



ARENACHURCH

# GOODNEWS

EASTER EDITION

# Hope is *here*



**MANSFIELD**



**ILKESTON**



**INSIDE:  
STORMZY**

**SERVE DAY**

**UNIVERSAL**

**Being a Pastor's  
Wife**

**Seniors Events**

**A Day In The Life of  
a Charity Shop**

**Coupons to use  
at The Project and  
Arena Hope shop**

**And much much  
more!**



***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 repurpose 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**

*PRODUCED BY:*

Kristian Thorpe, Adam G Newton, Jonty Bayliss, Christine Austin, Ann Simpson, Helen Turner, Nathan Butcher, Jono Kirk, Tracy Newton, Louise Richardson, Hannah Albis, Joanna Dale, with contributions from many others.

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You can find us or write to us at:  
1 RUTLAND STREET, ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE, DE7 8DG

Or contact us by email at:  
ADMIN@ARENACHURCH.CO.UK

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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.

# HOPE IS HERE



**Welcome to Arena Church and our Easter themed newspaper publication.**

Hope is Here!

Jesus said " I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." - The Bible, New Testament, John chapter 10 verse 10

Hope is Here..... Is it??

I get around a fair bit, meeting with all kinds of people, from addicts to business owners, from young and old, rich and poor. As I look around and listen and speak with people I see

so many devoid of Hope. They can be wearing an Armani suit or threadbare clothing, they can be driving a fancy car or taking a bus. They can be young or old, married or single, black or white, male or female - It doesn't matter, they still lack hope!

The definition of hope is: a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen.

I wonder, are you full of expectation for the future? Is your future outlook bright? Are you full of life living with energy and verve day by day? I have not come across too many who have found the answer to living life to the full. We have so many options, available pleasures, and choices and yet none seem to create lasting hope and joy that we crave and hope for!

So why are so many hopeless? Well, life is difficult. So many have been battered and bruised by their past failures and mistakes and negative feelings and experiences. I am aware as I write this there are many who are not religious, and you don't know what you believe - if anything at all. But allow me this indulgence just for a moment. The reason why Arena Church is here and why we do so much work

in the community is because we have found hope, and we have a message of Hope and we want to share freely with others. We literally have multiple hundreds of people who come and gather on Sundays, from all different backgrounds, who are all ages, who have found a hope in Jesus. Perfect we are not - but hope-filled we are!

So many people you will read about in this Easter edition newspaper were lost, hurting, confused and broken. Every person's story different and personal but the thread that joins them all together is God's redeeming love! We have a conviction at Arena Church: everybody is somebody at Arena and that everything and everyone deserves a second chance!

As you read this you may feel hopeless, but I can tell you that there is hope, a way forward. Easter is all about HOPE. God the Father allowed his son Jesus to come to the world and make a way for mankind from every generation to find forgiveness in Jesus that releases them from their guilt and shame. Jesus came with love and this love when accepted produces hope in every human heart.

We would be delighted to see you at one of our Easter services and if we can serve you in any way then please let us know. I pray that you would experience Hope in your heart because Hope is Found Here



Kristian Thorpe  
Lead Pastor Arena Church

## DID YOU KNOW?

Decorating and colouring hen, duck or goose eggs for Easter was the custom in England during the Middle Ages. The household accounts of Edward I, for the year 1290, recorded an expenditure of eighteen pennies for four hundred and fifty eggs to be gold-leafed and coloured for Easter gifts.



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

# WE ARE UNIVERSAL

Have you ever been made to feel really embarrassed by something you have said or done? I can remember several occasions where I have experienced this, especially as a young person. There's the time I thought it would be good to write a poem for someone I fancied, she ended up not liking it... Then there's also the time where me and a friend thought it would be funny to turn all the furniture upside down in the sixth form centre, I got into a lot of trouble over this! However, the situation that sticks in my mind the most is when I called one of my teachers 'Mum'! I did not live that down for a very long time.

When situations like this happen in our lives, we can feel less and less accepted by everyone else. We become scared by

what other people might think and different groups of people start to emerge. You get groups of sporty people, 'smart' people, those who like rock music and so on. We start to feel safe in those groups and that we actually don't belong anywhere else. All of this reminds me of Lady Gaga's song 'Born This Way', she is definitely someone who knows how to be different but she's not ashamed about it. Her song talks about it being okay to be different to other people and how she actually sees it as a good thing.

We run a youth ministry every Friday night called Universal and what I love about it is what it stands for. It is called Universal because everyone is accepted

and welcome to come. It's like those films that have a certificate rating of 'U' which means anyone can watch it. We don't only allow the 'cool' people or the 'smart' people, Universal is literally for every young person aged 11-17. In a world where everyone is put into groups and made to feel unaccepted, we like to say that hope is here because everyone is welcome!

If you're free any Friday night then please head down at 6.30pm. We have free food, games and competitions, great discussions and plenty of fun! We have some great people who attend already, two of them have told us what they think of Universal.

"I go because it's fun and you learn things you wouldn't in school, also you can make new friends"

"When I go to universal it feels like I'm with a second family. Every Friday I go confidently as for I know they are welcoming and kind to anyone from any background. Also I find you can be part of any discussion and your views are valued. When I go to universal I know I can be myself and have fun with everyone there."

