us!

TRUE UNITY

When walking into a church you often find a huge melting pot of people from many different walks of life.

The variety is one of the many things that makes church a special place.

You have so many industries represented with everything from construction to confectionery.

Between Arena Ilkeston and Mansfield, we are so lucky to have so many entrepreneurial people who take the step to open their own businesses.

One person to do this is, Jay Trivedi, who has created a tea brand, Unitea. It all started with an idea when travelling through India.

"I saw a rickshaw which was selling tea off the back of it. It attracted everyone who was passing through to it.

Every walk of life came buy, rich business executives and beggars alike. It bought everyone together."

After Jay saw this image it was stuck with his head and a seed was planted. He was out walking with his wife when she came up with the name, Unitea.



"When that word came out of her mouth I felt like I had won the lottery."

A brand and business was born.

Jay has now been building his business for the past few years. Alongside this he is a family man, works a part time job and helps in the church.

"I could not do any of this without seeing and knowing that God is first in my life. He gives me the strength to manage it all.

Without God in my life none of this would be possible."

Small groups are one of the areas Jay is involved with at church and he leads a young adults ministry through this.

"I love connecting with people, you can really get to know each other and go a bit deeper into conversation and into the Bible.

We love the dynamics of small groups also the opportunities and closeness that setting can bring."

You would be right to assume from reading this that Jay sounds like a natural born leader. Leading Small groups and having his own business scream this out. The truth of the matter is the opposite and it is not something that has always been easy for Jay.

"My characteristic isn't to be a driver, that has been something that has had to grow in me over time.

I feel God has challenged me as I keep being put into positions where I will lead.

I am continually encouraged by people around me which has been a great help."

Within his business not everything is always smooth sailing and there have been times where Jay has felt like giving up.

"There have been many times I have thought about it.

Pitching a product to people and being rejected can be tough.

Every time I have gone to pack it in though, an opportunity has arisen from nowhere."

It's in these moments where Jay's faith is more prominent. He understands that God has taken him on this journey.

"This is when I just have to trust God. I prayed to start my own business and God delivered. I know I need to do my part and trust in him.

It is when it is stormy and crazy, I find my faith in him is even stronger."

For more information on Unitea, please visit, www.uniteablends.co.uk

A CENTURY OF CHANGE

But this is only the ground floor - much of the building outside of these areas is still a work in progress, but with a growing congregation, this offers massive potential for the future. It is hoped that the building can also operate as a full-blown con-

well placed to serve the community, right in the town centre. It is clearly viewable from several main roads, and as work progresses, the church is being noticed for all the right reasons.



ference centre, and that it may also be possible for films to be screened.

Mansfield is a thriving town with a growing Christian population, and the former ABC cinema is



Just like the cinema, Arena Church Mansfield is shining a strong light to make the picture clear for all those in the local area that want to see it.

Why don't you come along and see if you like what's "Now Showing"?



As an outward-focused church always looking to expand and reach into new areas, the addition of a cinema on Leeming Street in Mansfield might have seemed a strange match. But the local landmark has had more than its fair share of uses over the last 111 years.

Originally opening in 1906, "The Grand Theatre" was designed for stage shows by T.V. Woodhouse

Rileys Snooker Club, but the rest of the building was left unused and fell into disrepair, right until the snooker club closed in 2012.



Arena Church had held meetings in Ladybrook for quite a while, but needed to be closer to the town to have a greater impact. In March 2013, a successful bid was made at auction to acquire the building, with the deposit being raised with help from the congregation's donations.

Renovation work began as soon as possible, with areas being opened up as they were completed. Arena Church Mansfield now features a bar area where food, soft drinks, tea and coffee can be obtained, as well as an area for playing pool on several full-size tables - a hangover from the days of the snooker club.



A resurrected main hall is used for Sunday services, and is also hired out for various events. The church holds a regular youth group, "Universal", on most Friday evenings.



of Nottingham. In 1928, large scale changes were made, and much of the inside of the building was redesigned. Subsequently, the building became a cinema, but retained a large stage and an abundance of dressing rooms.

Associated British Cinemas (ABC) bought the building in 1930, but did not brand it as "ABC" until 1963. By 1978, the building had been redesigned internally again, and now boasted 3 separate screens. The cinema finally closed in 1997 when the new larger ABC multiplex opened nearby.

