

Come to the Edge

Come to the edge," he said.
"We can't, we're afraid!" they responded.
"Come to the edge," he said.
"We can't. We will fall!" they responded.
"Come to the edge," he said.
And so they came.
And he pushed them.
And they flew.

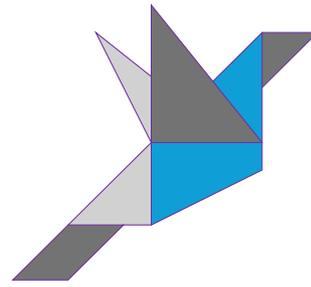
Christopher Logue 1968

For many people, 'living at the edge' means trying to survive in challenging circumstances beyond their control, when they may have given up or have resorted to desperate action. For some, it means a choice to venture out of their comfort zones and into 'alien' territory - perhaps to assist those they find there – like aid workers or street chaplains do.

The 'edge' is a risky place to be, but it can result in fearful people finding their 'wings' and an inner strength they did not know was there. Our own journey at the edges, exploring the gospel message and life issues through the media of music and dance, was a time of living in faith at the edge.

Working with staff and students in schools, colleges and churches, at outdoor events and festivals allowed us to witness hundreds of people find their wings and equipped to enthuse others. Equally there were the critics, the sceptics, the cynics and the ridiculers – some from within the church!. That is the way it is at the edges – non-conformity disturbs the status quo and attracts criticism. Progress depends on people prepared to step out of the safety of the familiar and take risks in unfamiliar terrain.

Mary Sumner did that, despite the many critics. As we reflect on life during lent, we too could resolve to take risks, unsure of how successful we will be, in our efforts to address social issues like poverty, adversity and abuse. Success is an evolutionary process and by no means guaranteed – but God has ways of taking our efforts and creating new opportunities.



*Those who wait on the Lord
shall renew their strength
and will rise up with wings
like eagles. Isaiah 40.31*