- Nathan Butcher, Universal Mansfield

When I was a kid, all I wanted to do was fit in. I thought life was about following the trends, keeping up with the coolest kids in school, and making sure I was never labelled 'weird'. My word, how many after-school detentions I got for copying those around me! But the worst thing was carrying the dreaded detention letter home with me to my parents... I'd think of every excuse possible! Have you been there?

When I left school, this mindset stayed the same, but just looked different. I'd make sure I'd be the drunkest at a party, out the latest clubbing, driving the best car, wearing the best clothes. It was a never-ending hopeless circle. Life was about keeping up, impressing and fitting in.

You could say I was living without any hope. I'd spend so much time 'fitting in', that I didn't belong anywhere!

This all changed when I was invited to Universal - a Christian youth group for 11 to 17-year-olds that ran on a Friday night. I didn't get what happened there and I didn't understand why these people gave up their Friday nights to put on a youth group. I was scared of trying to fit in, in an environment where people clearly 'belonged'.

Belonging is so much more important than fitting in.

The more I went, I started to forget about fitting in, I started to forget about my insecurities, and I got why these people gave up their Friday nights - hope! These people lived with a purpose that was fuelled by their love for God. They lived with a hope that they just wanted to share. They had been changed, and when something changes your life, all you want to do is share it, right?

Because of this, my life was

changed from the inside out and I've not been the same since. And you know what - I now get to be a part of change in other people's lives too. I now get to see people who are in the same position I was in six years ago, trying to fit in, living without hope, drowned by the opinions of other people. Chad is one of those people. He attends Universal every week without

fail. He is a natural born leader in his early teens! I'll let him tell you in his own words:

"I have been going to Universal for just over a year now and all I can say is that it's great. The atmosphere is amazing and the way everyone is treated is 10 out of 10. New people are welcomed very well and, best of all, it's free! Universal is growing and growing! My friends show up nearly an hour before it starts because they are so keen to get in. Most importantly, I have found and grown my relationship with God enormously. I don't know where

me, and so many of my friends, would be without Universal".

**Guys - Hope is here!**

Universal runs every Friday night between 7:30 - 9pm. More information can be found on our website ([www.arenachurch.co.uk](http://www.arenachurch.co.uk)) and social media (search for Universal Youth Ilkeston or Universal Youth Mansfield). If you're wanting to know more about Universal, please email [jono.kirk@arenachurch.co.uk](mailto:jono.kirk@arenachurch.co.uk)

- Jono Kirk, Universal Ilkeston



**The atmosphere is amazing and the way everyone is treated is 10 out of 10. New people are welcomed very well and, best of all, it's free! Universal is growing and growing!**

# STORMZY

## REACHING THE PLACES OTHERS CAN'T

One of the key principles of Arena Church is to "Go and grow, and love and serve the world" - but how can you serve the world when you can't reach everyone in it?

In the UK, it's quite easy for any church to reach white middle-class 2.4-children-and-a-dog families. In fact, the congregation of many churches is made up of just that, so attracting more of the same is relatively easy.

The congregation of Arena is much more diverse than that, as people of all races and nationalities attend every week. However, it is always good to see things from different areas making an impact.

Towards the end of 2017, grime music artist Stormzy was in the charts with the song "Blinded by Your Grace" from his album Gang Signs and Prayer. Whilst featuring Christian themes in the music, some have dismissed it (and even criticised it) for the lyrical content of certain tracks - Stormzy is no stranger to words that may offend.

But as we see throughout the Bible, it's all about what you do and where you get to. None of the disciples were instructed to sit at home and be quiet - they were told to go out and proclaim the Good News. Did they go to their Christian friends and do this? No, not really. They went to places that needed to hear the Good News. To paraphrase Jesus, why would a healthy person need a doctor?

Did Jesus hang around with the people who followed Him? Yes...but not exclusively. He hung around with thieves, drunks, prostitutes...even tax collectors. He spent time with those who didn't know Him, those who didn't understand what He was all about, and He showed them the way to be.

So do most white middle-class 2.4-children-and-a-dog families hang around with grime fans? Probably not. Grime fans don't tend to fit that mould. Grime fans, at the risk of stereotyping and generalising, are not often regular church attendees. Stormzy speaks to them in a way they understand and relate

to, and if one person is brought to church because of Stormzy, then it has been a worthwhile undertaking for him. So Stormzy isn't perfect - but who is? He's made a public declaration of his



faith by producing these songs, and is reaching the people most churches can't hope to.

But it doesn't end with Stormzy - Snoop Dogg, who has never really been considered a role model, has announced that his next album will be made up of gospel songs!

And it's not just the music industry. The sport and entertainment industry is showing signs of a Christian revival. Superbowl-winning team the Philadelphia Eagles gave thanks and prayed in the middle of the field after their victory in early February. Wrestling World Champion AJ Styles says that it is "God first and family second", and boxer Tyson Fury makes constant references to his faith on his Twitter feed. Lewis Hamilton and Usain Bolt have both stated in interviews that they are Christians, as have many others, including gymnast Gabby Douglas, quarterbacks Russell Wilson and Tim Tebow, and boxer Manny Pacquiao.

