

EDGE COMMUNITY SELBY: A CHURCH ARMY CENTRE OF MISSION

Spring 2022 *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 15+ 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.*



Edge Community celebrated its thirteenth anniversary in April, although at the time it felt quite a low point in the life of this fledgling Christian community: “Numbers have been really down this year, lower than they have ever been.” commented Mark. “We’re also short of committed Christians to help sustain what we are doing; there are just four of us to make church happen every week, with worship, teaching, children’s activities and Messy Church once a month”. Part of the problem seems to have been a falling out between some members.

Yet just a few weeks later things are turning around. Numbers are up at different activities and folk we have not seen in a while are returning. One person’s mental health is improving. We are working towards reconciliation and healing. A great moment was when one member announced that she now feels ready to become free of an addiction she has had for 15 years, and is working with an agency to do that.

Yet God does not call us to stand still and we continue to look to draw new people into the life and faith of Edge Community. We are praying for faithful Christians who might contribute even in small way, like assisting with the children’s group during the adult teaching.

Do **pray for us** in this, and for the Edge Team as we have a series of Days Away to reflect on our vision, calling and life together, and what God might be saying to us.

Don’t try this at home!

This Spring we relaunched our regular (roughly monthly) social events with food and little bit Christian input. Edge Community is partnering with St James and their Squiggles and Wiggles parent and toddler group. Our Good Friday Family Fun event included craft activities and food. We all then went into the church building for an Easter Egg hunt.

Here Mark and Amy demonstrate Jesus’ power to break sin and death.



Growing in evangelism

Building relationships with people takes times and effort. It can at times feel we are doing all the running. This text came through from a guy on the estate who Richard has known from a number of years. Edge had held a series of Men's Nights in the local pub, and only one of the regulars came and joined in. Years of occasional bumping into and chats have followed, leading eventually to 'Dan' sharing about his struggles with his mental health.

The real turning point was Richard sharing some of his struggles one day. "I'd been thinking about who it is right to be vulnerable with, and when. In Envoy (below) we spent some time thinking about power dynamics in relationships. In Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well *he asked her* for something: whereas we often feel we should always be serving others. I felt it right I should be vulnerable with 'Dan', and sent him a brief text about things I was finding hard. He responded with the offer of a 'listening ear'." It was a few months later that 'Dan' messaged Richard with this request for support. "This feels like a significant next step in our relationship, and I pray that as trust grows, truth can be shared in love.", Richard says. "There is something powerful about us going to others' 'territory' rather than saying 'Come to us on ours'." And yes, the quiz was fun and we won!

Who might you be vulnerable with, who is not a Christian? Not to burden them, but to be real, and perhaps to challenge the sense that you have the power, and you always help them?

“Good morning. I hope you are well. I am a struggling a bit with insomnia and withdrawal from pain meds and could do to have a beer and a natter. Fancy joining me for the quiz on thursday?”



Half a dozen members of St James Church, Selby, took part in this year's Envoy programme. Envoy is all about building supportive relationships, where we can grow in understanding how we best share our faith. With each others' prayerful support, we take small steps and grow in confidence.

Denise



It gave me a clearer understanding that Gods spirit works through me, using my unique personality and gifts. And we don't have to give all of God's message at once - getting it across the bridge a bit at a time."

Envoy created a safe & supportive community to explore sharing my faith in my own unique way.



Bev



Claire

For me, to learn the value of really being heard and really hearing.

Envoy was a great encouragement. I was reminded to start from where the other person is, not from where you think they should be.



John

Could you form an Envoy group in your church, or join one online? More info at www.envoy.website

JAFFA Club

Sadly JAFFA came to a stop at Christmas, at least for now. JAFFA began in September 2007, and only stopped for Covid lockdowns, when Kids' Club online took its place.

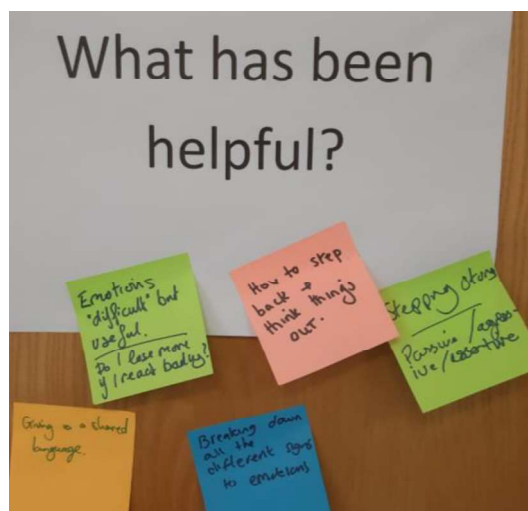
In some ways JAFFA was a victim of its own success, with numbers having grown before the pandemic and it restarted well in September. Lovely, lovely children, but a number with challenging behaviour due to their particular needs and / or issues. Faithful volunteers felt they needed to step down and no-one sufficiently experienced stepped forward.

We thank God for all the children who have been blessed and witnessed to over the years, and for the various leaders and helpers who have contributed in different ways. We continue to look for ways to reach children and young people, and help them know Jesus in a life changing way.

Pray that God would provide the vision, the people and the right venue(s) for this to happen.



Emotional Logic



This group, led by St James members Jenna and Bev, has been helping some women work with the emotions that come from various kinds of loss. Emotional Logic is a practical tool to help people make good use of emotions we find difficult, like anger and guilt.

Mum 'D' said, "Now when I get angry, instead of shouting I can take time to be calm. I've always been an angry person, shouting and that. You're not allowed to cry or show feelings, it's weak, do you know what I mean? So now I want to pass it on to my kids that it's ok to have feelings. I wished I had talked about things a long time ago, instead of blocking it out with other things, cos you still have to deal with it 10 years down the line when you realise you've still got all that guilt

or whatever. So we need to talk about feelings and learn what to do with them."

Please pray that these women will continue to learn to use difficult emotions for good, and pass on that skill to others; for Richard, Amy, Bev & Jenna to hone their skills to help others further.

Community Hub update

The Selby Big Local 'Our Space' building on Flaxley Rd (the old Co-op) is still awaiting development. Architects will discuss a tender with the partnership at the end of May / early June. The partnership (of which Richard is a member) will then have to decide on whether to get 100% of the work done in one go by the builder, or whether to leave some elements to local residents; this would encourage and allow ownership by local people, but would take longer. If the tender is accepted in full then work would begin in November and take 3-4 months.

Please pray with us - the vision for a community space where people can find welcome, love and practical help - and potentially a relationship with God - has been long in coming. Establishing this could transform the life of Edge Community and the church's mission in this area, and make a lasting difference to people's lives.



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