

OUR VISION: MAKE THE COMMUNITY LIVEABLE AGAIN

EDITION 1
DECEMBER 2023

ARENA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY AT ARENA



Welcome to Arena Community's First Edition of our newsletter.

Arena Community has been around since mid 2008 from very small beginnings which involved one pallet of food collected from local people. We started to serve people and this has grown from Ilkeston and is now in numerous locations across the region.

It now serves approximately 5000 people and children per month. It gives away tens of thousands of pounds of supplies - food, furniture, shoes, school uniforms, bedding, baby equipment each year to those who are struggling, hurting, have fallen upon difficult times and those

presently making poor choices. We have a real need at the moment amongst the working people who are unable to stretch their money far enough due to the present cost of living.

For a full list of what we check out our Let's Do This booklet at www.arenachurch.co.uk/letsdothis

I'm often asked why? Simply because we cannot see need in our region but do nothing to help.

Serving is something we get to do and we are glad to do it. It does take a lot of volunteer hours, donations, money, gifts and kindness to run and we are so grateful to everyone who helps!

Read along, be inspired and see how you may be able to partner with us to help people in need of help.

Kristian Thorpe,
Lead Pastor of Arena Church.

For more information about anything in this Newsletter please email info@arenacommunity.co.uk or visit www.arenacommunity.co.uk

WHAT WE DO:

IN BELPER:

We launched a parents and tots group in Belper every Wednesday morning in November last year. We wanted to reach out to parents with small children. It's great for them to come and meet other parents and children.

We have also been able to give out food hampers to parents within the group who are in need.

IN ILKESTON:

In October 2022 we moved the location of our foodbank to Mundy St. This was so we could make savings financially without reducing the service we offer.

We currently have nine tenants in our supported housing. The team have done an excellent job in redecorating and looking after the houses so that our tenants feel they have a well looked after and homely space to live in. Some of our tenants are currently enrolled in college courses while others are involved with different volunteering opportunities.

IN MANSFIELD:

At Mansfield the community team create a welcoming atmosphere to everyone who comes through the doors for Care for a coffee and Food Club.

At Care for a Coffee we serve tea, coffee, toast and cakes all free to everyone who comes. The pool tables continue to be well used by our guests and it's great to see so many friendships develop. This is

often the highlight of the week for some and they don't want to go home.

The Food club parcels have 12 items of food in them and cost £3.50. It helps singles or families save up to £20 on their groceries. A lot of additional work is done by the team in the background by raising funds and also the 'unseen Monday team' who work hard to set everything up for the week ahead.

The continued generosity of Arena and the wider Mansfield community makes these possible.

IN NOTTINGHAM:

I am SO pleased to officially announce that we now have a fully functioning, fully working, ready to be used shower facility ready to go and grow and love and serve those who are seen to be unloveable.

We have launched Shower Hour, which is exactly what it says on the tin, an hour of opening up the building, inviting those in who would benefit from a shower, cleaning facilities, a bite to eat, and a bit of connection with someone warm and friendly. This is a small thing. In the grand scheme of things - it's a very small thing. Only a little dent. But it's a start...

There are several ways to help – you can give financially any of the following ways:

STANDING ORDER
NatWest Bank
Ilkeston, DE7 8HF
Sort code 60-11-37
Account no 23049669

NOW DONATE
Donate using
Now Donate via
arenachurch.co.uk/giving

PAYPAL
paypal.me/arenacommunity
PayPal will incur a small fee for Arena Community.

CHEQUES
Cheques made payable to
Arena Community can be posted to:
1 Rutland Street, Ilkeston,
Derbyshire, DE7 8DG.

For more information on how to give, or how you can GiftAid your donations
Visit www.arenacommunity.co.uk/giving

BUSINESS CHAMPIONS

INTERVIEW WITH CARL TIDEY - MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TOTAL HIRE AND SALES



Q/ Who are Total Hire and sales?

A/ Total hire and Sales is a company that supplies both local and nationwide on a large range of rental items for both the keen DIY person through to multi million site projects.

Q/ How did you get involved with Arena Church/Community?

A/ We got involved With Arena while working with one of our close partners Ward Recycling who also support the cause

Q/ Why do you feel it's important to get involved in Arena Church/Community?

A/ We are a community company with lots of both our staff and customers living in the area and feel it's important to be able to put something back into where there is areas of need and support required.

OUTREACH

INTERVIEW WITH SIMON ROBINSON HEAD OF COTMANHAY JUNIOR SCHOOL



Q/ Tell us about what you do in the school?

A/ I'm the head teacher of the school. This means I get the opportunity to look after 300 wonderful children on a daily basis and lead a team of incredible staff! Our aim is to help Cotmanhay be a wonderful place to live, learn and work! Our staff and children work tirelessly to ensure our community is a happy, safe and vibrant place to be.

Q/ How did you get involved with Arena Church/Community?

A/ The school has a long standing relationship with Arena Church. For over ten years we've attended community services, which have enabled our children to showcase their performance skills and for us to share in the church's vitally important community messages.

Q/ Why do you feel it's important to get involved in Arena Church/Community?

A/ It's important for us all to feel a sense of belonging, to be part of something bigger than ourselves. Here at CJS we know that we have friends across town in Arena Church who will support us and look out for us and enable us to connect to a wider purpose. We love our involvement with the church and the many kind and generous people who run the whole Arena organisation, and who attend their services and wider functions.

CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS

Each year staff and volunteers at Arena Community, along with members of Arena Church, start fundraising and receiving donations in the last part of the year to continue to lift the level with how many children, families and elderly people they are able to provide food, gifts and donations at Christmas Time.

At Arena the team are very aware there are many who are lonely and in need and particularly in the Christmas season this can be a particularly difficult time for those who find themselves in this situation.

Through the staff and many volunteers, the help of local businesses, fundraising and donations; In 2022 Arena was able



to give away:-

925 selection boxes to local children
305 childrens toys and gifts to families in need
260 Christmas hampers to the lonely, vulnerable and in need.

We are thankful to all who gave money, food items, gifts and toys to enable us to make this kind of impact.

Thank you.

 ARENACOMMUNITY

LET'S DO THIS

WWW.ARENACHURCH.CO.UK/LETSDOTHIS

CLOTHING DONATIONS

Arena Community is currently experiencing a shortage of clothes in their charity shops. Please consider donating some of your old clothes and dropping them off at Arena Hope or The Project (open Wednesday-Saturday) or at your closest Arena Church Location on Sunday.

Thank you for your help and generosity.



FOOD BANK SHOPPING LIST

PRIORITY ITEMS

- UHT MILK
- TINNED MEAT
- TINNED FISH
- TINNED VEG
- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED SPAGHETTI
- PASTA SAUCE
- JAM
- NOODLES
- CEREALS
- TINNED POTATOES
- INSTANT MASH
- RICE PUDDING
- CRISPS
- SUGAR
- TEA AND COFFEE
- TOILET ROLL
- BISCUITS/CHOCOLATE BARS

DROP OFF POINTS

THE PROJECT
ILKESTON
102 BATH ST ILKESTON
DE7 8DG

OR

YOUR CLOSEST ARENA CHURCH LOCATION

VISIT
ARENACHURCH.CO.UK TO FIND YOURS