

Westminster College

IMAGINE

Changing A Letter

A Prayer as Term Begins

God give to us the strength, wisdom and faithfulness to embrace all that this term will bring.

Open our hearts and minds to receive the gifts that others bring.

Teach us your ways, that we might understand more truly what we each can bring.

In the name of Christ, and in the Spirit's urgent presence, we pray.

Amen.

It isn't unusual to hear talk of your ministry. Over the past couple of weeks, thanks to a collision of opportunities and diary mayhem, I've been involved in a constant round of URC gatherings all of which have been exploring ministry. The last, which has just ended, was a unique gathering Westminster created to bring together all 13 Synod Moderators along with those in each Synod responsible for decisions about ministerial deployment and a number of key staff from Church House. "How is your ministry going?" was a question.

Again and again what has really struck me is that the question has one letter too many. That first "y" is really deceiving and dan-

gerous. Cut it, and the real question emerges. "How is our ministry going?" is the really vital thing. Leave it as "your" and ministry dissolves into the ocean of individualism that washes across our culture. Ministry becomes my possession and property. It is about my time, my gifts, my calling, my likes, my choices. I fly solo.

I'm more convinced than I ever have been that the URC is crying out for ministers who know, in every atom of our being, that our ministry is shared; shared with God whose Spirit is way ahead of us, with each other as we share ordination's privileges and responsibilities, with everyone in all the congregations we'll serve. That's why learning how



to work together, pray together and live together matters so much here. That's why I so delight in Westminster as a place where we constantly encounter others. Of course it isn't easy. Forgiveness and humility can test us profoundly, just as the first Christians had to learn over and over. But dropping that "y" to embrace our shared ministry is God's real call upon us all.

IMAGINE

... a regular reflection from me as I journey with you in this adventure that is our life together at Westminster.

NEIL

Wolf Institute Foundation Stone

In the evening of Tuesday, 17th May a foundation stone will be laid on the Westminster site for the first time since Agnes Lewis and Margaret Gibson laid the Memorial Stone of Westminster College on 25th May, 1897. This one will mark the moment

when the new building for the Wolf Institute begins its rise from the amazing hole we've watched being dug these past months. It's happening on that date in part because a visiting Cardinal from the Vatican will be here, sharing in a Roman

Catholic - Jewish dialogue. You will all be warmly welcome to be part of this big moment in our unfolding story. Watch out for further details as they emerge.

