



## *Catalysing kingdom communities*



# **Introduction to HeartEdge**

**Key concepts**

**Questions for reflection**

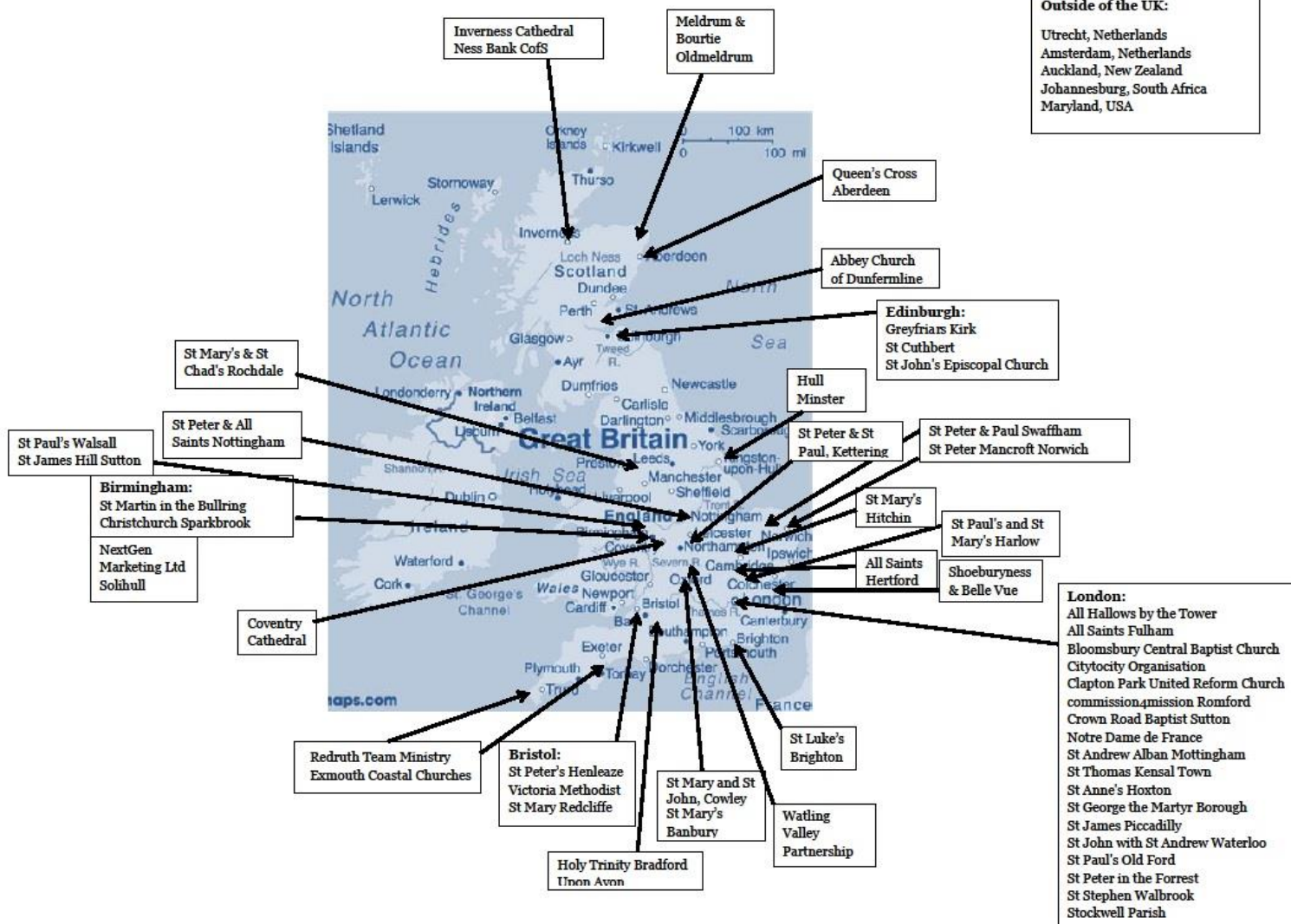
**Movement for renewal**

**Ecumenical network**

**Association for developing  
mission & resource**

**Outside of the UK:**

Utrecht, Netherlands  
Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
Maryland, USA





# Making connections

1. **HeartEdge Day:** offers theology, practical ideas and connections focused on mission.
2. **HeartEdge Conference:** our annual two-day intensive on ideas, connections, theology and mission.
3. **HeartEdge Consultancy:** a day at your church, 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.



