

# GOODNEWS

Reaching into Communities, Sharing Good News, Making a Difference

## FAMILY FUN DAY!

Games, treats, and fun - everyone welcome!

For more information see page 2



## YOU ARE WELCOME!



Hi Everyone,

This is the third edition of our newspaper and a very special edition to me personally. It's all about a passion shared by myself and the church. You see we are passionate about seeing people's lives become better, stronger more hopeful and purposeful! And this is what this SERVE DAY edition is all about.

In the pages of this newspaper you will read stories and see articles of some of the changes that have happened to people and some of the work that we undertake within the two

communities of Ilkeston and Mansfield. I firmly believe that our mandate as a church is to serve, encourage and lift up people.

A word that is overused, misunderstood and sometimes even twisted is that of "LOVE".

There have and will continue to be songs, books, poems and films all portraying "love". Yet, the Love I speak of is best described this way:

**"Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the wrongs of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the truth, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end."**

This above description of love is from the bible and it best describes the foundation and the reason why we at Arena serve, encourage, help, generously give to ALL people of this community.

We believe everyone is a somebody at ARENA and everybody deserves a chance and even a second or third chance.

Recently I came across an interesting fact: "Churches in the UK provides half the toddler

and parent groups, the biggest network of debt counselors and will feed 100,000 UK hungry people this year. " It also leads on homelessness, youth work, runs some of the most successful rehabilitation centres in the country and gives 100 of millions of pounds each year to communities across the length and breadth of the British Isles.

Church is not an organisation you join, it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing.

You see if the church wasn't around, alive and active there would be many who would not be served, helped, heard and encouraged. THIS IS WHY WE EXIST.

As I close, over the years I have come across people who told me they have never come to a church service because they thought they weren't good enough! I have good news none of us are but ALL are welcome. I would love to personally welcome you to one of our services at Ilkeston or Mansfield.

Please feel free to contact us if we can help you in any way.

God bless,  
Kristian Thorpe  
Lead Pastor Arena Church

# SERVE

# DAY

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Find us or write to us at:  
1 RUTLAND STREET,  
ILKESTON, DERBYSHIRE,  
DE7 8DG

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

Founded in 1929, Arena Church Ilkeston has been pioneered and guided by many faithful leaders.

We plant and repurpose new churches both locally and further afield. 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 see how exciting and vibrant church can be when the focus is clear and people are free to seek God with passion.

**FAMILY FUN DAY - ILKESTON**

*Beauvale Drive Park, Cotmanhay - 10am - 2pm*  
Big tent with children's games, crafts, bouncy castle, free refreshments, sports, children's entertainer and more.

Further events and free giveaways at:  
- The Project, Bath Street  
- Arena Church, 1 Rutland Street  
- Arena Hope, Market Place

**July 14th 2018**

**FAMILY FUN DAY - MANSFIELD**

*Titchfield Park, Mansfield - 12:30pm - 3:00pm*  
Lots of activities & giveaways

Further events to be held at:  
- Arena Church, Leeming Street 10am-12pm  
- Arena Open Door, Ladybrook Place  
  
- Market Place, Mansfield - 10:00am - 11:30am  
Treats and giveaways with Sammy Squirrel

**July 14th 2018**

**SERVE  
DAY**

**SENIORS EVENT**  
July 13th 2018 - 12.00 til 2.30pm  
*Arena Church, Ilkeston*  
*Seniors Summer Lunch with live entertainment*

Tickets available at The Project, Hope Charity Shop, and at Arena Church

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# DEVOTE YOURSELF TO OTHERS

## HOW COTMANHAY SCHOOL IMPLEMENTED POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH SERVING

*In 2012, when I start work as Head Teacher at Cotmanhay Junior School, it was certainly an interesting place. The school had not long come out of an 'Ofsted category' - and it was struggling to meet the standards set out by Ofsted's rigorous new Inspection Handbook. The building was in a state of poor repair, none of the computers worked effectively, resources were aging, shabby even.*

Although there were some excellent teachers and some very hard working people employed by the school, it would have to be said that teaching quality was not as good as it could or should have been. Pupil engagement and behaviour followed suit.

Determined to build a better school I was driven by a quote from my favourite book, *Tuesdays with Morrie* which charts the final months in the life of American college professor Morrie Schwartz.

His journey towards death is incredibly moving. The words spoken at his weekly seminars with Mitch Albom, a journalist and former student, manage to lift the soul even as Morrie's body begins to capitulate to the terrible rigors of Lou Gehrig's disease.

"The way to get meaning into your life," says Morrie, "is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community and devote yourself to creating something that gives

you purpose and meaning."

With these words hung on the wall of my office I set out to build a school whose ethos and values reflected those of the families who originally lived on the estate - coal mining families, who knew the meaning of hard work and knew that hard work could pay dividends.

But how do you fill a building with love? How do you best serve the children of families for whom work is often hard to come by?

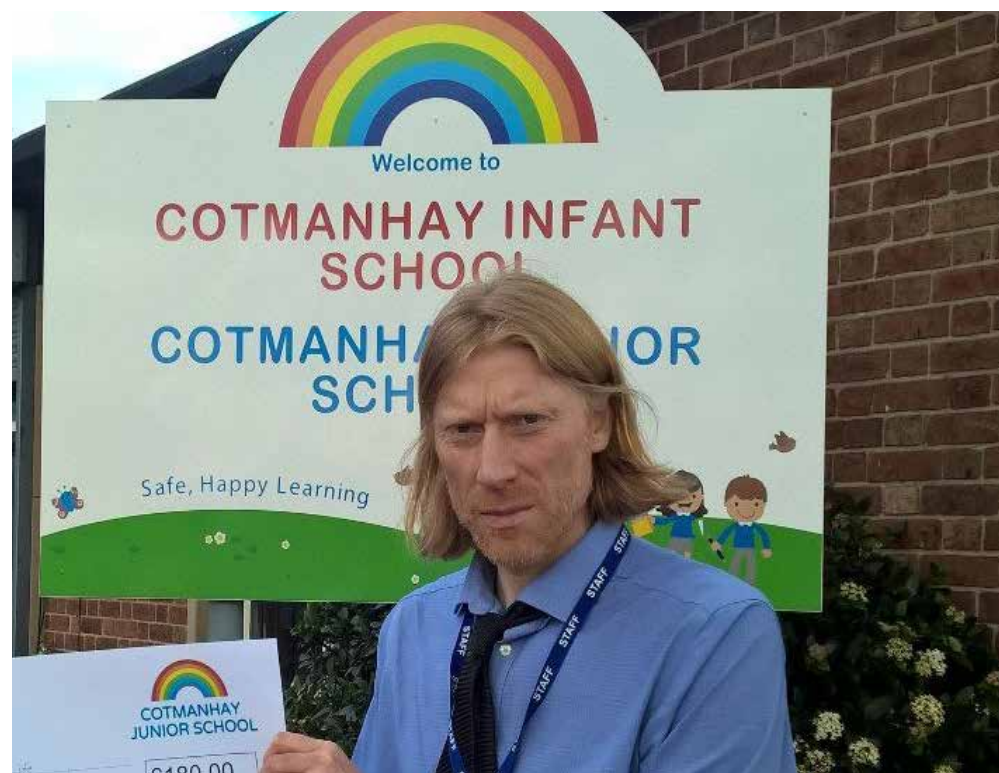
Walls were painted, furniture replaced and thousands of pounds were spent on books, ICT equipment and staff training. A new school was slowly constructed from within, a school that gradually became more effective in the eyes of Ofsted, the government and the local council.

