

EDGE COMMUNITY SELBY: A CHURCH ARMY CENTRE OF MISSION

December 2019

Edge Community Selby is Christian outreach to the people of Flaxley Rd estate, Selby. It is a partnership between St James Church Selby and Church Army. For 13 years we have shared Christian faith in both words and loving action to hundreds of children, teens and families, and grown a new Christian community - Edge Community.

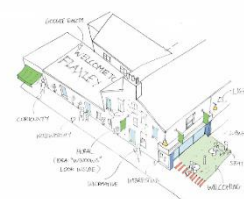
New Homes for Edge and Amy



The **Coultish Centre** at the back of the Flaxley Rd estate will be our home from home from the beginning of January, after 10 yrs in the Children's Centre. Traditionally used for older people, it is a great space if a little hidden away, and Edge members saw lots of positives. Booked from January until the Summer holidays, it will cost of about £20 extra per week. **Pray** this new location helps us reach folk that we currently do not.

Amy also found a new home in July, a more spacious place, right opposite the Coultish Centre, after her landlord sold the house. This new property provides space for meetings and the ongoing Women's Bible Study - which is going really well - as well as a decent home for her.

Community Hub plans by Selby Big Local continue to develop, and some work has begun on the old Co-op, e.g. removal of asbestos. We're really hoping this will be open by the Summer holidays. **Please pray with us** that this will become an excellent home for our main worship and community life, and also that we and other Christians will be at the forefront of various forms of outreach in this building.



Church Army Volunteer Day



A group of 'volunteers' (or 'muckeriners' as one put it) headed off to Sheffield on a wet wet day to help Church Army think better about how they value, support and equip volunteers. Ideas were shared for CA to learn from. It helped Selby folk feel much better connected with the wider organisation, and how valuable their contribution is to our community life. **Pray** that we help them grow in the gifts God has given them.

Mission Visit

Canon Sarah Brown, Canon Missioner at Peterborough Cathedral, visited for a weekend to experience estates ministry and the Church Army approach. "The weekend I spent with you was precious and valuable." she wrote. "On the Flaxley Road Estate in just three days the reality of the gospel jumped off the page to me in ways that I had not completely seen before. Jesus' words from Matthew 11:28-30 came to life:

Come to me... Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls...



There was barely a human problem that I did not encounter in the streets of Flaxley Road community. Poverty; loneliness; exploitation; addiction; fear; violence; abuse; broken and complicated relationships; guilt; anger; powerlessness; depression; psychosis; disability; boredom; frustration; chronic illness; grief; a sense of abandonment - the list goes on. And yet quietly in the middle of it is a Christian man and a small group of others showing love, valuing each person and trying to reflect God and give the news that the past cannot literally be undone but with Christ it can be redeemed and that forgiveness, hope and peace are there for all who are open to the sort of transformation of life that is only possible with God." We are very grateful for the time and love Sarah gave to us and the community.

Come and See Mission 2020

Three experienced vicars are joining us for a weekend mission to the Flaxley Rd community in March, which coincides with the York Diocesan 'Come and See' mission, the last of a series of missions to northern dioceses led by the Archbishop of York. Simon, Katie and Jeremy are coming from Oxford, Colchester and Truro dioceses respectively as part of the Strategic Leadership Development Programme of the C of E to gain experience of mission in a context such as ours. Please **put it in your diary** to pray for us all on 12th - 15th March.



Light Party



The Light Party was a successful joint venture with St James families. One mum attending her first Edge event commented: "I'm not used to being with such happy people." **Pray** that God speaks to her and others through the light and life of the Christian community.

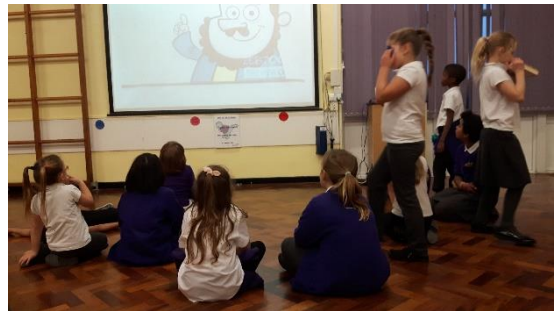
Other events included a Summer BBQ with 52 attending Richard & Kath's home & a Christmas film night.

Youth Ministry update

With the sudden loss of the Bus in December 2018, we focussed our youth outreach to younger teens who we felt confident to have meet in the children's centre. Without any volunteers to work with Richard and Amy, that work also had to pause, and issues about use of the building have also stopped us going forward. We know there are great young people on the estate, especially younger teens, who would love to be part of anything we arranged, but we need volunteers and the certainty of a place to meet. Is God calling you? Please **pray** with us that we can start afresh our youth ministry.

JAFFA

Amy writes, "This term in Jaffa we have seen answered prayer. Our numbers increased 100% since the summer term, including 4 boys (we had none last year!). With the increase in numbers we of course needed more leaders and to be honest I was panicking a bit about that, but sure enough God had it in hand and we have had 2 new volunteers start - welcome Vickie and Denise! How incredible is that?! But are we seeing lives changed?"



In the Summer term 2 children made the decision that they wanted to follow Jesus. These girls come from unchurched backgrounds but after watching a video at Easter that showed what Jesus had done for them, they responded with a "yes" to Jesus. One of the girls now comes along to Edge on a Sunday with her sister.

In another session we were telling a story in which Jesus Prays. In Diary of a Disciple (the paraphrase of Luke's Gospel that we use), Jesus begins his prayer with "Hi Dad...". One of the kids then asked me, "Amy, does that mean that Jesus kinda had two dads, one in heaven and then Joseph?" "Yea it kinda does, but do you want to know the crazy thing?" I responded. Every eye was glued to me in that moment and you could have heard a pin drop in what had been a particularly rowdy session. "If we choose to follow Jesus, God becomes our dad too!" Every kid in the room erupted with shouts of "YES!!!!" One kid even exclaimed, "I finally have a dad!"

Isn't that our God? The Father to the fatherless and the One who turns up when we least expect it? Keep praying for us, God is doing stuff!

Practical Help

There are always people in physical need, and we are grateful for the work of the Foodbank who provide us with vouchers for struggling folk. At this time of year many feel a real squeeze. Richard has been working with Selby Big Local to advance the work of the local Credit Union, to move people away from Doorstep Lenders and other high interest loans. Please pray that this becomes a successful alternative.



Each December St Wilfrid's Church and Primary School in Brayton (Selby) donate presents though a toy service, and we try to direct these to those most in need. We were also able to furnish a mum of four with many household essentials after a local man's funeral. Pray that with others we would effectively meet the whole needs of people, physical, emotional and spiritual.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT

St James Edge Community

If you wish support the ministry of Edge Community through regular giving, please set up a Standing Order with your bank. This can be done through internet or telephone banking.

Account details:

St James Church Selby PCC

Acc. No. **10313246**

Sort code **209956**

Please include a reference with your "SURNAME - EDGE".

Please inform the treasurer Brian Wade that you are setting up a Standing Order by emailing him at treasurerstjamesselby@gmail.com

If you are a tax payer please fill in the form below and send to

St James Church Office, Standering Hall, New Lane Selby YO8 4QB.

Gift Aid Declaration: Boost my donation by claiming Gift Aid

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

Your address is needed to identify you as a current taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to St James Church PCC Selby (please tick)

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title:_____ Forename:_____ Surname:_____

Address:_____

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Please contact me to let me know how I can do more to hear about and support Edge Community's work. (please tick)

Tel:_____ Email:_____

Using your personal information - Data Protection

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