The ground floor next became a

CHRISTMAS EVENTS at Arena Church Mansfield

We would love to welcome you at our Christmas Events.
Free admission, everyone welcome.



Sunday 17th December at 10.30am

Arena Kids

The little stars of Arena breathe life into the season with their Christmas presentation.



Saturday 23rd December 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Carols by Candlelight

Our traditional carol service.

From 5.30pm

Newstead Brass Band, festive treats and giveaways.



Sunday 24th December at 10.30am

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Our ultimate Christmas presentation features a short film, Christmas carols, and an inspiring message telling the Christmas story like you've never heard it before.



TO LOVE AND SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Arena Community is a charity which exists to help and serve the community in many different areas.

Our first project, a foodbank, began in 2010. From our experiences in distributing food to the needy, we soon discovered that people who used the foodbank had many other needs there were not being met.

We love our community and endeavour to serve it as fully as possible, so we have tried to meet as many of these needs as possible but we can only do this by partnering with others. Together we all make a difference. Here is a short history of our community outreach and some of the things Arena Church is involved with.

In June 2010, Arena Church in partnership with Arena Community launched its own foodbank as a result of an increasing awareness of the number of people in Ilkeston with no food and in need of emergency supplies. The people Arena brought groceries to the church as often as they could, and a team were on hand to sort, pack and distribute the collected food.

Arena Community foodbank is now based at the Community Hub on Belfield Street, Ilkeston. We have worked with local organisations and agencies to set up a referral system whereby those in need can obtain a food parcel. Each parcel contains enough for three days of nutritional food. We also provide a free warm meal for clients on these days. We gave out over 8,000 parcels to families and single people in Ilkeston and the surrounding areas between 2011 and 2016. With the current financial climate, this number is increasing.

The foodbank is open every Tuesday and Friday 12pm-2pm serving hot food and drinks, and providing a safe place for people to sit and chat.

Food drive

Arena Community foodbank operates food drives throughout the year. These take place in local supermarkets and give people the opportunity to donate items of food to the foodbank.

In addition, the team also volunteer time to pack bags and assist shoppers at the tills. The food drive team has raised hundreds of pounds for the foodbank, contributing to its growth and to serving more people than ever before.

We raise an average of £350 from each food drive, as well as items brought from the foodbank shopping list.

Providing Essential Items

As the cost of living continues to rise many families are finding it hard to make ends meet.

There is a desperate need for affordable clothing in our community, as people are sometimes unable to provide new clothing for themselves or their family and rely heavily on recycled clothing.

We recognised that we were able to help in this area. Clothing and shoes are donated to us and we sell them at extremely low prices.



Our aim is to clothe people who can't afford to buy new clothes, as well as those who are homeless and may be facing harsh weather.

We wash and dry donated clothes. Most of our clothes are donated from the community and are sold from as little as 50p. Recent statistics show that nearly £1,200 worth of clothing gets disposed of in Derbyshire every year. Most of these items can be reused and could mean the difference between someone wearing shoes or not being able to.

When the foodbank moved to Belfield Street it was possible for us to store furniture that was donated. Therefore, The Furniture Store is based at the Community Hub and is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-4pm. All furniture is donated from the local community and sold at an affordable price. There is a large range of furniture from sofas, chairs and soft furnishings to fridges, TV's, bikes and appliances. A dedicated team are able to provide delivery to local properties and will also collect items of unwanted furniture. The furniture store is also able to perform house clearances.

Bringing Light to the Darkest Places

Many people have family or friends in prison and for one reason or another are not able to get there to visit them.

Arena Community has a team of volunteers who take the time to visit individuals in local pris-



ons. In the first 12 months after their release - our aim is to give them hope whilst they are in prison and help them with not reoffending when they are released.

Bringing New Life to the Area

Flourish is a project run by Arena Community, based at our Community Garden on Heanor Road, Ilkeston. It is designed to bring different communities from the local area together.

Volunteers from all walks of life work together to help maintain the garden and allotment, growing produce which can be used at the foodbank.

Benefits of the scheme include helping to improve confidence, reducing stress and anxiety, promoting healthy eating and exercise, and sharing cookery ideas.