But although we did much to impress these bureaucratic bodies it was never them we sought to serve. We rapidly realised that simply being a good school was not good enough.

We needed to push out, to exert our positive influence on the community for the benefit of the whole of Cotmanhay, not just the junior school pupils.

And so was created our Community Curriculum. In basic terms this is our very own reward scheme - one that seeks to reward pupils for creating positive experiences in the family home and in the community.

There are many strands to this scheme, but to give one clear example: If pupils plant and grow



seeds in a science lesson, this is bronze level achievement. If they then take seeds home and grow vegetables for the family to eat, this is a silver level achievement. Involvement in a community growing project would earn pupils their gold award for this strand.

The idea was that rather than exist as a bubble of hope within the community we would push our positivity outwards, using the skills learned in class to have a positive impact on our families and our community.

Over time it is our mission to make Cotmanhay a place to live where opportunities abound, where entrepreneurial people realise that with a good idea, a laptop and a drop of hope - you can make money, create

a business, move forward and thrive. We aim to develop our pupils spiritually so that they are kind, tolerant, respectful and resilient.

We want them to laugh, smile and have fun, to inspire their community and make it an incredible place to live and work.

In short we aim to do everything Morrie Schwartz suggests we should do in order to give our lives meaning. By loving others and serving our community with tenacity and determination we aim to bring about positive change and set an example for others to follow.

*Simon Robinson*  
**Head Teacher**  
**Cotmanhay Junior School**

# SERVE DAY



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# WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT: SERVING



*Phil Pye is the Teaching Pastor at Arena Church. In this piece, he looks at what it means "to serve" in the context of the Bible.*

Let me take you to the good news book of John. There it tells of a group of people who were gathering for an evening meal. It was a precursor to a special celebration in the religious calendar called Passover

Today if guests arrived at our homes for a social occasion we would perhaps take their coat and offer them a drink. But in eastern culture then, a sign of welcome and hospitality would be that someone would wash your feet, cleaning them from the dust of the road travelled. The task was looked upon as menial and often left to a lowly servant

This particular night something extraordinary happened. The Lord Jesus, the primary guest at the gathering took off his outer garment, took hold of a bowl of water and a towel and began to wash the feet of others. Initially, He was repelled but eventually, the disciples submitted to his actions

It was a literal action, but down the centuries it has also become a metaphor for the ongoing work of the church of which Jesus is the head, that burst into life following His death, resurrection, and ascension, in serving others. There have been many incredible expressions of such.

How could we do any other? Jesus said at another time 'For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve'

At Arena Church serving is part of 'what we are', 'our DNA'. The upcoming Serve Day will be filled with many initiatives but this is far from a 'one-off'. Indeed it's a celebration and confirmation of what takes place all year round, covering every age group from tots to seniors. Reaching out to people who go to the church and to many who have never been.

Serving is not because we have to, seeking to earn some 'holy brownie points', but because we get to and want to. A relationship with God through Jesus brings sonship and se-

curity and a growing realisation that all of us, despite our past, our failings and misgivings are shaped uniquely to serve. To see people who thought they had little to offer to others find fulfilment in serving is just brilliant!

Of course, serving brings its challenges. Remember I said earlier that 'the washing of feet' was not a task everyone ran to. It is on occasions unseen and unappreciated and there are occasions where the water is kicked back in your face. All this is worth it for the positive enduring help people receive

Serving has many keys, one is consistency. Here is the story of American Norman Geisler who has gone on to be a respected author and writer. Geisler recounts that in his formative years he would go to a Sunday School class each week, picked up by a bus driven by the same driver each time. For over eight years and 400 occasions, this young man made no responses to faith or the church, until one day. He later asked the question, 'What if the driver had said, this kid is going nowhere, it's all a waste of time'.....he didn't.

Over time people have always emerged that wish to put a serving expression to their faith. Just a few years ago a friend of mine who works in the city of London began to creatively think of how he could use his business skills to enhance serving. He met with a few friends at a curry house called Cinnamon, and the Cinnamon Network was birthed. Recently, and just a few years on from that start, they did a major presentation to statistically show the powerful benefits of the serving church in the United Kingdom

I know there are times the church does not have a great press, but seriously without the work of hundreds of hours of ordinary people who willingly serve. Countless wounds would not be tended, mouths would not be fed, grieving people would not be comforted, lonely people not embraced. Thousands of 'cups of water' in Jesus name would never be served. The church-going on strike in these challenging times for society and community would leave a huge draught

In closing a Christian Leader once said 'The Church does not need brilliant personalities, it does need faithful servants' - Arena Church has its imperfections, but it continues to commit to Loving and Serving. Our heart is that many yet will be on the receiving end of the ministry of the 'bowl and the towel'. And never forget that you have been made to be part of 'God's Workmanship' - His masterpiece - Created to do good works - May we all find our part and so serve well.

# COME AS YOU ARE

*"Come, as you are, as you were, and as I want you to be..."*

- Nirvana: "Come As You Are"

As you're probably aware, this is our special "Serve Day" edition of the Good News newspaper. When I first became aware that this issue would all tie-in with serving, a few thoughts cross my mind.

Will everyone know what we mean by serving? Will it all be a bit too "churchy"? And what can I write about serving?

I realised that in putting the newspaper together, I was performing an act of service - the newspaper benefits others more than it benefits me. In that way, I have become a servant, and I hope I've served you well.