With all these people professing their faith, the message of Good News can only spread further and further.

Photo: POPCENTRAL TV



## CONFERRING

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. In Ilkeston, 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.

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.

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.

Here are what some of them have said:

*"The conferencing over the three days was at a very high standard and I felt we were looked after very well. I had many comments about the food and how well it was done. When running an event it is always a high priority of mine that people feel well cared for and are looked after well. This was certainly the case. Helen and myself were confident that everything was done well by your team and alleviated any pressure from us. Please pass on my thanks to all the team."*

*"The event was very well attended, was a great success, with great feedback."*

*"Your team were fabulous, and Alex attended to my every need. This was very much appreciated. The food was fabulous too. If next time, the gluten free could be plated and covered separately as a meal, that would be great, this would just prevent contamination. Thank you again for another successful event."*

*"I just wanted to say thank you for last week, everything was as requested, as always."*

If you would like any more information about our services, please take a look at our website at [www.arenaenterprises.co.uk](http://www.arenaenterprises.co.uk), give us a call on 0115 944 2996 or email us at [admin@arenaenterprises.co.uk](mailto:admin@arenaenterprises.co.uk)

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CHARITY SHOP

Arena Hope can be found on Ilkeston marketplace. You may have walked past and seen many of the items we have for sale, but have you ever wondered what happens day-to-day at a charity shop?

Our day starts before the shop opens at 9.30am as we ensure that our shelves are fully stocked, ready for the day ahead. We have a team of volunteers working upstairs out of sight, preparing the stock for sale on the shop floor. This will include clothing, small electrical items, books, games and bric-a-brac. All the clothes have to be sorted, steam cleaned and ironed before going on display, whilst the electrical items need to be PAT tested to ensure they are safe. Everything is checked to see that it is at its best before it goes out for sale.

We also sell larger items of furniture, including settees, tables and chairs, as well as white goods and we are able to offer a delivery service for a small charge.

We have two permanent staff, Susan Deverill, the manager, and Scott Hind, who both work three days each. They are supported by a team of volunteers who either work on the shop floor serving customers and stocking the shelves, or alternatively upstairs preparing the clothing and sorting out donations.

We have a very varied customer base that spans all

walks of life and all ages.

They come in for many different reasons, either to browse around the racks of clothing, or to look at the bric-a-brac for bargains. Some people just come in for a chat and others come in who may need help or pointing in the right direction. We also have people who come in to donate clothing, books, food or money,

There was a young lad that came in just before Christmas 2016, who had fallen out with his family and was sleeping rough in Ilkeston town centre. He came in to the shop dressed in just a pair of dirty jeans and shirt, asking for a sleeping bag or blanket and a cup. After speaking to him for some time, we were able to provide him with new clothes and a winter coat, then we sent him down to our Community Hub on Belfield Street for a Christmas dinner. A couple of weeks later he returned to the shop and thanked us for helping him. He had managed to sort out a new home, and was grateful for our assistance.

Every day is different, sometimes challenging and sometimes rewarding. Please pop in and have a browse. Our opening hours 9.30am - 4pm Mondays - Saturdays

If you are interested in volunteering, then please give Susan a ring on 0115 9323653. We'd love to hear from you.

**This coupon entitles you to 10% off goods purchased at**

**Arena Hope**

Excludes any reduced or sales items.

Valid until 31st May 2018

Photocopies of this coupon will not be accepted.



# Hope is here

## EASTER EVENTS

at Arena Church Ilkeston & Mansfield

We would love to welcome you to our Easter events

Friday 30th March at 7pm

**Good Friday**

Service with food after



Sunday 1st April

**Easter Sunday**

Hope is Here



**Everyone Welcome**

**ARENA CHURCH ILKESTON**

1 RUTLAND STREET, ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE, DE7 8DG

**ARENA CHURCH MANSFIELD**

66 LEEMING STREET, MANSFIELD, NG18 1NG



# BEING A PASTOR'S WIFE

For just over a year now, Stephen Robbins has been the Campus Pastor at Arena Church, Mansfield. Moving down from Scotland, Stephen brought with him his three young children, Lucas, Max and Bella and standing by his side, his wife, Aline.

Globetrotting the world together, from Rio to Florida to Scotland (with many points in-between), working and serving in the church along the way, Stephen and Aline have now made Mansfield their home.

We sat down with Aline to gain an inside track on what it is like raising a young family, being involved in church and adjusting to life in Mansfield.

**Q. What was it like making the move to Mansfield?**

I wasn't really fazed by it. I have moved a lot my whole life, this was no different. Everyone around us thought we were mad to do it. I was eight months pregnant and we were close to family in Scotland. However, we knew that it was right for us to be in Mansfield and we were very comforted by that.

**Q. Did you find many cultural differences?**

Growing up and spending a lot of time between Brazil, Boston and Florida I found that when first moving to the UK the climate was hugely different. I had experienced cold weather before when we were in Boston but the weather in Scotland was drastically different to Florida and Rio.