We are able to take schools and children from the Acorns programme to see Flourish, where they can learn about all the things they need to grow their own fruit and veg.

Our volunteers perform many tasks including sowing, planting, digging, watering, weeding, harvesting and painting.

Unlimited Horizons

The Follow Up team specifically deals with members of the community that have a need outside of our existing remit.

Team members meet with clients at the Community Hub and attempt to resolve their problems (or potential problems). Resolving an issue can take anything from 10 minutes to 6 weeks or longer.

A Place to Live

Arena Community began a supported housing programme at the end of 2014 for vulnerable individuals in the community. People often arrived at foodbank who were homeless or who

59% of prisoners re-offend

wanted to change their lives but did not know where to start. The supported housing programme provides both a safe place to live and a support network.

The houses have either 2 or 3 bedrooms, and provide rooms for male and female tenants, but not mixed tenancy. Each tenant is provided with a programme tailored to their needs in order to help them improve their quality of life, develop skills, volunteer and eventually get into work. Our team of support workers spend time every day with tenants providing assistance with applying for benefits, finding courses and attending appointments.

They are also given a budget which allows them to attend hair salons every 6 weeks, or it can help purchase items of clothing etc. Some of our tenants ask that we save it to a certain amount for a more expensive purchase such as a new pair of shoes. This helps our tenants with their confidence and self-worth.

Support workers visit the tenants daily and assist in various activities, or teach basic cooking skills. We also teach these adults how to adapt as many have been vulnerable for most of their life.

There is also an arts and craft group that runs every Monday at Belfield Street that is free for all tenants. They make high-quality greetings cards and other hand-made gifts that are sold at The Project. Other activities include bible studies, gym membership, walks, picnics and days trips.

Hope For Ilkeston

Arena Hope charity shop is situated on the Market Place at the heart of Ilkeston. Established in 2009 it has been serving the town by selling quality new and used items at great prices, in a warm and friendly environment.

Its aim is to provide clean, quality second-hand clothing and goods at reasonable prices.

We stock a huge variety of products from clothing, jewellery, books, bric-a-brac, toys, homewares and much more.

Because we are a charity shop we rely heavily on the generosity of others for our stock, and so are always in need of donations.

There is space behind the shop to drop off items.

Our opening times are Monday to Saturday 9:30 till 4:00.

HOW GOD CHANGED MY LIFE

When I was just a young boy, only a few weeks old, I became very ill. I suffered from multiple problems, including internal bleeding. Doctors and nurses examined me and recommended treatment that involved many injections. It came to the point where they could find no more places to inject needles, and so they started to inject into the soles of my tiny feet. The treatment continued for years but was always reactive and never preventative.

When I was 3 years old, more examinations and biopsies were done in an attempt to find the root cause of my problems, but still, nothing was found.

The bleeding continued on and off for the next few years, and ultimately culminated in a very large bleeding for which I was admitted to the hospital again. The bleeding occurred in my oesophagus and was stopped by scorching and burning the veins shut again.

A new round of examinations began and as I turned 10, and I was "put under" for an examination, which was indeed a strange way to celebrate your birthday. I was lucky, through this round of examinations they did find the root cause - the entrance to my liver was blocked.

A plan was formulated to operate on me in such a way that the blockage would never cause any bleeding again. It took several months to come up with the plan and to schedule it for the month of September that same year. A surgeon in another country was recruited to perform the operation.

The doctors explained to my parents what they had found and what they planned to do as they sat next to my bed in the hospital. It was a really very simple choice; operate, or next time the doctors will be unable to stop the bleeding, and I will most likely die.

At 10 years old, this kind of conversation rocks you to the very core for years to come. It changes you in ways that you can't begin to comprehend at that time.

The morning of the operation came and I was wide awake at around 5 in the morning, crying my eyes out with fear. I was full of panic, scared by what lay ahead of me.

I guess I was praying, although I wouldn't have called it that at the time. I just knew I didn't want to die and that I wasn't finished yet here on earth.

The pills that they give you to make you drowsy before an operation had absolutely zero effect on me. I can only assume that my state of blind panic stopped them from working. A good friend who was also a doctor (and doing an internship at that hospital) came to take me to the operating theatre. I

calmed down when he arrived, and he carried me on his back to the theatre. In a way, he was my saviour, and by the very fact that he was there I knew there was someone I could trust close by.

