

Westminster College

IMAGINE

And He shall
reign forever
and ever: King
of kings! and
Lord of lords!
And He shall
reign forever
and ever, King of
kings! and Lord
of lords!
Hallelujah! Hal-
lelujah! Hallelu-
jah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

*Messiah, Hallelujah
Chorus*

(G.F. Handel, 1741)

IMAGINE

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

NEIL

Do they know it's Christmas?

Worlds are colliding. Hidden evils are becoming visible. Ancient powers are on the rise. Frustrations, long-nurtured and too often ignored, are seeding powers of destruction and fueling hatred. Lives are blighted.

Brexit's aftermath has included a rise in hate crimes across the UK. Racist or religious abuse incidents recorded by police in England and Wales jumped 41% in the month after the vote. There were 3,886 such crimes logged in July 2015, rising to 5,468 in July this year, according to the Home Office. It is as if the forces of polarizing and sim-

plistic referendum debate have unleashed pent up whirlwinds of cruelty.

Meanwhile, in Washington D.C., the alt-right hold a rally with shouts of "Hail Trump" accompanied by Nazi salutes. The far right seem set to gain in elections in France, Germany and across Continental Europe.

This is now a deep wound despoiling our cultures and national identities. It has many causes, many actors, many dimensions, many repercussions. I find it horrifying, and urgent.

And then I write this on Advent Sunday. In church, and at home, we've lit a

Remembering John Harrison and others

Only a few of us will have known John Harrison, Honorary Treasurer of the Cambridge Theological Federation. John died suddenly last week, and several of us went to his funeral on Tuesday 29th. November. As I've been chairing the CTF's Resources Committee, and as I

take over as CTF President on 1st December, I've got to know John a bit. I've been hugely grateful for his wisdom and clarity. John was one of the small army of volunteers without whom the Federation, like Westminster, couldn't function at all. Thank God for them all.



first candle. Christmas is coming again. Again we wait and devote ourselves to careful remembering. I remember that we serve the Prince of Peace, God-amongst-us, the one who opposes every act of domination, every attempt to enthrone bigotry, every cause that seeks to diminish another's humanity.

Light candles for sure. Let them burn vividly into lives of hope, truth and love.

Thank God for John. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory. But I know many of us endure mourning and loss, and wait as life trembles near its end. We remember others who have changed our lives. May we all know God's peace.