But it also occurred to me that many of the people who would read the newspaper also served in some capacity. Maybe you look after children, or perhaps you look after your parents. Maybe you work in a shop, or provide a service in some other way. In effect, I am serving the servants, and that's quite an interesting position to be in.

Also interesting to me is that "Serve the Servants" is the title of a Nirvana song. You remember Nirvana, right? The 1990s grunge band from Seattle. *Smells Like Teen Spirit* and all that.

I definitely remember them. There have been studies done that show that the music you are most influenced by, and the music you listen to as you get older, is the music you listened to around your 18th birthday. Well, I was 18 in late 1993, and Kurt Cobain died in early 1994 - it was very hard to miss his music around that time.

Anyway, back to the present. I carried on, encouraging people to write articles for the newspaper, hearing ideas, reading some great work, but still didn't get around to writing my own article. I kept giggling every now and then about "Serve the Servants", but that's just me. I couldn't really write an article for Good News about Nirvana, could I?

And then, one Sunday, it happened. During a service at Arena Church, one of the leaders talked about inviting people to come along. It didn't matter if they normally went to church or not, just invite everyone,

let them see what Arena is all about.

The phrase that struck me was, "Tell them not to worry, because we are a come-as-you-are church - everyone is welcome"

Come As You Are. There it was. Another Nirvana song title! Now, I know that it was written by The Vaseline's, but Nirvana made it popular.

To me, Arena Church is a lot like the first few lines of that song.

"Come as you are" - everyone is welcome

"As you were" - it doesn't matter what your past is, you are welcome

"As I want you to be" - do you aspire to something better? Does the church want you to aspire to be the best you can be? Wherever you are on the journey, you're welcome!

The lyrics continue with "Take your time, hurry up, the choice is yours, don't be late" which is absolutely fitting. You can come to Arena Church whenever you are ready, but don't leave it too late. You might not know what you are missing.

Everyone is welcome at Arena, and everybody is considered to be "somebody", and not just a face in the crowd.

Come along any Sunday at 10:30am in Ilkeston and Mansfield, and come along to Serve Day on July 14th. Come as you are. You're welcome here.

Adam Newton  
Editor, Good News

## 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.

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## COMMUNITY HUB

By Tracy Newton

**Working at the hub is such a privilege, there are many things I could say about my job suffice to say there is never a dull day. One of the best bits is that I get to sign up new volunteers.**

I don't particularly consider myself to be a visionary but I do love sitting across from someone for the first time and seeing the potential in that person, as often this is potential the person never sees in themselves.

Sue is just such a volunteer. Here's Sue's story:

*"I was suffering from severe depression and was seriously thinking about taking my own life. My husband, who was the love of my life, had died. I was heartbroken. I was all alone and had no reason to live. One day I bumped into an old friend and was talking about how I felt and she said I should volunteer. I had never done anything like that before and was very nervous*

*about it. I'm really glad I did go though, because it was the best thing I have ever done. I started off serving tea and coffee but now interview people who come into the foodbank. My confidence has grown loads and I have started going to church. My life is now completely different and I love what I do"*



It's stories like this that make it all worthwhile for me. Knowing that what you do is making a difference in people's lives.

Not just in what we give to the

community but also in the hope that we offer to those who may have lost hope.

Of course, this is all happening whilst the hub itself quietly ticks along. Growing from a pallet in the local church to a fully operational hub, the foodbank operation has come a long way. We now get regular donations of fresh produce from local supermarkets that would have otherwise have gone to landfill.

This helps not only the kitchen make a lovely two-course meal twice a week but also lets our clients have access to nutritious fresh produce.

Nowadays the foodbank is just one of the things the hub hosts.

Our Supported housing team is based there as is our clothing bank and furniture store where we accept and sell donated items. Each week sees a raft of activity from bible studies, to foodbank sessions, the community service, and multi-agency teams calling up and asking for help or advice.

One thing is for sure the phone never stops ringing, the people never stop coming and the team never stop giving.

At the end of the day, some of us may leave the hub tired and ready for a sit-down but we all leave the hub counting our blessings.



**As you can imagine, the work within Arena Community is ALWAYS very busy and diverse.**

From very small beginnings, we have grown to be quite a noticeable force within our community.

Our church leader, Kristian Thorpe, once asked the question "If Arena church closed today would anyone notice?" - the answer that I hope you will conclude after reading this edition yourself is most definitely "YES".

From building a well-established foodbank to employing people at The Project we are impacting our community.

This requires much sacrifice and commitment not only from all the team involved and the church but also the local community.

Some days are hard, some days are joyful, all days are necessary.

We are all quite different in personality and background but we are all trying to make a difference in our generation.

Together we are making a difference. Together we are changing lives.

We hope that what you read in this edition inspires you, encourages you and unites us with a common cause - to make our community livable again.

Enjoy the read.

Lisa Harrison  
Community Pastor

## A FOND FAREWELL

When it comes to serving, Terry Ball has always gone above and beyond. Whether he is working at the Community Hub, The Project, the church, the shops, or anywhere else, Terry always has a smile on his face and a kind word to say.

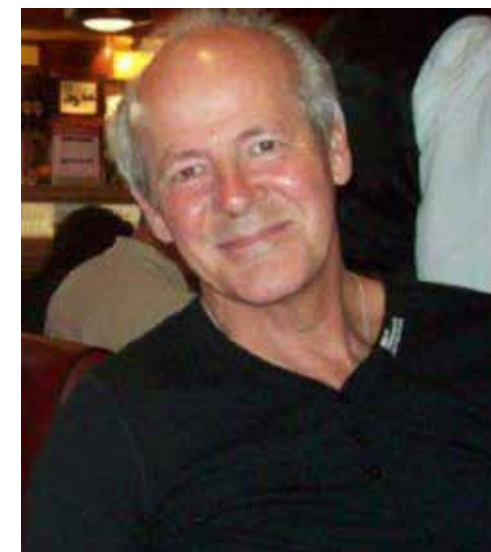
His official role is Furniture Store Supervisor and Delivery Driver, but he is more than willing to lend a hand wherever it is needed.

After spending many years

serving the team in many capacities, it is with great sadness that we are preparing to say goodbye as he retires at the end of July.

One thing we won't miss are his really bad jokes!

So we'd like to say a HUGE thank you for all of his hard work and service, as we would not be where we are now without men who serve with a heart like his. We hope he enjoys every minute of his well-deserved retirement.