I also found that people are culturally different in the way they welcome you. Growing up in a Brazilian family we were very affectionate towards each other. I have found this is mirrored in different ways as I have moved around the world. In the UK it is different but people are still very warm

towards us.

**Q. Give us a window into what it is like being a Pastor's wife?**

I used to think that there was an expectation of what you should be like. I found I put pressure on myself to be and act a certain way and have perfect children. I soon found that I just had to be myself.

In Mansfield and Ilkeston, I find that people are really getting to know who I am and I hope they are OK with it.

**Q. Was marrying a Pastor always in your plans?**

When I was in Florida, I attended Bible college, and I was told that I would marry a Pastor and we would end up going to many nations.

I met Stephen, and it didn't take long for us to be married. We began our lives together working at the church.

We moved from Florida to Brazil, then onto Scotland and now Mansfield.

**Q. Having a young family,**

**what is home life like for you and Stephen?**

We are a team, Stephen helps with everything. As soon as he walks through the door the kids attach themselves to him and jump on him and he is continually present throughout the evening schedule.

(Shortly before we had sat down, Bella, their youngest, was holding onto Stephen's leg as he walked around the house)

**Q. We don't get to see Stephen behind closed doors, does he have any quirky habits?**

Stephen concentrates on things and is so focused, this can sometimes lead to situations where he really does make me laugh.

I will go to open the cupboard and the milk is in there, rather than being in the fridge. Because he has been so focused on something else, he's put it in the wrong place. It is so confusing but I think we all have times where we do those kind of things.

**Q. We are used to hearing Stephen use stories from his life on a Sunday morning, does he ever have to check out the stories he uses with you first?**

Not really as he knows which stories are good to use, some can be embarrassing but they are always fun and very creative.

I did love the one he shared a few weeks ago, where he told me he wouldn't be buying me flowers when we first started dating as he didn't want to start something that he couldn't keep up. He is now getting better with buying me flowers.

**Q. Finally, how do you see your role within the church?**

Being a busy mum has changed how much I am able to do. I love being an example to my children, I love that they can see both Mummy and Daddy being involved in church.

I love to serve where I can and where there is a need. With growth there will be more need and where there is need I will help. It is what we are called to do.



# THE PROJECT



**The Project is located on Bath Street, Ilkeston in the old Woolworths building. We opened in January 2017 and have gone from strength to strength since then.**

However, our journey started in late 2014 when Arena Community took on the lease of the building. After receiving funding, we managed to refurbish the ground floor and start trading.

Our retail area sells restored and shabby chic furniture, as well as 'pre-loved' clothing, soft furnishings, candles and toiletries.

The Workshop Cafe, located on the ground floor near the retail area, serves delicious meals, snacks and drinks at affordable prices. It is a spacious area, with seating for up to 40 people and room for disability scooters, wheelchairs and pushchairs, and offers a full menu for children.

On the first floor is a small workshop where we have a team of volunteers and an apprentice working on the refurbishment and painting of furniture. We are endeavouring to get funding to

refurbish the whole of the first floor which we plan to convert into a large workshop, storage area, and classrooms. From here we will be able to train, educate and employ local people which will facilitate the furniture restoration programme and brings academic training in renovating, restoring and reinventing furniture that will be sold in the store.

Our aim at The Project is to connect and serve our community with a view to creating strong bonds whilst giving training and employment opportunities. We believe that 'everybody is somebody at The Project'.

Our trading hours are Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm; the Workshop Cafe is open 9am to 4pm. For more information, please visit our website at [www.theprojectilkeston.co.uk](http://www.theprojectilkeston.co.uk).

Telephone 0115 9441462, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

The Project accepts donations of good quality clothing, and we offer a delivery and collection service for furniture.