# Sharing experience

1. **HeartEdge Brokerage:** HeartEdge members share their Snapshot about their church and context, used to match with the context and experience of other churches.
2. **HeartEdge Networking:** enabling members to find and meet up with others sharing similar contexts and challenges, to ask questions and find answers and support.
3. **HeartEdge Mailer:** Useful monthly email with links to material around the 4Cs.





# Publications

- **Liturgy on the Edge: Pastoral & Attractional Worship** (Norwich: Canterbury 2018).
- **Who Is My Neighbour? The Global & Personal Challenge** (London: SPCK 2018)
- **Incarnational Mission: Being with the World** (Norwich: Canterbury 2018);
- **Incarnational Ministry: Being with the Church** (Norwich: Canterbury 2017).

**A Future that's Bigger than the Past:**

**Catalysing Kingdom Communities** (Norwich: Canterbury, October 2019)

**Discipleship course & films of Autumn Lecture series**



# HeartEdge membership pack





**Being with God on the Edge  
At the heart. On the edge.**

**The 4Cs**

**Beyond the Benefactor & Steward  
Assets, not deficits**

**Improvising the kingdom  
Catalysing kingdom communities  
The future is bigger than the past**

# Being with God on the edge

**Being with - the recognition that one must accompany others while they find their own methods, answers, approaches – and meanwhile celebrate and enjoy the rest of their identity that's not wrapped up in what we judge to be their problem.**

**The word ‘edge’ speaks of the conviction that God’s heart is on the edge of human society, with those who have been excluded or rejected or ignored. God is most evidently encountered among those in the margins and on the edge.**

**Being with God on the edge - this isn't about bringing those on the imagined 'edge' into the exalted 'middle'; it's about saying we want to be where God is, and God's on the edge, so we want to be there too.**



**Of Jesus' time among us he spent 90% being with us in Nazareth, 9% working with us in Galilee, and 1% working for us in Jerusalem. A truly incarnate practice of mission seeks to reflect these percentages.**

**What part does the  
incarnation play in your  
understanding of mission?**

**St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields**

HeartEdge

**At the heart. On the edge.**

# **At the heart. On the edge.**

**We see ourselves at the heart of London, through our location on Trafalgar Square, and of the nation, through our 500-year links with the royal family, and also of the church, through our national profile gained through nearly a century of broadcasting and our flagship role in social issues – but also appealing to the heart through our long tradition of choral and classical music and our reputation for compassion gained through a century of engagement with poverty and destitution. Our calling is to be on the edge, not just of Trafalgar Square but alongside those on the edge through being excluded, ignored or oppressed by society or church, and on the cutting edge of innovation in culture, commerce, charity and congregational life.**

**What examples have you  
seen of churches that are at  
the heart of their  
communities whilst also  
being alongside those on the  
edge of society?**



St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields

HeartEdge

## *Catalysing kingdom communities*



### *Congregation*

approaches to liturgy, worship and day-to-day communal life



### *Culture*

art, music and ideas to re-imagine the Christian narrative for the present moment