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clothing, books, and bric-a-brac. Open Door is located on Ladybrook Place, Mansfield. It is open on Mondays to Fridays 9am to 4pm and Saturday 9.30am to 1pm. We have Vanessa, our manager, and her new assistant, Maggie working with a team of volunteers. We have a small seating area where we serve light refreshments including tea, coffee, and snacks. We also sell clothing, DVDs, books, and bric-a-brac. We are always happy to take donations and if you are interested in volunteering, then why not give one of the shops a ring?

Visit us on Serve Day - all the locations will be having a sale!

The Project 0115 9441462  
 Arena Hope 0115 9323653  
 Open Doors 01623 636004

# THE PROJECT

By Ann Simpson

*Arena Community's objective is to love and serve the community and one of the ways in which we serve is through our retail operation, as all of the profit we make goes back into our work within the community. We operate three shops - The Project and Arena Hope based in Ilkeston and Open Door charity shop based in Mansfield. I am the retail manager and I work at The Project as well as overseeing the two charity shops. I have been in this position for 18 months and historically I have been office based, so for me, this is one big career change!*

The Project has been opened now for 18 months and people are still discovering us. We are located in the old Woolworths building on Bath Street, Ilkeston opposite Specsavers. Inside, we have the Workshop Cafe which sells delicious meals, snacks, and drinks at affordable prices, both for eating in and taking out. I love the chips we serve here. They are lovely and crispy, so I would recommend chip cob (£2) or even a chip and cheese cob (£2.50), with my favourite drink - a latte (£1.95). We have loyalty cards, so collect a stamp every time you purchase a hot drink and you will

get the tenth one free. Our cafe is open from 9am to 4pm on Mondays to Saturdays, so why not pop in and treat yourself?

We have a retail area, selling restored and shabby chic furniture. The furniture we sell is restored and painted by a team of people working in our upstairs workshop. We don't paint or restore just the furniture we sell, we also offer a service where we can give you a quote for your own furniture to be painted and brought back to life according to your requirements.

We also sell 'pre-loved' clothing, soft furnishings, candles and toiletries, so you can have a browse after visiting the cafe.

I love the fact that we have been able to refurbish and bring back to life an old, empty building which had been boarded up for many years and we are able to employ nine people, one of which is on an apprenticeship.

The Workshop Cafe is open 9am until 4pm and the retail side opens until 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

## Charity Shops

Arena Hope is our charity shop based on the Market Place, Ilkeston. It is open from 9am until 4pm, Monday to Saturday. It is managed by Sue and her assistant Scott, with a team of volunteers. We sell white goods, furniture,

# THE Workshop CAFÉ

Hot Food		SERVED FROM 9AM TO 3PM		Hot Food		SERVED FROM 11.30AM TO 3PM	
<b>COOKED BREAKFAST</b>	£4.00	Served with two sausages, two rashers of bacon, egg, beans or tomatoes and one slice of toast.		<b>PASTA DISH</b>	£3.95	Spinach and ricotta pasta shells in tomato and mascarpone sauce.	
<b>SAUSAGE OR BACON COB</b>	£1.95	Served with two sausages or two rashers of bacon.		<b>JACKET POTATO</b>	£2.30	Served with butter.	
<b>TOASTED SANDWICH</b>	£2.60	Served with up to two fillings: ham, cheese, tuna, tomato, onion.		<b>WITH CHILLI AND CHEESE</b>	£3.50	WITH CHILLI £3.30	
<b>TOAST</b>	£1.25	Two slices served with butter.		<b>OTHER FILLINGS</b>	£0.50 EACH	Tuna, beans, cheese, cottage cheese, colislaw	
<b>TOASTED TEACAKE</b>	£1.25	Served with butter.		<b>PIZZA SLICE</b>	£1.25	Choose from either margarita or pepperoni.	
<b>Cold Food</b>		SERVED FROM 9AM TO 4PM		<b>CHIP COB</b>	£2.00	<b>CHIP &amp; CHEESE COB</b> £2.50	
<b>SALAD</b>	£3.50	Served with a roll. Choose from a variety of toppings: tuna, ham, cheese or chicken.		<b>SOUP AND BAGUETTE OR ROLL</b>	£2.65	Bowl of soup served with a baguette or roll. Choose from tomato, chicken, vegetable or leek and potato.	
<b>BAGUETTE</b>	£2.30	Served with a salad garnish. Choose from a variety of fillings: tuna, ham, cheese or chicken.		<b>Sides</b>			
<b>SANDWICHES</b>	£1.95	Served with salad garnish. Choose from a variety of fillings: tuna, ham, cheese or chicken.		<b>CHIPS</b>	£1.50	<b>SIDE SALAD</b> £1.50	
<b>COBS</b>	£1.95	Served with salad garnish. Choose from a variety of fillings: tuna, ham, cheese or chicken.		<b>PORTION OF JAM OR MARMALADE</b>	£0.20	<b>Sweet Treats</b>	
<b>Drinks</b>		<b>FILTER COFFEE</b>	£1.50	<b>ASSORTED CAKES</b>	FROM £1.75	INCLUDING GLUTEN FREE OPTION	
<b>AMERICANO</b>	£1.70	<b>LATTE</b>	£1.95	<b>SCONES CHEESE OR FRUIT</b>		<b>WITH BUTTER</b>	£1.20
<b>WITH SYRUP</b>	£2.30	<b>CAPPUCCINO</b>	£1.95	<b>WITH JAM &amp; CREAM</b>	£1.75		
<b>FLAT WHITE</b>	£1.95	<b>MOCHA</b>	£2.40				
<b>HOT CHOCOLATE</b>	£1.95	<b>WITH MARSHMALLOWS &amp; CREAM</b>	£2.20	PLEASE VISIT THE COUNTER TO VIEW TODAY'S SELECTION FOOD AND DRINKS ARE AVAILABLE TO TAKE OUT			
<b>TEA</b>	£1.40	<b>SPECIALITY TEA</b>	£1.50	<b>PLEASE SEE OUR SPECIALS BOARD FOR FURTHER OPTIONS</b>			
<b>SHMOO MILKSHAKE</b>	£2.00	<b>WITH SYRUP</b>	£2.40				
<b>MILK</b>	£0.75						

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## SERVING AT THE PROJECT



By Eleanor Thorpe

in what you are doing.

***I serve at The Project as the store and window dresser.***

My job role is to dress the store and make it appealing to the wide variety of people who pass by and come in every day - essentially, I make it look pretty.

I do this to create an environment that when people are shopping or enjoying a coffee and a meal, they feel that the store is well-presented.

It sets an atmosphere where people want to meet up with friends, and helps to promote the idea that everybody is somebody at the project.

I'm working to make a space into something that people can come and enjoy themselves in, but sometimes I hear of the things that customers say, like that The Project looks lovely.