## THE Workshop CAFÉ

Hot Food	SERVED FROM 9AM TO 3PM	Hot Food	SERVED FROM 11.30AM TO 3PM
<b>COOKED BREAKFAST</b> <small>Served with two sausages, two rashers of bacon, poached egg, beans or tomatoes and one slice of toast.</small>	<b>£4.00</b>	<b>PIE</b> <small>Served with chips, mushy peas and gravy.</small>	<b>£4.95</b>
<b>SAUSAGE OR BACON COB</b> <small>Served with two sausages or two rashers of bacon.</small>	<b>£1.95</b>	<b>QUICHE</b> <small>Served with salad and roll.</small>	<b>£4.95</b>
<b>TOASTED SANDWICH</b> <small>Served with set to two fillings: ham, cheese, tuna, tomato, onion.</small>	<b>£2.60</b>	<b>JACKET POTATO</b> <small>Served with butter.</small>	<b>£2.30</b>
<b>TOAST</b> <small>Two slices served with butter.</small>	<b>£1.25</b>	<b>EXTRA FILLINGS</b> <small>Tuna, beans, cheese, cottage cheese, coltslaw.</small>	<b>£0.50 EACH</b>
<b>TOASTED TEACAKE</b> <small>Served with butter.</small>	<b>£1.25</b>	<b>PIZZA SLICE</b> <small>Choose from either margarita or pepperoni.</small>	<b>£1.25</b>
<b>Cold Food</b>	<b>SERVED FROM 9AM TO 4PM</b>	<b>CHIP COB</b>	<b>£2.00</b>
<b>SALAD</b> <small>Served with a roll. Choose from a variety of toppings: tuna, ham, cheese or chicken.</small>	<b>£3.50</b>	<b>SOUP AND BAGUETTE OR ROLL</b> <small>Box of soup served with a baguette or roll. Choose from tomato, chicken, vegetable or leek and potato.</small>	<b>£2.65</b>
<b>BAGUETTE</b> <small>Served with a salad garnish. Choose from a variety of fillings: tuna, ham, cheese or chicken.</small>	<b>£2.30</b>	<b>Sides</b>	
<b>SANDWICHES</b> <small>Served with salad garnish. Choose from a variety of fillings: tuna, ham, cheese or chicken.</small>	<b>£1.95</b>	<b>CHIPS</b>	<b>£1.50</b>
<b>COBS</b> <small>Served with salad garnish. Choose from a variety of fillings: tuna, ham, cheese or chicken.</small>	<b>£1.95</b>	<b>SIDE SALAD</b>	<b>£1.50</b>
<b>Drinks</b>		<b>PORTION OF JAM OR MARMALADE</b>	<b>£0.20</b>
<b>FILTER COFFEE</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>Sweet Treats</b>	
<b>AMERICANO</b>	<b>£1.70</b>	<b>ASSORTED CAKES</b>	<b>FROM £1.75</b>
<b>LATTE</b>	<b>£1.95</b>	<b>INCLUDING GLUTEN FREE OPTION</b>	
<b>WITH SYRUP</b>	<b>£2.30</b>	<b>SCONES CHEESE OR FRUIT</b>	
<b>CAPPUCCINO</b>	<b>£1.95</b>	<b>WITH BUTTER</b>	<b>£1.20</b>
<b>FLAT WHITE</b>	<b>£1.95</b>	<b>WITH JAM &amp; CREAM</b>	<b>£1.75</b>
<b>MOCHA</b>	<b>£2.40</b>		
<b>HOT CHOCOLATE</b>	<b>£1.95</b>		
<b>WITH MARSHMALLOWS &amp; CREAM</b>	<b>£2.20</b>		
<b>TEA</b>	<b>£1.40</b>		
<b>SPECIALITY TEA</b>	<b>£1.50</b>		
<b>SHMOO MILKSHAKE</b>	<b>£2.00</b>		
<b>WITH SYRUP</b>	<b>£2.40</b>		
<b>MILK</b>	<b>£0.75</b>		
		<b>COLD DRINKS AVAILABLE FROM DRINKS CABINET</b>	



### This coupon entitles you to 10% off goods purchased at The Project

Excludes any reduced or sales items, concessions or concessionary items, and food and drink from The Workshop Cafe.

Valid until 31st May 2018

Photocopies of this coupon will not be accepted.

### Special offer 1

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## CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

Let's play a game. Imagine a church. Picture it clearly in your mind. What does it look like from the outside? What is it made from? Is it brick, or stone, or something else? And what about inside? What does that look like? Is it warm or cold? What are the seats like? What are the people like? Does the place have a smell? How does it make you



feel?

Many people will imagine the same kind of thing when asked to imagine a church. Their minds tend to go to what you would consider a "traditional" church, usually with a spire, rows of pews, hymn books, vicars, and so on. Some will go straight to The Vicar of Dibley in their minds.

Typically, the older you are, the more likely you are to appreciate this kind of church. Unfortunately, this has led to the stagnation and decline of many churches around the country, as younger people do not feel comfortable in traditional church services.

There is no wrong way to run a church service, as each denomination will have their own way of doing things. But the key to building a thriving church is to realise that although tradition is important, we live in the modern world, and should aim to keep up with the times.

What does this mean for the iPhone generation? It means reaching them in the places that they are, and not expecting them to turn up just because it seemed like a good idea.

A modern church must make itself known in the digital world. Twitter, Facebook and Instagram are all platforms that allow a church to send out a message as often as they like, even for things as simple as an invitation to visit on a Sunday. Youtube and Vimeo provide facilities for sharing videos to encourage people to take part, or just to show what happens in a church. Some churches even live-stream their services. And podcasts are a must for any modern church - not only

do they give a sample of what to expect before any new visitor arrives, they also allow those who have missed a service to catch up whenever they want to. Regular podcasts soon build into a library of shared wisdom that would have been virtually impossible even just thirty years ago.

With the changing times, there must also be a change in attitude. Years ago, children grew up and "must be seen and not heard", an attitude that spilled over into church life. For a small child that is full of energy and fun, how difficult must it be to sit still in silence? There will be a time when they are ready to listen to an adult preach, but there is an earlier time when they just want to run, shout, and play. Modern churches must be accepting of children, because if there are no children there now, there will be no adults in the future. This acceptance can be expressed by having Sunday School, or Kids Church, or just a toddlers play area. The best way to alienate an entire family is to turn and scowl when new parents have made the effort to get ready and arrive on time...and their baby cries.

There must be a welcoming feeling for everyone, from greeters by the door, to the songs that are sung. Will that teenager who loves pop music find a 400-year-old hymn thrilling? In

some cases, yes - but in most cases, no. We are called to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord", not to sound like we've been in misery since 1742.

