



Welcome Neil and Barbara New Evangelist joins the team

Neil Walpole has been appointed as *Community Evangelist* for 5 years starting this August. He comes to support Richard and free him up to give time to our new Trainee. Neil and his wife Barbara are Yorkshire folk, currently ministering near Huddersfield.

Neil writes:

"We have heard and read lots about the *Edge Community* and are excited about the prospect of being part of the team.

"I previously ministered to homeless at St George's Crypt in Leeds; during this time God instilled in me a deep heart for those who find themselves lost in spiritual & physical poverty.

"I love to use drama for expressing the gospel and amongst other things in my post in Huddersfield, have enjoyed developing 'Rocky Kidz' drama groups. These have led to a sense of real discipleship for mainly unchurched children as through drama and sharing a meal and conversation, we

feel the heartbeat and love of Jesus. We hope to see individuals, children and families come to a place where they feel that heartbeat as they enter into a relationship with Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Barbara writes:

God brought Neil and I together in an amazing way - married 8 years. Between us we have 3 grown up children, 2 granddaughters, another on the way and are in the process of adopting a child.

God has done a great work in my life - emerging from a deep dark pit to a life of abundance with Him!!

We are looking forward to living amongst the people on the estate, being able to connect, befriend and love them, sharing Jesus with them. My calling is 'to get alongside a certain kind of people'. In my case, coming from a past of domestic violence, physical, mental/emotional and sexual abuse, which led to a life of hell but PRAISE BE TO GOD who has turned all that around!!

Church Army to support Edge Community Project for 5 more years

Church Army (CA) is fully funding Neil for five years, including providing accommodation. They are continuing to support Richard with £12,000 a year for a further four years. They are fully funding Trainee Keith for four years. Capt Nev Willerton writes, "We were

very impressed with what we have seen of Edge, not just Richard and Kath and the work they are doing, but the people around them - the Edge Community. We believe this new *Centre of Mission* will have a lasting impact in Selby and help see a new Church established."



Welcome Keith and Sarah New Evangelist-in-Training

Keith writes, "I was born and raised in London, the youngest of seven. All my family had at some point been in trouble with the police; some had been to prison, I had three prison sentences myself.

At 13 I became a drug addict involved in gangs and crime. I lost out on formal education. At 18 I was desperate, no money and needing drugs. I decided to steal some lead off a church roof, but I was arrested and told to appear at court. I ran away to Birmingham as I knew I'd go to prison. I tried to start a new life, but got involved with the same sort

of people, and ended up in prison. One day I went to church after being led to the Lord by my girlfriend. The man preached on the abuse of drugs - it was as though someone told him about me. I continued to take drugs but didn't get high, the drugs had no effect on me. I knew this Jesus was doing something, but out of my control.

Hallelujah, I was set free from drugs. Later I was healed of arthritis, asthmatic bronchitis and lumbago. The Lord provided us with a six bedroom house; we have 7 children and 6 grandchildren. Sarah and I have been married now for 32 years.

Tiggywinkle's

to close...?!



It is two and a half years since the group started and a year since a second morning began. Kathryn Cole writes, "Tiggywinkles continues well. We never know how many people will arrive each day – last Monday we were 45 all together! What a good job the weather was fine enough for some to be outside enjoying the space. Many people have been coming since early on, and we have formed close relationships with them. New people come regularly, particularly Polish families who need to meet with others, both Polish and English speakers.

Tiggy provides a chance for busy carers to chat, have a drink, and play with their children in a happy, relaxed atmosphere, thanks to a willing band of volunteers who do their best to show we care for them all."

Kathryn no-longer attends St James and feels it is time to move on. **She will be letting go of the reins at the end of July.** We are ever so grateful for all she

Some of our helpers



has given. We have a good number of committed helpers both from St James and the local community – please **pray for the right person to lead this important group**, so it can continue to do a great job of reaching out in love to local mums, dads and carers.

JAFFA

Christian after-school Club

Welcome to Sandra Russell who has joined the team! "For a long time I was looking for someone with the faith, steady temperament and caring, servant heart that Sandra has", Richard comments. "The children really need a 'mum figure' who will be loving, firm and unflappable".

We continue to use the Friends and Heroes DVDs which the children are finding really enjoyable. Please **pray** that they would open their hearts to Jesus and his love for them, and be equipped to live Christian life – life to the full - where they are.

Edge Allotment



Elspeeth watering some beans

We have just taken charge of our allotment and have been thrilled at how quickly local families have got involved. It is another great way we can make contact and build community locally. "We have dug and planted the front half, which is a great start!", says Alison. "Yet we find there is already community there, and have been impressed by the warmth of people's welcome." **Give thanks** for this new and further opportunity to build relationships and witness to the relationship we can have with God. **Pray** for good things to grow there!

Money matters

"A Great Success"

Eight mums attended the course that ran from January through to March, and all found it very helpful; a number testified how the course had made a real impact:



"We had an unexpected expense of £500, but as we were now on top of things, we were OK", said one.

Another spoke of how she had "stopped going up town with the kids and doing stuff at home – even cleaning the car together", saving a good deal in the process. That change of ways helped her through a difficult period when their Tax Credits were stopped.

A third mum worked hard to save the money needed to become bankrupt – a difficult decision but with £15,000 of debt and living as a single mum on benefits, there really was no other way forward. "Debt is a real trap and burden for so many, but with the right support and encouragement families can break out and start again", Richard writes.

Thanks to John Bennett of Sherburn Methodist who co-lead the course with Richard & is committed to supporting local families in addressing debt and money problems.

Give thanks for families helped and changing attitudes to money. **Pray** for families struggling with debt and limited incomes.



Please **pray** for this important outreach to local families:

- for the planning and preparation
- for this year's team – especially new members
- that families would commit to coming
- that lives would be changed.

How can I be involved with Edge?

We always welcome new partners and are hugely grateful to all those who already give of themselves in some way.



If you're **Selby based**, is there **something that excites you** that you would like to join in with? Talk to Richard / Kath or anyone already involved with that part of our outreach.

Is there **something you are passionate about** that might be relevant to our outreach to the people of Flaxley Road?

If you cannot be a partner by giving of your time, could you be involved by **giving financially**? Contact Richard, Kath or George Eccleston for details.

As ever, without **prayer** nothing changes in people's hearts, so please continue to pray for us, our ministry and all people of Flaxley Road.

The Edge Community Project has only been made possible by the generous financial support of the congregations of St James Church, Selby, Emmanuel and St Matthews Church, Plymouth and other Christians across the UK, as well as

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