### *Commerce*

activities generating finance and developing social enterprise



### *Compassion*

addressing social needs while retaining congregational participation











# Beach Hut Advent Calendar 2012

5.30 - 6.30pm

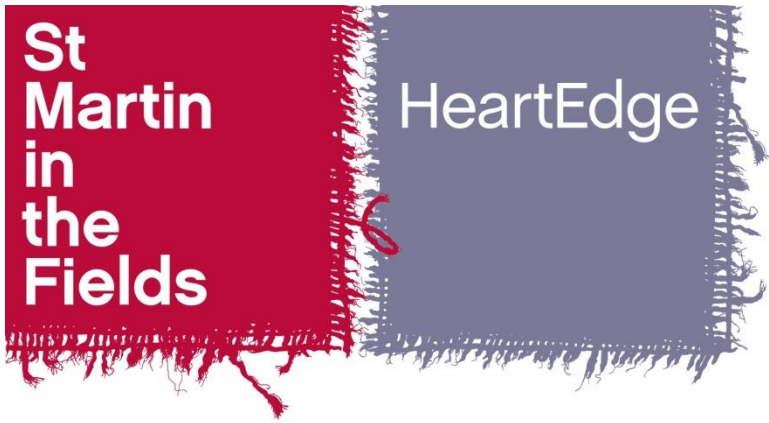
1st-24th December









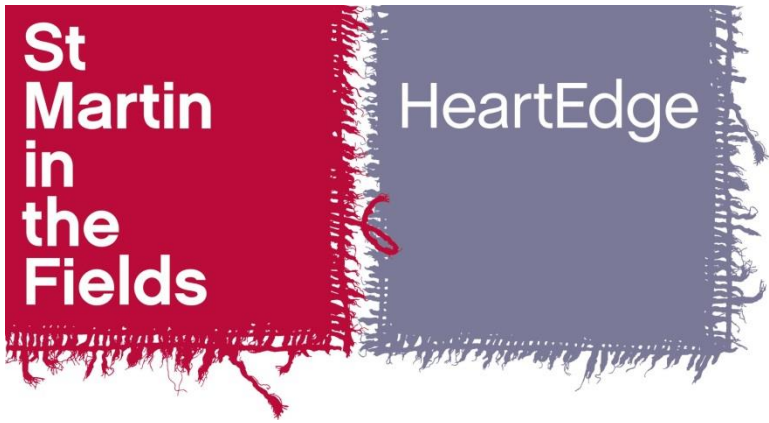


# **The 4Cs**

**Holistic approach to mission**

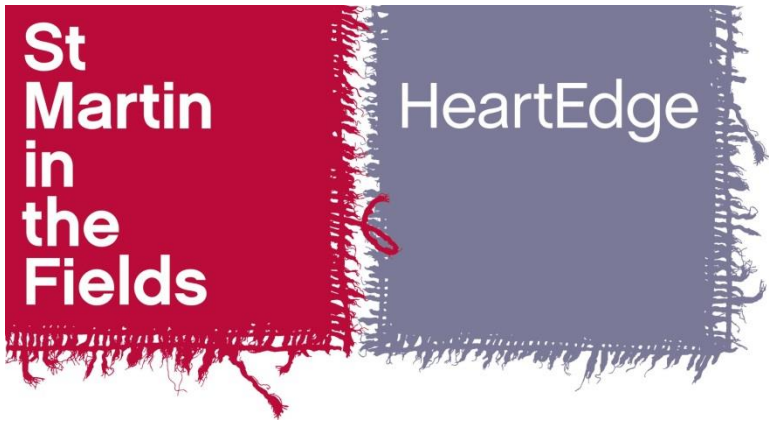
**Reflecting key essential ingredients to  
human flourishing**

**Engagement with a breadth of civic  
society**



# The 4Cs

**The integration of this model, while rooted in a vibrant congregational life, means that the wider operations (of compassion, cultural expression & commerce) are not seen as secondary or simply instrumental to mission, but as creative & challenging forms of church in their own right.**



# The 4Cs

**Cultural, commercial and charitable programmes rooted in a vibrant congregational life create 'a vision of a civil economy, of what work & play, friendship & worship, social concern & evangelism, diversity & identity might look like.' Sam Wells**

