

Westminster College

IMAGINE

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”

Romans 12: 9-13

IMAGINE

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

NEIL

Lent—again

Lent arrives. It comes as a regular challenge in the calendar; a built in break to the flow. A host of traditions have grown up to fuel our journey through these 40 days of preparation for Easter. For some of us it will be about the giving up of things. For some it will be about the taking on of things. For others it isn't going to be anything special.

John Calvin saw value in some of Lent's practices but warned of superstition getting attached to some of the disciplines. Many would ask why we do something special about faith and life for 40 days and don't for 365

days each year.

Life in the Federation has deepened my sense of Lent's significance. I see sisters and brothers for whom Ash Wednesday and the subsequent days matter hugely; a vast reservoir of tradition and spirituality to plunge into. I've come to appreciate more this annual space within which to look hard at who I am, and what I'm becoming. It makes me think of prayer and the Bible and wonder where I am with them. It alerts me to the massive themes like kindness and faith in acute ways. It begs questions I want to try to answer in my



own soul in the light of God's gaze.

Just as the bread and wine of Communion become a special moment of grace, a trysting place with God and with others, so these 40 days offer me a special time of grace to dive deep into the call grace makes upon all of life and time.

Whatever it might be for you, I pray Lent brings you blessing.

Wondering about our World

Time to wonder about wrong. With many of you I am being struck day upon day by the scale of the needs of our world. Whether it's climate change or terrorism, poverty or abuse, homelessness or refugees, the scale and impact of what's wrong can be choking.

So I'm grateful for the opportunities to actually do something, however small, that change at least one bit for the better. And I'm wondering about how we at Westminster might be part of something. I'm not sure what yet, beyond the great causes and charities we already support and

the excellent things we already are doing. But I wonder if there's not more we might do for the sake of others. What do you think?

