

Westminster College

IMAGINE

“Thus says the Lord:
‘Stand at the crossroads,
and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies;
and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls.’”

Jeremiah 6:16a

IMAGINE

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

NEIL

“Godspeed...”

That was the last word the astronauts atop the 363-foot Apollo 11 rocket heard from Launch Control as they lifted off from Cape Kennedy, Florida on 16th July, 1969. They were headed for the first landing and walk on the Moon.

Godspeed turns out to be pretty fast in their case. After 1 minute and 6 seconds going straight up they broke the sound barrier. That’s 0-767 mph in just over a minute. On that basis Godspeed seems pretty brutal.

Of course the message to Apollo 11 meant infinitely more than watching a

speedometer spinning. It implied something far more profound - a sense of God going with them into the unknown. It is worth remembering that the first liquid poured by a human on the Moon was wine into a tiny chalice brought from his home church by Buzz Aldrin so that he could celebrate communion moments after their landing in the Sea of Tranquility. Godspeed.

Now I’ve encountered another Godspeed online. If you haven’t seen it, you might enjoy half an hour watching an American ordinand encountering the speed of God in a rural parish



in Scotland. Point your browser to:

livegodspeed.org

You’ll find food for thought. I certainly have. God’s speed turns out, maybe, to be much slower than we dare believe. Slow enough to truly breathe.

The Arrival of the Woolf Institute

The hoardings are beginning to come down. From the chrysalis of scaffolding the beauty of the building that completes as much as complements Westminster’s site becomes clear now. That vast hole in the ground has blossomed into a contemporary place of research and study that

tunes in superbly to the mood of our Victorian originals. And those indefatigable sisters, Agnes and Margaret, who so powerfully cherished their friendships and studies with the Jewish community and the Arab world, must surely celebrate with us amongst the communion

of saints. August will see Woolf staff temporarily settled in our main building as fitting out begins. What a wonderful moment.

What blessing.
What possibility!