It gives you a sense of purpose

Sometimes I'll hear of people saying that the windows are looking nice and they've noticed all the quirky touches that I've added.

When people notice it makes you feel excited to change and move to get the right look.

Without serving at The Project, none of this would be possible for me.

By making spaces where people can meet up with friends, do work, get a great chocolate brownie or even be able to find a bargain or a top or a piece of refurbished furniture, I feel like I am serving the people too.

It's a real passion of mine to serve The Project in this area and by doing this I'm able to make a small dent in our community, bringing a little happiness to people.

## SERVING AT THE HUB



By Amelia Cumberland

***This year will be my 4th year of working and volunteering at Arena Community at the Community hub on Belfield Street. When I started back in 2014 I had just graduated from University and I had absolutely no idea what to do with my life. I decided to do a volunteering internship with Arena Church.***

The internship lasted a year and it gave me the opportunity to serve on many different teams. I volunteered in everything from car park duty at church on a Sunday morning to sorting clothes at the Community Hub.

My first few weeks at the Community Hub were quite challenging. For a start, I didn't really have any experience in working in the community or with vulnerable people. My life had consisted of school, sixth form, university, church. I began by washing pots in the kitchen and after a while, I was trained in how to interview the foodbank clients for food parcels. I also had the opportunity to serve on the Acorns children's after-school programme.

The more time I spent volunteering the more I learned about the issues that so many people are facing in Ilkeston; poverty, addiction, crime. I began to see that there were people right on my doorstep who desperate-

ly needed help whether that be with food, managing money or just in need of a friend to talk to. I never imagined that I could do anything to make a difference in this community but it soon became clear to me that serving at the Community Hub was where I was meant to be.

I am now a Support Worker within the Arena Supported Housing. I work helping our tenants to set up benefits, make and attend appointments, fill in forms and provide general support.

Every day presents different challenges but the past 4 years have been the best time of my life. I fully appreciate how much of a privilege it is to be able to serve other people and to make a difference in another person's life.

As Serve Day approaches this year, I would absolutely encourage anyone to get involved in any way you can. It is a great opportunity to give some time to make a difference in this community.

Even if you can just give an hour in the morning to help put the marquee up at the park, you would still be making a difference. Volunteering and giving something to the community can not only make a difference to someone else but it can also have an impact on your own life too.



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# LET'S TALK: TIM & HELEN

*It's a beautiful day and we're sitting out in the garden with just the sound of birds chirping in the background, broken by the odd car driving past breaking the silence. Tim's just brought out a pot of fresh coffee and has now settled down in his chair next to Helen, feet up and cradling a freshly poured cup.*

Tim and Helen haven't been at Arena Church that long, so I'm curious to find out their thoughts on 'serving' after all, Serve day is just around the corner!

I start with a couple of standard questions.

*So, how long have you guys been coming to Arena now?*

Tim: A little over a year now.

*Have you settled in?*

Helen: Yes, we were made to feel welcome as soon as we walked through the door. It took a few weeks to get to know a few people but over the year we have gradually met more and built up some great friendships.

*Tim and Helen have two boys, Jack and Ben, so I ask how they're getting on too.*

Tim: Yeah, both of them have settled in really well and they're involved in different areas of church life. Jack will often have a camera in his hand taking pictures for the church's social media sites and he is also involved with Universal too on Friday nights. He's a little older than Ben so has been given a little bit more responsibility.

We chat some more about how change has been so much on their doorstep for the last year, but I wanted to get to the theme of the next edition of the Arena newspaper which is all about Serving. It can be understood in different ways so I was keen to hear their thoughts.

*What do you think when you hear the phrase 'to serve'?*

Tim - In a nutshell, serving is providing a service that benefits the receiver. I would say that nor-

mally it would be expected to be a paid service or a what do I get in return mentality.

*So have you had any experience where you have been paid to serve?*

Helen - Yes, when I was doing my A 'Levels I worked in McDonalds on Bath Street. Whichever area you were assigned to work



on for the shift would entail serving. Cooking meant getting the food ready to serve the customers. Working on the tills meant serving the customers their orders. Working as a host meant ensuring the tables, floors etc were presentable for customers and the overall aim was to provide great service to paying customers.

I guess I've carried that theme of serving into my current employment as a Children's Nurse which I've been doing for the last 21 years.

Sounds like you've picked up some different types of service over all these years! Between slurps of coffee, Tim mentions that he had a paper round when he was 11 which he did to buy football stickers. He argues that he served the homes well...

*Was there ever any times when you came across a customer that you didn't want to serve?*

Helen - Ha! Yes! It was back at McDonalds! I was on the till. A customer came in and made one of those awkward orders - burger with no lettuce, no pickle etc. The order went through and he changed his mind. So...I changed

the order before the kitchen made it for him then to change his mind again. I was beginning to lose my patience and ended up telling him to get out...I did say this with a smile as it was Tim that was the customer!! He and my sister would come in to wind me up on purpose! Although it lost it's funny side after 4 or 5 times.

true servanthood frees you from life's contest of what you 'look' like, it helps you realise that the world doesn't revolve around you and helps me to become humble in a funny kind of way.

Tim's phone 'dings', turns out he is a Liverpool fan and they've just scored. He then explains that it's the last game of the season and that a win was crucial along with some other 'interesting' scenarios that could pan out in other games. I'm not interested really, so I get the Q&A back on track.

*What do you think about serving out of care and love?*

Tim: We have grown to realise the importance of serving, not out of duty or reward, but out of love for the people around us. We've been Christians for a long time now and understand the example that Jesus laid out for us in the bible. Not one just to be read about, but one to be followed, lived out if you like.

*You've mentioned Jesus setting an example there, are you saying then that he was a servant?*

Tim: Yeah that's right, crazy isn't it? Here we have Jesus, the Son of God, not living it large as a King but actually humbling himself in service to the people around him. The bible says, 'For even the Son of Man [Jesus] came not to be served but to serve others!' It actually gives us a load of great examples of Jesus serving others and I love that he didn't dictate what we should be doing, but showed us.

*So would you say he would be a primary example of serving?*

Helen: Absolutely. Jesus' life was a true example of how to live and how to love but also how to lead and I believe that true leadership is shown in servanthood which Jesus demonstrates so well. Serving can come in all sorts of guises, doing someone's garden, helping a stranger with a flat tyre, help a friend lug bricks around, giving someone a lift to the airport, washing feet.

*Washing feet?! Is that a thing in church?*

Helen: I threw that in there to see if you would pick up on it.



