

From: HeartEdge update - news, stories and our monthly links heartedge@smitf.org
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HeartEdge 2021



HeartEdge is a global ecumenical movement.
Churches and organisations developing mission.
Focused on commercial activity,
congregations, cultural engagement and compassion.
This email is our monthly selection of ideas and resource
focused on our 4 Cs.
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Lots for you this month, including:

- Community organising 101. Plus sermon resources.
- Beer, brewing and church-related community work.
- INTRODUCING DAVE - Supporting commercial activity!
- Coming out of lockdown and economic justice post G7.
 - Plus the HeartEdge Summer School.
 - Miranda Threlfall-Holmes on 'How to eat Bread' an extract from the new book.

Congregation

After the pandemic: Resource for the congregation

We're emerging from the pandemic and still working out the impact. "... Our bodies have been under threat, causing higher than normal levels of stress... Under normal circumstances, the demands and complexity of ministry are rarely understood. Under these circumstances, few will be aware of just how much stress clergy have been carrying." Listening to each other and finding time for rest are essential for team recovery. What else? Insight and learning [here](#)

Graze the HeartEdge YouTube channel - [a box set](#) full of resource for you and your congregation including a series of Sam Wells in Conversation, 'Back in the Building and Online' [here](#) and 'Pilgrimage post-Pandemic' [here](#).

"Exile is the time Israel found it was closer to God than it had ever been in the Promised Land..." Sam Wells on how the pandemic hit, and the next steps [here](#). There's more urban theology [here](#) and [here](#).

Sermon Prep - and HeartEdge Summer School!

Preaching Sunday? The UK 'Joint Public Issues Team' ([JPIT](#)) have a fab lectionary commentary podcast, 'Politics in the Pulpit' [here](#).

And Sally Hitchiner and Sam Wells have their lively weekly sermon prep - so 'live' you can post questions and get answers - to help plan the sermon. Nip over to the [HeartEdge Facebook page](#).

Want to do more? Join the HeartEdge Summer School! Covering all 4 Cs, the HeartEdge Summer School includes Dupe Adefala, James Butler, Andrea Campanale, Heather Cracknell, Maggi Dawn, Jonathan Evens, Richard Frazer, Shannon Hopkins, James Hughesdon, Zaza Lima, Rosemarie Mallett, Anthony Reddie, Cathy Ross, Rachel Summers and Sam Wells to work through mission theology and practice. From 12 - 16 July Detail [here](#).



Culture

Poetry, art, migration and justice

Lia Shimada and guests explore how poetry emerges, giving voice to diverse experiences of exile, abuse, hope, refuge and belonging... See the excellent Migration, Theology and Community session [here](#).

"... it was the responsibility of the Christian Church both to plead for the refugee, and also to welcome the artist within its doors." Our own Jonathan Evens on art created by Jewish refugee artists for the Church as a form of interfaith dialogue - now under threat [here](#).

Your church is essential to the community...

"If there was one clear message from non-church people it is summed up in this quote from the respondent who said: 'These places must remain open. They are essential to the community ... especially for times such as this.' Significant report from University of York, on the role of the church as social and cultural space, 'vital in helping to restore individual and community wellbeing and building future resilience' post-pandemic. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Want to develop your community work? Catch 'church-related Community Work - tactic, ideas and approaches' session, Thursday 14 July - 3.30 - 5pm BST via Zoom. Book [here](#).

Compassion

Community Organising 101

"Each episode has readings that accompany it and can be listened to individually

or used as the basis for a group discussion. But, when listened to together, the episodes build on each other, with the series as a whole being a 101 course in the meaning, purpose and mechanics of how to do community organizing and generate meaningful change in local communities." This is a great podcast by Luke Bretherton on everything community organising - [here](#).

G7 and the Church on Global Tax and Drop the Debt

'Global Tax Plan for a Global Pandemic' - [a report by](#) Church Action for Tax Justice proposes a global minimum tax rate of 21%. "We have a crucial window of opportunity to reframe our attitudes to taxation and make it work for all..." says Rowan Williams. At the G7 agreement settled at 15% - a level "nowhere near ending the injustice and unfairness that plagues our global tax system." Learn more and join the campaign [here](#).