**‘Christianity must take the present opportunity to be what it was always called to be: an alternative society ... modelling God’s future in our present.’**

**In what ways is this a missional statement?**

# Beyond the Benefactor & Steward

**Two main models of handling  
money in the Bible – The Rich  
Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-27) & All  
things in common (Acts 2:42-47)**

**From these the Church has derived  
the Benefactor & Stewardship  
models of funding**

**Neither the Benefactor or  
Stewardship models of funding by  
themselves are now sufficient to  
fund churches**

**Churches need a mixed economy of  
funding including commercial  
enterprises**



# Commerce

**HeartEdge is about the creative work of financial sustainability. This is about sustainable ways to secure things we love, but may fear are dying.**

**HeartEdge helps secure ways to finance our vision and plan for the future. Commercial activity is a vital part of this work, a practical expression of faith, a central component in the mission of the church. Commercial activity is about maximising resources, managing risk, promoting opportunity and generating unrestricted financial income.**



**What examples have you seen of  
effective commercial activity that is  
church-based?**

# Assets, not deficits

**The church is getting smaller and narrower. In response we focus on what our church doesn't have, who isn't there, and what problems it faces. If we begin with our hurts and stereotypes, we find a hundred reasons why we can't do things or certain kinds of people don't belong. Churches are quick to attribute their plight to a hostile culture, an indifferent, distracted population or a sinful generation.**

**Churches and communities thrive when the gifts of all their members are released and they build one another's assets. Sharing our particular assets (skills, experience, insights and ideas) with other members will foster a wider understanding and model the practice of hospitality towards others. God is giving the church everything it needs for the renewal of its life in the people who find themselves to be on the edge.**



**Where do you envisage  
looking for assets in the  
context of your future  
ministry?**

# Improvising the kingdom

**Scripture seen as 5 Act Play (Creation,  
Israel, Jesus, Church, Eschaton).  
In Act 4 we improvise our part on the  
basis of what has gone before and the  
hints we have of the ending.**

**Christianity must take the present opportunity to be what it was always called to be: an alternative society, overlapping and sharing space with regular society, but living in a different time – that's to say, modelling God's future in our present.**



**What's needed today are communities of ordinary virtues, but ones infused with grace: thus trust, honesty, politeness, forbearance, and respect are the bedrock of such communities, while tolerance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and resilience are among its abiding graces.**

**What examples of  
effective improvisation  
have you seen?**

# **Catalysing kingdom communities**



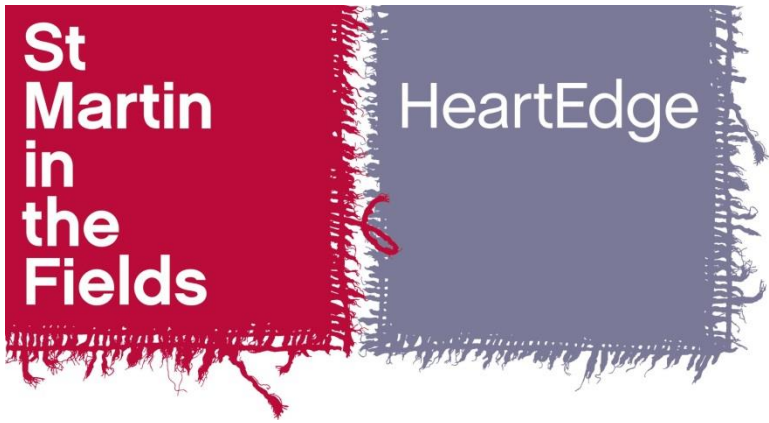
**HeartEdge seeks the renewal of the church by catalysing kingdom communities. It aims to foster, not to impose; it sees the kingdom as God's gift to renew the church, rather than as a mission-field to be conformed to the church's image; and it sees churches as lively and dynamic communities, rather than defensive and narrow congregations.**