No, it's not something we practice in church you'll be glad to know, but it was an example of Jesus demonstrating service by washing the disciples feet which was something that normally the servants would do. When Jesus had done it he says, 'I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.' If you like feet the same way as me, I could've thought of a better way for the demonstration!! But at the same time it shows me that serving out of love isn't all about the glamour, sometimes you might need to roll your sleeves up and get your hands dirty. Kind of like the Queen popping round to help clear out your drains.

There's another bing and a quick swipe on the phone screen, I make that three and Tim confirms it's 3-0 and that Chelsea are losing too. Apparently that's a good thing.

*Helen, you mention serving out of love there, how can you love people you don't even know?*

Helen: There's a great passage in the bible that says, 'Let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.' This love isn't limited to your husband or your family, friends, etc. It is meant to reach into every corner of every community and we, as a church in the community, aim to do just that.

*Wow, that sounds great, so how are you thinking you are going to do that?*

Tim: There will definitely be plenty of opportunities and in many different ways too. Last year church hosted a Serve Day - a family fun day with face painting, football, basketball, bouncy castle, tin can alley, marque with different craft events and of course a refreshment stall. That's being planned again this year which will be a lot of fun so we look forward to that. If you're around on the 14th July and near Beauvale Drive Park in Cotmanhay, pop in and see us.

Helen: Yeah, and there will also be other ways of serving the community through our Small Groups too. There is a bunch of talent in church, so I'm sure that as teams we will be getting involved in many different things and hopefully being a big help to the peo-

ple in the area. Exciting really.

Time's run out, but I want to



ask one last question;

*Some would say that there's a hidden agenda behind all of this, what's your take on that?*

Tim: Yeah, I hear this quite a bit actually. Truth is, there is absolutely nothing hidden about who we are and what we're doing. Whether that's in church on a Sunday or in the community on a Saturday, we live in a world that is hopeless in so many different ways and we want to share the hope that there is in Jesus.

Helen: Right, we do a course at church called Growth Track which has four parts to it, Know God, Find Freedom, Discover your Purpose and Make a Difference. The fourth part is basically what we want to do in our serving, make a difference in the world we live.

It's time to go, so I help take the cups in to the kitchen and return to get my bag. Tim's stood with both arms in the air, it's 4-0 now and apparently game over.

Helen apologises for the football disruption during our chat and then suggests that if I wanted to find out more about what we had talked about that I would be welcome at the Arena to find out more.

I might just do that.

## WORKING WITH INTEGRITY



By Andi Richardson

***One of my heroes in the bible is Joseph. I've often been asked, 'how does being a christian affect my work-life?' My starter for 10 would be 'Joseph was not just a dreamer in a sparkly jacket.' By no means perfect, he started out with a big ego, his mouth got him into trouble. Yep, been there!***

I currently work as a Product and Training Manager for a Global Medical Device Company. My work can take me to many (seemingly) interesting places, from Belfast to Berlin, Stockholm to Swansea all on Planes Trains and Automobiles. I am known by many as the 'Curry Monster' and most of my foreign colleagues expect to be trained in the art of curry consumption when they come to the UK. (Strangely I'm always happy to oblige). To some, this sounds like a dream job, and yet to others it sounds like a waking nightmare!

My work history is a set of progressions. I started out as a hospital porter, became a Operating Theatre Practitioner then moved into the commercial sector as a medical device sales rep. Sometimes I ask myself 'How on earth is it a boy from a Nottingham estate finds himself helping design and sell anaesthesia machines?'

However another question I was once asked (by a fellow christian!!) 'How can you be a rep AND a Christian?' It was

actually very insulting, and here's why.

As a Christian I believe that in everything I am called to live with integrity. Whether at church, home, work, shopping, whatever, as a Christ follower the standard set, is that I live in such a way that reflects the work that Jesus is doing in my own life, I try to live the same way the 6 other days as I do on a Sunday.

The Bible said that God prospered everything Joseph did. He became the most trusted person in Potiphar's house, in the prison and finally in the government of Egypt. Always through acting with integrity. He was despised by his family, he was a victim of human trafficking, someone else's wife tried to drag him into bed, he was falsely accused and found himself imprisoned.

In the world of work, those moments are all too frequent. The opportunities to misbehave are numerous.

Expense claims, tax returns, skipping out early, flirtatious moments during a work event, and so on. But there is always a choice. And yes sometimes costly, but there is always a choice. But here's the mission, in loving and serving those around us...

I believe all Christians are called to be salt and light. Salt? It is be used for both flavour and cleansing. Light? It chases away the darkness. The people we work, go to school, live and interact with may never walk through the doors of Arena church or meet any of our pastors. However, they will meet us and through our example, are they going to see a good example of a Christian or a fake?

It's been said, preach the gospel at all times.....and where necessary use words!

# A LIFE OF SERVING



*By Chris & Chris Stockdale*

***In the olden days, (1960s and 70s), before self service petrol pumps, I worked part time at the Esso station in Langley Mill, to supplement my teacher's wages. We had two small children at that time so this little job helped out. I was paid 25p an hour but in those days petrol was only 25p a gallon!***

I served customers at the pumps. It was what I was paid to do just as people who serve us in supermarkets, shops, banks that are still open, hairdressers, restaurants, and the like. My wife served clients in a Job Centre in Bulwell for several years. All around us people are serving one another, usually out of a sense of duty or in exchange for wages but every day we might come across people who are serving other people for a different reason: it's part of their nature, they can't help but serve other people. They don't necessarily set out to serve others. It just happens. And that is true for more people than we may realise. Those of you who are reading this may be found serving others without consciously thinking about it.

Before we joined Arena Church in the autumn of 2010, we had served for over 30 years in a couple of churches. We served in a number of ways including children's work and youth work and for some time we served on the leader-

ship teams of both churches. We probably believed we were serving God in using our particular gifts, which we were, but I'm not sure that was the main reason and at times it felt as if we were serving out of a sense of duty, even because no one else would do it. The churches were quite small in number which meant that individuals took responsibility for several jobs that needed to be done. Sometimes, serving in those circumstances was carried out with a sense of obligation and resulted in tiredness with little "job" satisfaction. But something inside us compelled us to continue.