Church Action for Tax Justice is a reminder of the 1990s campaign galvanising many congregations - the '[Drop the Debt](#)' campaign - still working for global economic reform [here](#).

Commerce

Church brewery and beers

"Churches can learn a lot from visiting a brewpub and seeing what hospitality and community looks like..." says Tom of Black Cloister Brewing [here](#) - and [here](#). The church brewery is a thing. We love the story of St Mary's Brewery on Primrose Hill, [here](#), 'supporting local youth work' - more [here](#). Or the Hackney Church Brewery [here](#). The US have been at this for a while [here](#).

Or maybe church and brewery can collaborate? "We are delighted to be able to help St Andrew's Church in this way." says owner of the Bull Inn [here](#). And Blackburn Cathedral hatched a plot involving gin, [here](#).

It's about church developing its enterprise. Here's [help on getting started](#).

Cooperatives, Food Pantries and Introducing Dave

It is Co-operative [Fortnight in the UK](#). Churches are trying out cooperative approaches setting up food pantries - a [shift away from food banks](#). Find out more about Food Pantries [here](#) including a video with comedian Steve Coogan

more about Food Pantries [here](#) including a video with comedian Steve Coogan.

Work with Dave! We're pleased Dave Nicholson - with a background in cooperatives and helping [establish Food Pantries](#) in the UK - has joined HeartEdge. Needing help and support with going commercial, setting up a business, or developing enterprise? Drop a line to Dave [here](#).

Members

Events

Last Word

Join HeartEdge!

For best results, members join in...

More new case studies of 4C practice to [Resource pages of the website](#). Thanks to HeartEdge researcher by Naomi Jacobs for these.

For all HeartEdge practitioners, join-in-able every week:

- **Monday:** (two per month): In depth Bible Study with Simon Woodman, 19:30-21:00 (BST) via Zoom. Register [here](#):
- **Tuesday:** [Sermon Preparation Workshop](#): Find Sally Hitchiner and Sam Wells in conversation and fielding questions. 16:30 (BST) [here](#).
- **Wednesday:** [Community of Practitioners Workshop](#), 16:30 (BST) via Zoom. Fortnightly 1st / 3rd Wednesday discuss 'God's Companions' with Sam Wells, or fortnightly 2nd / 4th Wednesday. Sharing



"We don't stand in solidarity with each other because we have some common struggle... but because of the complexity of our differences. We hold each other up because of those differences. Some things are not going to be easily translated...." Writer and Presbyterian minister Mihee Kim-Kort is the author of 'Outside the Lines: How Embracing Queerness Will Transform Your Faith'. Mihee joins this months essential transatlantic conversations about home, identity, God and grace.

ideas and encouragement.
Detail on Facebook. [Email](#)
[HeartEdge](#) to join in.

home, identity, God and race -
(G)race - with Azariah France
Williams and Winnie Varghese.
Listen and subscribe [here](#).

Events - Living God's Future Now

June

Creation Care Course 2: Thursday 24 June, 16:30-18:00 BST, via Zoom - book [here](#). This 4-week Creation Care Course provides essential information, on how to take practical climate action. 2: Understanding Climate Change, its drivers and impact from a scientific perspective.

Jesus Is Just Alright: What Pop Songs About Jesus Can Teach Christians Today 4: If I Believe You. Friday 25 June, 16:30 BST, Via Zoom. Book [here](#). Pop includes honest and powerful examples of spiritual searching.

Theology Group with Sam Wells: Sunday, 27 June 2021, 19:00 – 20:00 BST, via Zoom - book [here](#). St Martin-in-the-Fields and HeartEdge monthly opportunity to reflect theologically on issues of today and questions of forever with Sam Wells.

Maggi Dawn and Karen Case-Green - Culture: Faith, Art, Life, Beauty - 30 June - 10- 3.30pm BST. Exploring culture and the arts in mission and ministry with Maggi Dawn, Karen Case-Green and guests. Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church, SS3 9JD. To join [email Niki here](#).