This is not to say that there is no value in traditions. Traditions are what make the church what it is - in fact, one of the most popular services in the last year at Arena was our Christmas Carols by Candlelight service. But holding on to traditions for the sake of it is not the right way to do things. Would you prefer to visit a church that was closed off to the digital world, didn't welcome children, and sang 20 minutes of slow solemn music, or somewhere that you could find out all about online, welcomed everyone with open arms, and had a lively and positive time of worship?

If you think the latter is more like what you want to see, come and visit us any Sunday. You'll find our podcasts online at arenachurch.co.uk so you can hear a few messages before you arrive, we're on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and we have a full programme for kids. Our church buildings are at 1 Rutland Street in Ilkeston, and 66 Leeming Street in Mansfield. We'd love to see you any week at 10:30am on a Sunday!

## I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU

***Nothing seems certain for a teenager. Your life is in constant turmoil, with hormones changing your body and your moods, and you're never quite sure where you are heading.***

Whether you are male or female, it's a hard time. But what do you do when times are so hard that you don't know where to turn for help?

As a Christian, I would look to the Bible for guidance. One of my favourite verses is found in the book of Jeremiah, chapter 29 verse 11-13: "For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a HOPE and a future".

I had a drawing of this verse on my wall throughout my teenage years and my eyes would often wander to it, pondering what it really meant. As I aged in both

years and maturity I realised that I would come back to this verse and re-read it, and it would give me hope. In times of uncertainty, I tried to understand what God wanted me to do in this life. This verse gave me a sense of peace, even in the most difficult of times. The great thing about the Bible is that it is timeless, and hundreds of years ago a page was penned with these words to forever help people through their confusion and questions.

This verse declares that life is not random, God knows exactly what he is doing (even when we don't) and that his plans for us are good. I love knowing that wherever a person is in their life, they can look to this verse and find purpose in it. The things we go through are never wasted.

I think as women we can sometimes question our identi-

ty, and even place it onto others to tell us who we are. The world pushes and pulls us into a crisis of identity and before we know it we are lost and our minds overtaken with thoughts of a bad self-image and low confidence, not believing we can really do much.

I understand now that God has shaped my life and given me experiences and knowledge to help other women in their lives. I am in a position to empower women with the belief that they could do more than they could ever imagine and to draw strength from each other. To know that their self-worth comes from God and not from what has been said over them or what has been done to them. That they are made right in His sight because of grace and nothing can separate them from His love.

With the right guidance, we can start to transform our thinking and do more than we ever thought possible. I really like reading about the woman described in Proverbs 31. It says "she is clothed with strength and dignity, and laughs without fear of the future" (verses 25-26). This woman knew God had her future covered and lived life to the fullest on a daily basis. This woman had HOPE.

*In a world full of bad news stories and people doing terrible things, to be able to 'laugh without fear of the future' would be a relief for most of us. With God we can! Whatever comes our way, God already knows about it and is ready to walk with us towards a blessed future.*



## KIDS CHURCH



**At Arena Church we put great value on children because they are the next generation. They could be doctors, teachers, preachers or even the next prime minister. We want them to know there is a bigger purpose to their life, and that they can achieve anything.**

"Arena Kids" runs every Sunday during the service for children aged 1 to 11 years old. We teach children about the bible and practical things like being a leader, loving one another and give them hope that there is more to life than they currently know. They can learn about life and Jesus in a fun environment.

We watch fun videos, play games and do activities. Also on the first Sunday of each month we have a longer session where we get the bouncy castle and lots of toys out for the kids as we like to encourage the children to make friends. On average we have about 30 children attend each Sunday.

It's amazing to see these little eyes looking up at you that are so eager to

learn and grow. I have had the privilege to see kids grow into adults and step into their destiny. I think sometimes we forget about the potential of our kids and young people, and we forget our roles in it all of bringing out the best in them, encouraging them to be and do more. At Arena, we do all we can to ensure that our young people are empowered to live big lives, lives that make a difference, lives that can impact our society.

Evah, who is 6 years old, says, "Arena Kids is so much fun, I count down the days to be there. I have invited all my friends at school and tell them it's the best fun place to be."

Marie Bruce's son attends Arena Kids. She says, "This is a great foundation for kids and a massive help to them at an early age, getting them to know Jesus personally. This is something I never had as a kid, Sunday school was boring!"

If your children would like to come along, we'd love to welcome them!

## SENIORS

**As people get older, they are faced with many challenges. While you may think of things like mobility and a lack of the energy of youth, there are other things too - especially dealing with the consequences of loneliness.**

Arena Church is committed to loving and serving the community, and so we regularly run Senior's events in order to get people together and have a little fun.

The Senior's events began with a Christmas party in December 2015 with an attendance of 70. Since then, we have hosted 3 to 4 events a year including our Easter Eggstravaganza, Queen's Birthday Street Party, Harvest Lunch and Christmas Party with an increase in attendance to around 120 people.