When we joined Arena Church we were encouraged to take some time to. We knew that we would need to do something by way of serving, not out of any sense of compulsion but out of a natural almost subconscious feeling of wanting to help somehow. By the early months of 2011 we both found ourselves offering our services and skills. Mrs Chris joined the refreshments team, which she now leads, and I offered to help out with routine and mundane tasks in the office, like filing and organising paperwork, whatever was needed in order to release the staff to focus on the more important jobs. Before long I was working alongside the Finance Team and the majority of my work centred on Arena Community. At first that involved checking income and expenditure for the two Charity Shops

and the Foodbank but gradually Arena Community began to grow and brought more work and responsibilities. Over the seven years that I worked with the Finance Team I have seen the growth and impact Arena Community has had on people in Ilkeston and I realised that I wasn't just a pen pusher but I was actually serving the community. I wasn't involved face on face with members of the community but I was playing a part that was necessary in order for the front line contact work to be carried out. Serving in the backroom is still serving the community.

In church Mrs. Chris was serving on the refreshment team and engaging in conversations with regulars and with visitors as well as members of her team. She was able to serve through listening and praying with individual people when necessary as well as encouraging people. She serves by using her baking skills to provide cakes when needed along with her cake team.

We both serve on the Pastoral Team, making sure we know when people are ill or in need of support and encouragement and being there for them.

Until we came to Arena Church I think we considered the jobs we did in church as just that - jobs, things that needed to be done, duties to perform. At Arena we have learned and realised that we are serving people and that serving brings a sense of fulfilment. Through serving we have discovered our purpose and are able to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

But serving isn't restricted to church. Everyone, every day can serve other people through acts of kindness, through befriending the lonely, through caring for family members, young and old. We have been able to serve our own family - four adult children with a total of 9 grandchildren and, recently, a great grandson. Being there to help them is all part of serving. Meeting ex pupils (and their families) in Asda, when shopping, brings

real encouragement when I see the impact I have made in their lives and makes me realise that through teaching them I was serving them. Mrs. Chris, when serving in the Job-centre, was able to serve the clients, who came in devastated at being made redundant, by being able to arrange benefit payments and help them to find jobs, bringing them some understanding and comfort when it was needed. We serve our neighbours and our neighbours serve us.

It wasn't until quite recently, during our time at Arena Church, that we came to understand what serving is and didn't realise that it is what we have done for most of our lives. It's about putting other people at ease, helping where we can, both practically and with words of appreciation and encouragement, seeing them as people just like ourselves, treating them as we would like to be treated. Everyone can serve in some way and probably already do without knowing it. When you acknowledge that that is what you are doing you have a sense of purpose and you can make a difference to someone else's day.

I believe that the natural ability to serve others is something that God has placed in everyone's heart whether they realise it or not, whether they believe in him or not and regardless of what we believe He often places us in circumstances where we find ourselves serving someone else. Even in a world that seems to be becoming increasingly self centred there are still many, many people who go about their lives making a difference in the lives of others by simple acts of service. Add faith in God to that and an even bigger difference is possible and a great sense of peace and fulfilment is felt in the heart of the one who serves.

**SERVE DAY**

# HERE TO HELP



One of the messages that most people are greeted with when they attend Arena Church on a Sunday is **"Here to Help"**. All of our welcome and hosting teams wear T-shirts with our here to help slogan proudly displayed. It's one of the reasons that the church should exist - to be a source of help, guidance, support. We endeavour to model this at Arena Church by mak-

ing sure that every person walking through our doors is made welcome - we call it "rolling out the red carpet" - everyone walking through the doors at Arena, no matter what age, colour or background is welcome.

We see many beautiful people, some feeling quite broken - some not so, through our doors every week. We seek to be a source of help and pointing people to a new way. There's a verse in the bible that I love and it says this "Jesus came to give you life and life to the full".

Our hope is that everyone walking through our doors would know this "life to the full" a life not devoid of problems but in the middle of difficult circumstances has hope and peace, a life that is fulfilling because we have discovered our purpose, a life that is surrounded by love and joy in our everyday lives. This may sound unrealistic, bi-

zarre but why not come along and see for yourself. Arena church is not perfect but we do pray that we are a place of hope and life - a "breath of fresh air".

Every Sunday is special for us as we welcome our guests and congregation through the doors but during a year we have some special events that are often very popular. Our biggest attended services are based around Christmas and Easter. Last Christmas hundreds of people poured through our doors at our Carols by Candlelight service which was followed by our Christmas Market with lots of festive treats. Several of our schools in Ilkeston perform several times per year and local dignitaries join us to make this a great celebration together. We run Kids Church every week where scores of children join together to have fun and learn in a safe environment. We love to shower the ladies and men

with gifts on Mother's Day and Father's Day and throughout the Summer you will often find families enjoying ice creams and iced drinks together after the service. You will often find fun, laughter and a sense of celebration when we are together.

Why not come along THIS Sunday - you will definitely be made welcome; bring your children, your grandma, your friends - all are welcome. Come and meet a group of people who are "Here to Help" and hope that as you spend just over an hour with us that you will know you are special and valued here at Arena.

For more information regarding any of our Sunday services or special events please visit our website [www.arenachurch.co.uk](http://www.arenachurch.co.uk)

Hope to see you soon

*Julie Turner*  
**Executive Pastor**

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*By Louise Richardson*

**Did you know? Across the world there are 23 towns or cities with the name Mansfield, but there is only one in Mansfield in Nottinghamshire - and it's the only one with this unique Arena church.**

To paraphrase the words of Humphrey Bogart in Casablanca "of all the Mansfield's in all the world you have to come to this one" ....well near enough anyway!

When you walk through our doors at Mansfield Arena, you can see that we have fantastic facilities with pool tables, table tennis, air hockey, darts, and coffee lounge area. All of these facilities are absolutely free for anyone to enjoy.

Just 18 months ago, a small team launched Care for a Coffee to encourage people to come together and socialise; tea, coffee, light refreshments are free to anyone. We open the doors on a Tuesday and Wednesday (from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm) for people in Mansfield to come into a friendly and relaxing atmosphere and just

chill out in a safe and positive atmosphere. Visitors come from all walks of life - whether you are homeless, or live in a mansion, a single mum with a toddler or in the later years of your life - everyone is welcome.

A regular comment from visitors is "Is this a church?" which is really positive, as it stimulates conversation and encourages people to relax. Other comments include:

'Care for a Coffee is a place to meet new people from all over Mansfield. There's a friendly and non-judgemental atmosphere.' Deborah and Shell, regular visitors.

Shell also told us 'I started coming to the coffee morning after popping in to find out about the church services. It is very well run and the staff are wonderful and friendly. The place itself is welcoming and there is plenty to do. Coming helps me to get out of the house and interact with others.