July

Creation Care 3: Thursday 1 July, 16:30-18:00 BST, via Zoom - book [here](#). Session 3: Living Climate Change – Stories from Melanesia (1st July 2021, 16:00-17:30), we will learn about the effects of climate change on people and draw upon examples of climate impacts and human responses in Melanesia.

God's Unfailing Word 3: Rabbi Daniel Epstein and Sam Wells in conversation on the nature of 21st century Christian-Jewish relations. Sunday 4 July, 18:30 (BST), via Zoom. Register [here](#). Book [available here](#).

Creation Care 4: Thursday 8 July, 16:30-18:00 BST, via Zoom - book [here](#).

Session 4: Taking Action – Caring for the Environment, Caring for People, what are the options for climate change mitigation and adaptation that can be taken as individuals, parishes and community.

Anthony Reddie and Sam Wells in Conversation: Thursday 8 July, 18.00 BST, Via Zoom. Register [here](#). Sam Wells and Anthony Reddie discuss how to improvise on the kingdom. Dr Anthony Reddie is Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture, researching the intersection of Black liberation theology and Practical theology.

How to Eat Bread - Miranda Threlfall-Holmes and Sam Wells: Thursday 8 July, 21.00 BST. Join Miranda and Sam for lively discussion on how to read the bible, with discussion and a Q&A. Via Zoom. Register [here](#).

The HeartEdge Mission Summer School 2021: 12 – 16 July:

- For everyone doing theology and mission, developing practice.
- For those studying, going deeper into missional theology and practice.
- For churches developing new approaches post-pandemic.
- For those extending networks and support.
- For theology and practical input on the HeartEdge four Cs - Commerce, Culture, Congregation and Compassion.
- Teaching and conversation with scholars and practitioners including:
 - Andrea Campanale, Heather Cracknell, Maggi Dawn, Jonathan Evens, Richard Frazer, Shannon Hopkins, Revd Heather Cracknell, Revd James Hughesdon, Professor Anthony Reddie, Dr Cathy Ross, Zaza Lima, Rosemarie Mallett, Rachel Summers and Sam Wells.
- Workshops, panels, dialogue and Q & As.
- Deepen networks with churches, organisations and projects (HeartEdge and Fresh Expressions) experiencing rural, suburb and urban working out in practice including:
 - American International Church, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, Forrest Church, Notre Dame de France, Sacred Space Kingston, St John's Waterloo, St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Paul's Marylebone, and The Table Southall, among others.
- **Monday to Thursday: 9.30am-12.30pm BST. Friday, 9.30am-4.00pm BST. Afternoon tasks. Evenings 7.30pm-9.00pm BST: £70**
- **Evening programme only: 7.30pm-9.00pm BST. Monday – Thursday: £10.**
 - **Details and registration** [here](#).

Church-related Community Work - tactic, ideas and approaches: Thursday 14 July - 3.30 - 5pm BST via Zoom. Book [here](#). Church-related community work is an essential part of Christian life. What are the approaches that deepen church

in community? Join a collective of church community workers for stories, ideas, tactic and encouragement!

Reconciling Mission - Building Bridges across Europe: Tuesday, 20 July, 14:00 (GMT), via Zoom. Register [here](#). The pandemic has provoked tensions between nations, and a stronger focus on defending national interest, exacerbated by Brexit. How can we build bridges across boundaries in Europe?

Missed it? Find 'Living God's Future Now' sessions on [our YouTube channel](#).

HOW TO EAT BREAD

21 NOURISHING WAYS TO READ THE BIBLE



MIRANDA
THRELFALL-HOLMES

Last Word: 'Knowing Who You Are...'

In an extract from her new book 'How to Eat Bread: 21 Nourishing Ways to Read the Bible', Miranda Threlfall-Holmes highlights a key to reading the bible - knowing who you are.

Reading any text is always something of a conversation between the author and the reader. This starts with what books we choose to read in the first place, deciding for ourselves - from the cover, or from flicking through a few pages - whether this is a book that we want to allow to take up residence in our imaginations. I'm a complete wuss when it comes to violence and horror, for example, but I love classic crime fiction, so its important for me to work out whether I am going to enjoy the ride or have nightmares for weeks.

