

Westminster College

# IMAGINE

"All we can do is  
nothing worth,  
Unless God blesses  
the deed;  
Vainly we hope for  
the harvest-tide  
Till God gives life to  
the seed;  
Yet nearer and  
nearer draws the  
time,  
The time that shall  
surely be,  
When the earth shall  
be filled with the  
glory of God,  
As the waters cover  
the sea."

Arthur Campbell Ainger  
(1841-1919)

## IMAGINE

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

NEIL

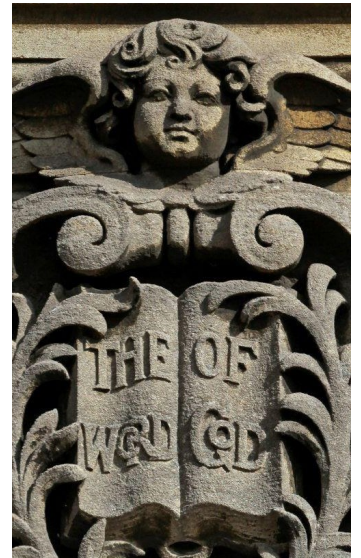
## A Summer of Fulfillment

Out of the years of debate comes the reality. This summer we're seeing further evidence of the many ways in which the story of Westminster remains one of transformation. Having been part of the debates about all that has happened here these past twelve years I feel some of the weight of the hard choices and the long conversations. But above all I have a truly profound sense of the goodness and faithfulness of God and of our willingness to seek to know and do God's will in avenue after avenue of Westminster's life.

When I arrived the college was absolutely secure in its academic excellence and its awe-inspiring history. But it

was not an easy building to work with, and the range of what we could do nowhere near matched the aspirations the URC General Assembly had for us when we were redesignated a Resource Centre for Learning and chosen for survival in 2006.

Now we are a thriving campus of theological endeavor and encounter, a place of hospitality that people revisit with delight, a community of colleagues and friends that invites endless possibilities, an increasingly viable financial entity less and less dependent on URC hand-outs. Just this summer we welcomed Peter Ball to a brand new strategic post to develop our resourcing of URC lay people and local congregations, and Robert Pope to continue



our delivery and discovery of the Reformed tradition across the academic programmes and beyond. The Woolf Institute is finishing and staff are moving in. The Art Studio has hosted its first MA Art and Theology class. The flats in the Bounds are welcoming students and others into great new accommodation. Hallelujah!

## "I'm so grateful for this place"

So said a woman who briefly joined me in the silence of the chapel this morning. She was a B & B guest who had obviously been with us for the weekend. She didn't particularly want a chat. Indeed, as she saw me reading the Bible in one of the pews she wondered if we might

share the space without disturbing each other. Quietly we sat and dwelt on the day ahead in the context of the prayerfulness of that place of so much praying. As she left, she spoke these words of gratitude. I thank God for the moment and for her. It is another reminder

that Westminster's mission of Christian witness, welcome and blessing is infinitely more open to the world now than ever before. The Holy Spirit uses all of it and all we do.