Renee Thomas-Sankofa said: "Care for a coffee is a fantastic project which offers a safe place for those feeling lonely or facing

housing issues, having my young learners volunteer with the project has been an eye-opener for them. It lets them know that regardless of whatever situation we find ourselves in there is always someone who cares.

Young people have enjoyed working alongside arena church staff and it has had such a positive impact on their lives so much so they want to carry on volunteering."

The building, built in 1908, has an interesting history, and over the last 18 months, we have met staff members when the building was a theatre, a cinema and Riley's snooker hall. In fact, many visitor's first words when they walk into the Arena are 'I remember coming here to see.... film in 199...!'

One such regular visitor, Fred, worked here when the building was the local ABC cinema, and he and his friend Malc have an old and new found fondness for the church:

'The staff are very friendly at Arena Mansfield - we always have a chat and a cuppa. I used to work here as the chief projectionist when it was a cinema which holds special memories for me. Long may they continue!'

So, after an interesting history of bringing people together in the town, Care for a Coffee is looking to the future to continue being a community hub.

Come and see us, tell us your stories of when you were last here, make new friends, enjoy our light refreshments and play your part in the future of Arena.





# THE YOUTH OF TODAY

By Kev Albis

*For me serving starts when you decided to put another person's interest first before yours. When you serve because of what you can give and not what you can get, amazing things begin to take place.*

That's been our story at Universal Youth Ilkeston (ages 11-17) for the last 10 years. We have the privilege of serving young people every Friday night and seeing them grow and fulfil their potential.

Many of these kids are people whom society has written off and sadly on occasions, even their own families have too, but we simply refuse to believe that the young people of this town are a lost cause. It's what keeps us motivated.

We believe that what we do on Friday night will have an impact on our local community.

Our motivation isn't to convince and

to convert young people into believing God but rather we use Friday nights as an opportunity to let them know that they are loved and valued. To show them that there is a different way of living life.

For the last few years, we have been taking a group of young people for a weekend away to Alton Towers where we have loads of fun and excitement.

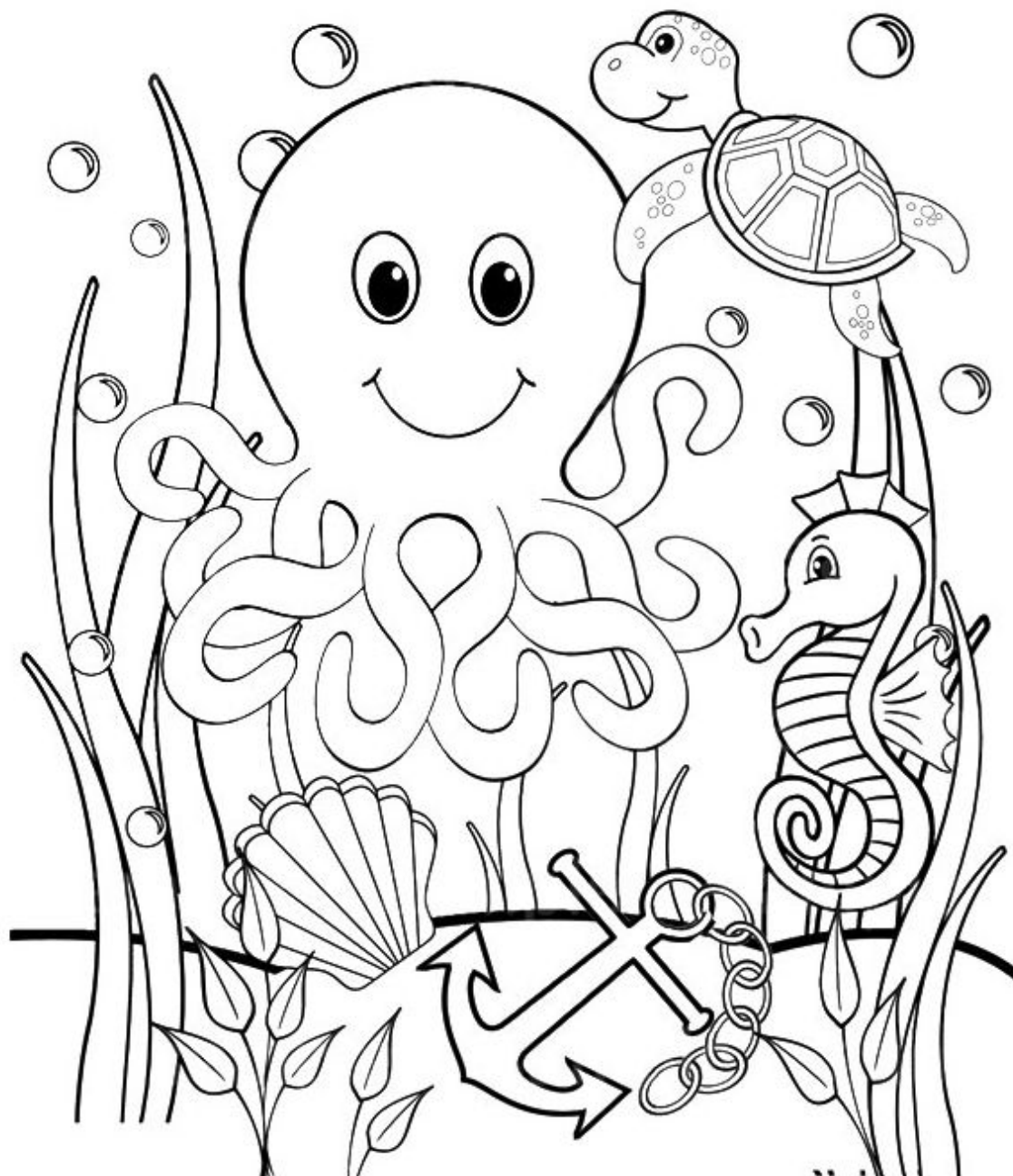
It's amazing to see young people who would consider themselves shy come out of their shell and form new friendships with others.

I'm delighted to say that we will be running it again this year so if you would like more information about our weekend away, please get in touch by sending us an email at [admin@arenachurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@arenachurch.co.uk) or via our social media @UniversalYouthIlkeston



UNIVERSAL

## COLOURING COMPETITION



Colour this picture in and hand it in at any one of our Serve Day sites on Saturday July 14th for the chance to win a prize.

You must be between 5 and 11 years of age to enter.

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Age:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Your parent/guardian must sign this section below.**

I consent to Arena Church storing the personal data given on this form in order to contact me should this be the winning entry. After the competition is over, the entries and personal data will be destroyed in line with GDPR regulations.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_