And then the act of reading itself is not simply a question of downloading the information contained between the covers of the book into our memory banks. Different people will bring different life experiences, questions and assumptions to any text. Whenever we say, on seeing a film or TV adaptation of a favourite book, 'But that character, or place, or tone of voice, is totally different to how I imagined them!', we reveal that we have brought our own imagination to the reading of the book. The act of reading creates something new in our brains - our construction of the characters, the scenes, the emotions involved - which is a collaboration between the words on the page and our own character, experiences and context. This is true even if what we are reading involves less imagination - a textbook, perhaps, or an instruction manual for a new appliance. We make connections and leaps in logic as we read, because of our previous experience of the subject or of similar literature. It's much easier to decipher the instructions on your second piece of flat-pack furniture than it was for your first.

Give two people the same novel, newspaper article or textbook chapter to read, and then ask them to summarise the key points, and you will never get exactly the same response. Each of us will notice different things in whatever we read. Something in the text might jump out at us because of a connection with a subject that is particularly important to us at the time, or because we have a particularly strong emotional response to it, or already know more about a particular subject. Reading is active, not passive: we co-operate with the author, or the text, to co-create a new reality out of what both parties bring to the reading.

Is this true of the Bible as well? I think that the answer has to be yes, because this is what happens when we read anything. Just as Jesus was received very differently by the different people that he encountered in his lifetime - some became his disciples, some wanted to kill him or run him out of town - the various biblical texts are received and heard differently by different people. I don't think its possible to read anything - or indeed meet anyone - and for this

not to happen.

This is not to say, of course, that the Bible can say whatever you want it to say. It's not that we just find in its pages what we want to see. A conversation always has two or more partners - not necessarily equal ones. The words on the page matter and our response is to those words, not to a random collection of letters. When we read the Bible, we read the actual text, and our reading is a collaboration with God in bringing our own experiences and contexts into conversation with the text.

Furthermore, the act of reading is never neutral. Do you remember writing up scientific experiments in school, and having to describe everything you did in the third person and passively, as if the experiment had taken place without being touched by human hand? 'A test tube was heated...' rather than 'I heated a test tube'. In the Western academic tradition we have built up a myth of the impartial observer whose reading and experience is taken to be normative. More recently, this has begun to be critiqued. We have become more aware that the supposedly 'neutral' experience is almost always actually assumed to be a male experience - and most commonly a man who - is it also taken for granted - is white, socially privileged, educated, physically mature and healthy, neurotypical, straight, cis-gendered ... the list goes on. Until very recently this wasn't even questioned, it was simply assumed. It still is, very often. Fiction is labelled as 'women's' fiction or 'gay' fiction or 'black' fiction ... or simply 'fiction'. No bookshop that I've ever seen has a shelf labelled 'straight white male fiction' - that's just the norm. Similarly, it's only recently that we've become more aware of how much certain attitudes have been taken for granted in reading the Bible. This isn't to say that those attitudes are wrong - there's nothing wrong with being an educated white straight man - but it is important for us to be aware that that set of experiences is not universal and nor should it be considered to be normative or be privileged above other perspectives.

So it is important to be conscious of who you are, and what you bring to your reading. Indeed, who you are is what you bring to your reading - and means that your act of reading is important and valid. You being you doesn't change God - but it does mean that the relationship you have with God will be different from the one I have. So my emphasis is on noticing how you - and I mean you, not a fictional bland objective observer - respond to the text. Because it is in that conversation, that connection, between you and your reality and the reality of the text, that reading happens.

Miranda Threlfall-Holmes is a writer, public speaker, and Team Rector of [St Luke in the City](#), Liverpool. 'How to Eat Bread' is the book she wrote for anyone exploring the Bible as part of their faith. [Pre-order here](#). Join Miranda in

conversation with Sam Wells 8pm, 8 July via Zoom - [book here](#).



HeartEdge

Culture

Compassion

Commerce

Congregation

HeartEdge is an initiative of St Martin-in-the-Fields

We are grateful to all our founders. Which may be you. Thank you.

Also our funders Hymns Ancient and Modern and Allchurches Trust.

Got this far? Reading the small print? We love that. Are you a joiner? We hope so. Join and do get stuck in.

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