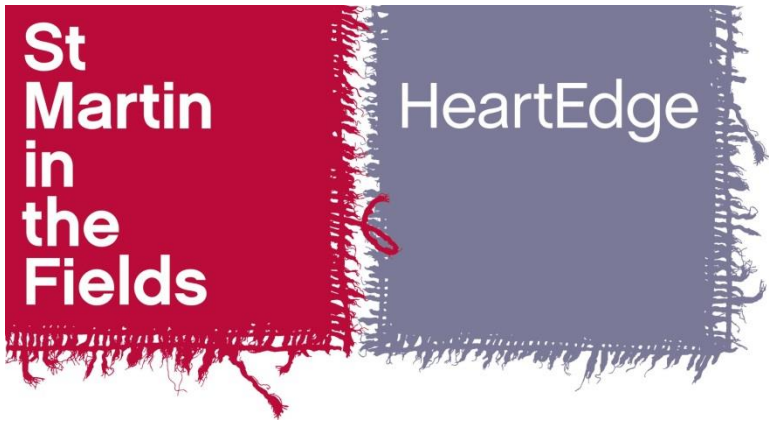


## **With God together**

- 1. Recognisable communities of hope, embodying a liberating story of reconciliation & grace.**
- 2. Distinctive congregations whose life is shaped & renewed through the energy & gifts of those culturally, economically and socially 'on the edge,' & whose diversity reflects the diverse glory of God.**

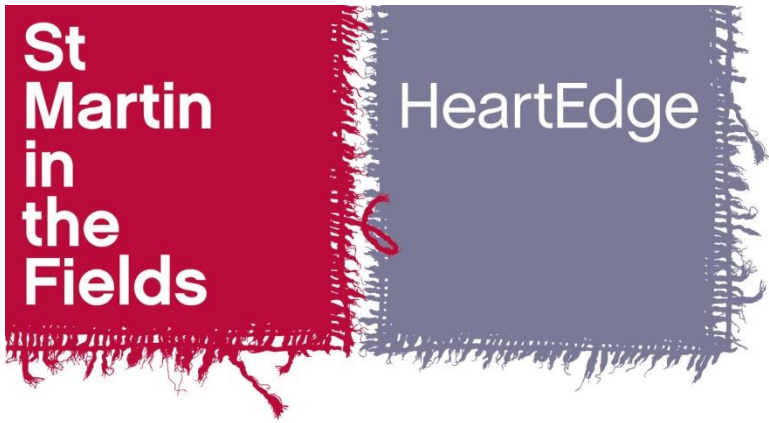


- 3. With God: Faithful disciples who have discovered how God is made known in times of adversity & who thus walk with the dispossessed in order to be close to God.**
- 4. With near neighbours: Humble institutions whose need for financial sustainability opens their lives to the skill, vision & wisdom of those who scarcely or only partly share their faith.**



**5. With oneself: Fertile centres of creative & artistic flourishing through which people apprehend beauty in the world & talent in themselves & one another.**

**6. With Creation: Penitent communities that recognise the individual & corporate legacy of the misuse of power & the dominance of some social groups over others, nationally & internationally, & are seeking new forms of practice & relationship.**



**7. With distant neighbours: Thriving churches that individually & corporately are seen as an unqualified blessing by their neighbourhoods & nation.**

**In what ways might the  
kingdom be God's gift to  
renew the church?**

**The future is bigger  
than the past**



**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.**

**In Christ, the future is bigger than the past. We don't know, but we're learning. We haven't arrived, but the journey's great. We're not sure exactly where we're going, but it's getting better all the time. We've had some wonderful experiences, but the best is yet to come.**

**In what ways do you think  
adversity deepens the  
Church?**

**<https://heartedge.org/>**

**@HeartEdge\_**

**<https://www.facebook.com/theHeartEdge/>  
**[jonathan.evens@smitf.org](mailto:jonathan.evens@smitf.org)****

St  
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