



## **HeartEdge | Introduction**

### **Growing movement via network, communication and resource**

#### **HeartEdge:**

The church is getting smaller; and it's getting narrower. HeartEdge asks, 'How do you feel about that? What are you doing about it?' – and provides ways to turn convictions into actions.

#### **About HeartEdge:**

Initiated by the congregation at St Martin-in-the-Fields in 2017, HeartEdge is:

1. *A partner-based organisation* building association, learning, development and resource with churches and other organisations working in the UK and overseas.
2. *An ecumenical network*, bringing churches and church related organisations together to share ideas, make connections, do theology and develop mission.
3. *A movement for renewal* fuelled by the interest and agenda of active partners, encouraged to participate, sharing their assets, experience, resource and needs.
4. *Informed by belief* that a) The Bible was written in exile and the first disciples saw God most fully present on the cross – so adversity is the principal time of depth and discovery for the church b) Jesus makes himself present most reliably in those on whom the world turns its back.

HeartEdge is about churches developing 4Cs:

- *Commerce*: Generating finance via enterprise.
- *Culture*: Art, music, performance re-imagining the Christian narrative for the present.
- *Congregation*: Liturgy, worship and day-to-day communal life.
- *Compassion*: Addressing social need via our congregations.

We think nurturing each of these is essential for renewal of the church.

#### **Catalysing kingdom communities:**

We function as a network and a brokerage, enabling churches to make connections together.

- HeartEdge is a movement with hundreds of churches, clergy, volunteers and workers; dispersed, often disconnected doing vital work in challenging circumstances.
- HeartEdge is practiced in a gospel longing for heaven to come to earth; built on mutual solidarity; discovering gifts in the stranger, seeking to be a blessing to a whole society.

#### **How it works:**

- Churches become partners, completing a brief online application form.
- HeartEdge works with partners to identify their assets – knowledge, insight, skills and experience, alongside issues and obstacles being worked through.
- HeartEdge partners support the movement by sharing ideas, approaches, good practices, and financial donations.
- We work with HeartEdge Hub Churches to establish ways for partners to participate, access resource and find support; via consultancy, workshop, meet-ups and website.

#### **Why it works:**

- *“HeartEdge feels different*, in that it is practical theology, where the theology is not just a veneer, but running right through it.” Rev Andy Goodliff: *Baptist Times*

**To join HeartEdge:** Click 'Join' at <https://heartedge.org/>

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## HeartEdge | Activity and Benefit



### Growing movement via network, communication and resource

#### Network: Being together, making connections

Inspired by vision, we think networks, communication and resource grow movement:

1. *HeartEdge Day*: offers theology, practical ideas and connections; an intensive bespoke programme focused on mission and our 4Cs; commerce, congregation, culture compassion. Contributors, all practitioners learning by doing, experts by experience. A moment to share insights, learning, experience, ideas.
2. *HeartEdge Conference*: our annual two-day intensive on ideas, connections, theology and mission. An eclectic programme and diverse mix of experienced global practitioners – people learning by doing – highlighting effective work, questioning challenges, offering ways through. Also celebrating partners' achievements.
3. *HeartEdge Consultancy*: a day at your church, focused around your questions, experience and concern, going deeper into issues about ministry and your context. Then sharing with a bespoke team of practitioners, stories of experience, ideas and approaches – inspiring, practical and equipping.
4. *HeartEdge Workshops*: practical half-days focused on aspects of one of our 4Cs:
  - Art of Contemplation – utilising art exhibitions/installations to deepen spirituality
  - Art Trails – promoting and exploring art in churches within a defined area
  - City Chaplains – Mixing ideas, enterprise and support in city centres
  - Disability Advisory Groups – where disabled people 'join in', not just 'get in'
  - Great Sacred Music – Sharing faith insights with mainstream, secular audiences
  - Inspired to Follow – Exploration of the Christian faith, using paintings and Bible stories
  - International Groups – Hospitality with those with no recourse to public funds
  - Nazareth Communities – building lay communities and deepening discipleship
  - Social Enterprise – creating self-sufficient, sustainable communities
  - Stand-up Theology – Theological reflection via comedy and performance
  - Start:Stop – Early morning reflections for busy commuters
  - Theology Groups – Exploring theological issues and approaches in a facilitated small group setting

#### Communication: Sharing experience, developing together

1. *HeartEdge Brokerage*: HeartEdge partners share a Snapshot about their church and context, used to match with the circumstances and experience of other churches.
2. *HeartEdge Meet-Ups*: enables partners to find and meet up with others sharing similar contexts and challenges, to ask questions and find answers and support.
3. *Hub Church*: facilitating HeartEdge in your area, with partners growing support, resource and hosting regular events.
4. *HeartEdge Mailer*: Useful monthly email with links to material around the 4Cs.

#### Resource: HeartEdge related publications

- 'Incarnational Ministry: Being with the Church' (Canterbury Press 2017)
- 'Incarnational Mission: Being with the World' (Canterbury Press 2018)
- 'Who Is My Neighbour: The Global and Personal Challenge' (SPCK 2018)
- 'Liturgy on the Edge: Pastoral & Attractional Worship' (Canterbury Press 2018)
- 'A Future That's Bigger Than The Past: Catalysing Kingdom Communities' (Canterbury Press 2019)

#### Learning: Growing a movement for renewal

- "There were some practical ideas and some lights came on. We gained new courage to address issues that we had parked." Attendee at a HeartEdge Consultancy Day
- "The whole day was really valuable. Hearing from different voices and the opportunity to connect with others." Attendee at a HeartEdge Day