Now, many years later, I look on all of this with different eyes. I was saved that morning, and my crying out was heard. I am still here to tell the story and to finish what I came to do. I believe God came to help in my hour of greatest need, carrying me when I could not walk alone.

The experience set me apart for the rest of my teenage years, but through it, I also found at least part of my calling. To make a difference, not just for those I know. Every person helps his or her friends, but that makes us no different from the non-believers. What makes a difference is to help those people that you don't know and probably never will.

Professionally, I now work in medical IT. I connect scanners and archives and all sorts of computers to all talk to each other, all with the goal of enabling doctors to provide the best care they can give to their patients. My profession doesn't stand in the spotlight, nobody notices what I do until it doesn't work.

I have been blessed by meeting

my wife and subsequently gifted with 5 lovely children. We lost one child, and I shouted and cursed at God in frustration and despair. And yet, the realisation came that if I feel so hurt by losing one of my children, I can't begin to imagine what God must feel like when His children turn away from Him, or what it has cost Him to sacrifice His son for us. Like my parents grieved with me at the loss of our child, God has grieved with me too.

God never lets go of the work of his hands, and even when we turn away from Him, He will always welcome us back into his arms. He was always there, even when I didn't want Him to be there. He always kept drawing me back to Him, and I'm so grateful for this. I can't imagine my life without Him anymore. He gives strength and support when I falter. When I make a misstep and go in the wrong direction He will tell me and wait patiently for me to come back and admit I made a mistake. He will forgive me and walk with me again in the right direction.

I have no idea what the future holds, but I honestly believe there is room for more.



A FREE EVENT WITH A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE

In our coffee lounge we serve hot and cold drinks and light refreshments. There is also easy access for wheelchairs, prams and mobility scooters



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Arena Church is an AOG Church and a Registered Charity No. 1052643

NEW BABY BRINGS NEW HOPE

Every hour of every day of every year, new babies are born. Some go on to great things, some become millionaires, some become pop stars, and many just become regular people like you and I.

But no matter what a child may go on to become, one thing they all have in common from the moment they are born is hope - a hope for the future, hope to succeed, hope to live a happy life. As babies grow and become toddlers, then children, then teenagers, and finally adults, that hope can diminish. By the time a child has reached teenage years, it can be quite common for all hope to have gone.

But the birth of one baby two thousand years ago should fill everyone with hope.

A long time ago, in a garden far far away, mankind and God were close. They were tight, best friends, good buds. God made everything, and said, "Hey, mankind. All this is for you. Just don't eat this one thing, mmkay?"

That was it, just one rule. But, mankind being mankind...well, mankind broke that rule. That was the beginning of a lasting deterioration of the relationship between mankind and God that continues to this very day.

Just think - if your best friend was the all-powerful supreme deity, you'd probably be quite happy and full of hope for your future. But if your relationship with Him wasn't as good as it could be, that hope would be drastically affected.

But back to the baby. Thousands of years passed, and in a little village somewhere in the Middle East, a young man and woman are set to be married. They are both quite respectable; she's a virgin, and is considered pure; he's a hard-working carpenter with his own business. To cut a long story short, she meets an angel, the angel tells her she's going to have a baby, God is that baby's daddy, and that baby is going to be the saviour of all mankind.

"That's nice," she might have thought. "Mankind will be saved. Wait, what? I'm having a baby? I'm not even married!"

So along she goes and tells her husband-to-be, "Hey...guess what...um...I'm having a baby!"

You can probably imagine he wasn't best impressed. Probably less so when she told him it was an angel's fault, and God was the dad. Well, somehow she made it OK, and they got ready to carry on with their lives...until another problem reared up against them.

The government decided they wanted to make sure everyone was paying

taxes (some things never change) and so asked that everyone register in their home town. No worries there, you might think. But this is before the days of mobile phones, before the days of computers. It's even before the days of fax machines. Much further back. Before the days of motor cars...in fact, before the days of motors. They didn't even have a decent postal system, to be fair, but they would have been looking at improving their road network (at least, if the Italians had anything to do with it).