The events are hosted by a

Hokey Kokey  
Salsa dancing  
A performance by Hand Bell Ringers  
Bingo  
Pass the parcel with a twist  
Easter Bonnet Parade  
Sing-a-longs from down memory lane  
Carol singing

Having talked to our guests it is evident that a large number of older people in our community have very little interaction with others throughout the week. They are very thankful for the opportunity to be able to come and enjoy the company of others whilst engaging in fun activities, hosted by a great team from Arena.

This is, of course, not an exclusive club for those who attend Arena Church. Some of the



committed and enthusiastic team of volunteers who are passionate about creating a relaxed, welcoming environment where all senior citizens are welcome to join us for food, fun and a chat. The tables are decorated beautifully and we always give a small gift as our guests leave. The team pay great attention to detail as our aim is to make everyone feel special and to show them we are so glad they came. We enjoy quizzes, games, activities, sing-a-longs and dance/exercise.

Previous events have included things like

Line dancing  
Fred and Ginger  
Exercises (standing and chair based)

seniors do attend Arena, some attend other churches, and some do not attend church at all. Everyone is welcome to come along and join the fun.

We are looking forward to hosting our events in 2018 which will include the Easter celebration, Summer Party, MacMillan Coffee Morning/Lunch and Christmas Party. Look out for further details at [www.arena-church.co.uk](http://www.arena-church.co.uk) or let us have your contact details so we can add you to our mailing list to receive your personal invitation to our events. Tickets for the lunches are available 2 weeks in advance from Arena Church, The Project or The Hope Charity Shop. Please note that admission to the MacMillan Coffee Morning is not by ticket as this is open to everyone.

# SERVE DAY!



**2017 saw Arena Church launch its first ever Serve Day programme. Serve Day is a multinational event aimed at mobilising the church into social action, making a difference in the communities personal to them.**

Historically Arena Church had held a variety of events throughout each year that encouraged the members of the church to get involved and to reach out to the local community, but in 2017 the small towns of Ilkeston and Mansfield partnered with hundreds of other churches world wide in a united effort to make a difference. Groups put on indoor events, market stalls, family fundays, seniors events, gardening projects, face painting stalls, giveaways, and lots more besides. An army of volunteers, all in red t-shirts, assembled with one purpose - to love and serve!

This year, Serve Day will be on Saturday July 14th and once again 100s of people across the life of the church will pull on their red t-shirt and spend the day reaching the community in a very practical way.

There will be more details on our website [www.arenachurch.co.uk](http://www.arenachurch.co.uk)

and on social media closer to the day itself, so make sure you check it out to find out what's on.

If you are part of the church and didn't get involved last year then can I encourage you to do so this year? Get it in your diary now and start to get together with your small group or others to decide what you can do to serve. Perhaps there is neighbours garden you could tidy, or a project you would like to take on. Do you have a particular skill set but don't know where you could use it on the serve day? Just register your interest at the resource hub located in coffee bar area of Arena Ilkeston and someone from the Serve Day team will contact you to discuss this further.

What ever you can or can't do, determine this year that you are going to get involved in some way. If you can only give an hour then do it; if you can bake - then do it; no gift is too small.

However you decide you would like to get involved I can guarantee this is a day you will not forget, and neither will the community. #serveday2018 #makeitmatter

# FOODBANK: NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

It doesn't seem that long ago when the days were cold and dark and the foodbank staff were literally disappearing under a mountain of donations. I seriously think the team went home dreaming of tins and tins of baked beans and creative ways they could store them.

I can remember the team who organise the foodstore being concerned that if donations kept on arriving then there would soon be no room left. The community had collected tens of thousands of items and schools rang up daily to find out when we were open to drop off their donations. Small businesses, large businesses, community agencies, professional agencies and independent members of the community all arrived wave after wave bringing with them a sea of donations.

I have worked at the foodbank for a few years and I can honestly say I have never witnessed such a huge community commitment to what we do at the foodbank. It was amazing but as I watched more and more of the foodbank floorspace disappear under a carpet of donations that reached higher and higher into the sky, I did begin to wonder if it would ever stop and in fact we would run out of space - or lose a team member amidst the

beans!

That was just few months ago and already that tidal wave of donations has receded. The floor space is reappearing, and the shelves are no longer overstocked. Every week the team hand out food parcels made up from the kind donations received at Christmas and more space reappears.

In the Bible, Jesus warned us that those in need would always be with us. They don't disappear after Christmas. The need they faced in December is still there in the New Year. Need doesn't have a calendar; it doesn't sync with the seasons - it just lasts until it leaves.

Some people will come to foodbank just once, some will visit regularly for a few months and some will visit for longer. One thing is for sure, no one ever comes to foodbank unless they are in dire straits. Last year we gave away 2119 parcels and 4504 meals. That's an average of over 40 parcels and 86 meals every week. The staff are amazing and work tirelessly to make it all happen.

Without the valuable donations of food, the foodbank is unable to do what it does. We need donations throughout the year as the need exists throughout the year. If you are unsure

what would be best to donate or you would like to get involved and serve on the team then please talk to one of the foodbank staff or email

[info@arenacommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@arenacommunity.co.uk).

There is space on our shelves for your donations and a space on our teams for you!



## THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE FOR YOU

**No matter where you are in life, and no matter what your past contains, you can achieve great things. Just ask Community Pastor Lisa Harrison.**

Lisa has lived in Cotmanhay, Ilkeston, for her entire life. By her own admission, her childhood family life was dysfunctional. Her father spent much of his life in prison, and so the family had to survive on benefits. It seemed as though Lisa's future was not going to be bright - especially when she sadly lost her father to a drug overdose when she was in her early 20s.

Lisa thought that people were born to be a particular way, and nothing could change it. If you were born to be on benefits, that's what you did. If you were born to be a Christian, that was that - and nobody could change it.

But the reality is that anyone can have a different life if they make different choices.

Lisa had been on benefits for 16 years of her adult life, but it was

church that made a difference to her. She heard that if you made different choices, you would be offered a new start in God, and that affected her deeply.

For many years, she made bad choices which not only affected her, but also her whole family. When she realised she could make new choices that would have a positive effect on her life, she took a job as a cleaner to escape the benefits system. It took a large amount of faith to do this, as being raised in the environment she was, her first thought was that she would be far worse off by not being on benefits.

Lisa's self-esteem was gradually restored as she realised she could have an entirely different life. Of course, it wasn't easy to begin with. When she first became a Christian, the whole experience was alien to her, with people using words and phrases she'd never heard before. Being prayed for was new to her, and she was surprised that people randomly quoted Bible verses to

her.

Now, over 14 years have passed, and Lisa is now in a very different place. She has become Arena Church's Community Pastor, as well as heading up community projects including the foodbank and The Project on Bath Street, Ilkeston.

Lisa originally signed up to pack up food parcels at the foodbank as she was passionate about tackling poverty. Combining her passion with her previous life experience, it is evident that she was the right person in the right place at the right time. Had she not spent time on benefits and struggling to survive, she might not understand where the people who use the foodbank were coming from - but it is all too real to her.

Lisa says, "I've not only lived it but survived it and have been made stronger and have more freedom. If God took me today I would be happy because the later part of my life has been that good...Everyone can be fragile, but being fragile always leads to offence. You get offended

that someone or something is holding you back from where you are meant to be. But nobody can hold you back from God's plan for you."



# A CHURCH OF SMALL GROUPS

**How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time, or so the joke goes. Or is it a joke? Perhaps it's a motivational message to tell you how to get on in life...**

Any task that you approach needs to be done in the right way to be successful. The bigger the task is, the harder it may seem - but the key is to break it down into smaller chunks. For example, if you want to paint a room, there are three steps: Choose a colour, buy the equipment, paint the room. But in each of those, there are smaller steps. In the paint the room step: lay down the protective covers, open and stir the paint, put the paint in a roller tray, roll the paint on the walls. And even in there, smaller steps in "roll the paint on the walls": top of the first wall, bottom of the first wall, top of the second wall, and so on.

While painting a room isn't a massive job, painting a block of flats might be. How do you do it? One room at a time. If you take the whole building as a single task, it could be overwhelming, but taking it a wall at a time makes it easy.

Arena Church is regularly visited by hundreds of people for the services on a Sunday. With

the best will in the world, the pastors cannot talk to everyone every single Sunday, other than from the platform. But every week, there may be someone in need. They might just need a bit of encouragement, a little chat, but it's almost impossible to do this directly for everyone. So how do you solve a problem so large?

## One bite at a time.

Many churches have Small Groups. They go by many names, some call them House Groups, others Fellowship Groups, and more besides. Arena Church is different - it is not a church that has Small Groups, but is a church that is MADE OF Small Groups. The original Christian church was the same, in that there were many small groups of believers that made up the church as a whole.

Everyone in Arena Church is either in a Small Group or on their way towards being in a Small Group. Normally between 5 and 10 people make up a group, and they spend time just "doing life" together. There are groups who meet in houses, groups who meet for meals, groups who go for walks, groups

for almost everything. The key is getting together, getting to know each other, and supporting each other through the journey of life.

Each Small Group leader will know their group members well, and can help with any problems the members face - and should it be too much for them to handle, they can take it to the church

pastors. With a system like that in place, everyone is encouraged and is able to get the best from their leaders when they need it the most.

In this way, everyone is known, everyone is cared for, and everyone is appreciated.



## CARE FOR A COFFEE

### Mark

I came here after I spoke to Lesley at the Beacon. I enjoy coming as it's chilled out and relaxed.

The staff are friendly. I would recommend to friends.

### Bill

I heard about the Arena by word of mouth.

I enjoy coming for a nice cuppa and friendly chat with the pleasant and upbeat staff.

Will recommend to friends.

### Phillip

Arena church. A pleasant place to be with a calming feel as well as the staff are very nice as well.

### Gordan

I heard about the arena church from a friend. I came here to meet people and I have made some fantastic friends. I am addicted to the place.

### Malcolm

I heard about Arena Church from Lesley who is very nice and hard working, so is Louise. It is a very nice and relaxing atmosphere. I enjoy playing table tennis. I've met some very nice people and that all for today.

### Richard

I love coming here because I like the coffee and the nice church on Sunday. I like it because I have someone to talk to. Everyone here is really nice and helpful.

A ARENACHURCH



**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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