

Westminster College

# IMAGINE

Pack up the tree  
and the lights.

Take down the  
tinsel and return  
the nativity to its  
box in the dark.

Recycle the cards  
and the wrapping.

Undo the Christ-  
mas moment.

What remains?

What lingers?

What lasts?

IMAGINE

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

NEIL

## Hope and Love

There's no shortage of things to worry about; no lack of losses and longings. I know that. But I'm also struck by the significance of hope and the wonder of love. There is something inexhaustible about them. And they have come to bless me often through the actions of others.

One of the very greatest gifts I receive comes when someone else demonstrates the power of love and hope. I could take you to homes where the reasons to despair are almost endless and the pain unending. And there I could introduce you to women and men, boys

and girls, who have refused to give up or give in. Instead, often in quiet and very simple ways, they make love and hope real. I could take you to all sorts of institutions and we would, there, encounter love and hope. I would name hospitals and prisons, schools and supermarkets, hospices and cafes, churches and gurdwaras, mosques and synagogues, temples and colleges, cinemas and train stations amongst the venues in which I've known the drama and delight of love and hope to be made real.

Christmas signals God's greatest intervention to

## Looking Ahead

It does rather seem as if we've had builders in for ever. Actually it will be about five years of on and off work as the whole Westminster site has been transformed. I know that has demanded patience and perseverance from many people and I am deeply grateful for all you have

done and put up with. As plans stand at the moment 2017 should see the conclusion of work on the Woolf building, the art studio and numbers 1 and 1A The Bounds. As all of these elements come to fruition we'll finish off by landscaping the areas around the campus and drawing



demonstrate the power of hope and love. A new year dawns and the world is much as it was in the chaotic end days of 2016. But I give thanks that we have not just commemorated an ancient event. We have celebrated God's invitation to join in with hope and love so that we might be carriers of these blessings into 2017 and with everyone with whom we share a moment. Hope and love incarnated.

the whole site together through pathways and planting. It will be a the end of a phase unlike anything the college has known since the 1890s. We will have times to celebrate it all.