The problem was that the fella (let's call him Joseph) wasn't living in his hometown - he was quite a substantial distance away. He checked the local

reservations and there's no room at the Premier Inn. He finally secures a room at a Travelodge, but has to break it to Mary that it's not the five-star suite she was looking for. And room service is a bit dodgy too.

"A stable? Are you having a laugh?"

There's no other option, so Mary makes the best of it and lies down for a kip, while Joseph sits and has a couple of games of Candy Crush on his iPhone. When the battery dies, Joseph tries to get some sleep, but there's a hole in the roof and this massive star is shining through and making it impossible for him to get some shut-eye.

telling everyone the good news about how God loves them, and if they'd only follow Him they could all have eternal life. The problem is, says the lad (Jesus, that's his name), y'all have this big wedge between you and God. That wedge is called sin. But God loves you. Y'all need to do something about it...just be sorry. Apologise. Don't do it again. And be nice to each other.

And some people did just that. Knowing that God loved them gave them hope, and so they followed Jesus. They went on to tell other people what Jesus said, and the good news spread.

Unfortunately, some folk didn't take too kindly to what Jesus was saying. There's always someone, isn't there? Long story short, Jesus ended up on trial in front of a local governor. He couldn't find anything wrong with what Jesus was saying (I mean, he said be nice to everyone - not exactly incendiary, is it?) but he did have an angry mob at his front door demanding that Jesus be put to death. Nobody ever said this guy was a strong leader, so he gave in to the mob, and sent Jesus off to be crucified. Jesus died, the weather went a bit weird, the dead rose from their graves, and the curtain in the temple ripped in two.

Not exactly an inspiring story of hope, is it?

But wait, there's more.

Jesus was dead...but then he wasn't. Three days later, he's up and jumping around like a lamb in spring. He's got holes in his hands, and hole in his side, and his feet don't look great, but he's there, alive and well. Some of his mates can't believe it - they want to prod the holes just to make sure, which you've got to admit is a bit weird. But it's Him, and because of God, he's got eternal life... now that's got to give us something to hope for.

Turns out, Jesus died on that cross as an offering for the sins of all the people in the world, forever. Not just those that were alive at the time, but those still to come as well - including you and me. Jesus conquered death, and a little while later went off up to heaven to be with God.

What an amazing man. What an amazing story. What an amazing truth that your sins are forgiven because Jesus died for you. What an amazing amount of hope has been given to the world because that one little baby was born.

Christmas....the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the World. He is the hope we have been looking for.



train and bus services, and discovered they were a bit lacking. Well, very lacking, as neither the bus nor the train had been invented yet. So he grabbed the next best thing - a donkey. Yeah, that's right...a turbo-charged twin-injection super-cooled 16-valve donkey. And put his lady (who we can call Mary) on the donkey (I think we'll call him Dominick) and set off on the arduous journey to his place of birth.

You can imagine Mary wasn't one hundred percent behind this plan. She was looking for a Mercedes dual-hump camel, and all she got was a Toyota Donkey. The great thing about Toyotas is that they just keep going, so it was ideal for the trip, but she would most likely have preferred something a bit more flashy.

Anyway, they roll (trot) out, and struggle over mountains, deserts, generally inhospitable terrain, which would be inconvenient at the best of times, doubly so when you're eight-and-a-half months pregnant. When they finally get to the town, Mary's all like, "Joe, mate, I feel like I'm about to burst and I'm totally worn out. Find us a Premier Inn or there's gonna be trouble."

Joseph does his best, but hasn't made

More to the point, Mary's woken up and has decided that now is as good a time as any to give birth. So with a full audience of farm animals, the saviour of the world is born, wrapped up, and placed in a manger. Joseph made sure the animals didn't try and eat him, and Mary regretted her decision to give birth in a stable as she knew that if ever her son left the door open, she could ask him "were you born in a barn?" and he could legitimately answer, "YES!"

All of a sudden, there's a knock on the door. Which was open.

"Hello? It's just me, a shepherd..."
"Go away, we don't need any more sheep in here..."
"I've come to see the saviour..."

A procession of shepherds and wise guys wander through the stable and pay tribute to the newborn child. Joseph wonders how they all found him. Turns out angels were involved again, and that the bright star wasn't just an annoyance, it was a celestial signpost.

Anyway, the baby grows up, avoids death at the hands of an evil ruler, and starts wandering about the countryside