

Westminster College

# IMAGINE

"If Jesus is indeed what God communicates to us, God's language for us, his cross is always both ours and not ours; not a magnified sign of our own suffering, but the mark of God's work in and through the deepest vulnerability; not a martyr's triumphant achievement, but something that is there for all human sufferers because it belongs to no human cause."

Rowan Williams  
*Writing in the Dust*

2002, Hodder & Stoughton  
p. 77-78

## Choose Love...

I think the shortest and most poignant book by Rowan Williams emerged from the horror of 911. He called it *Writing in the Dust* after Jesus' defiance of the mob weighing the stones in their hands preparing execution (John 8).

Williams was close to the Twin Towers that day. He wrote a meditation on the difference of words: the religious words invoking God's will for suicide pilots; the words of love phoned from the planes to families and friends by passengers, believers and non-believers, discovering that they were being

murdered. "Something of the chill of 11 September 2001 lies in the contrast." (p. 1).

Again terror has come, this time claiming concert-goers in Manchester. Of course, terror is a perpetual nightmare elsewhere. We do well to notice that we are more likely to light candles and hold vigil when attack comes close. We must remember the world, and never only our own. But I think, as people connected to place and family and friends, it isn't wrong that some loss and pain strikes more keenly. It matters, in these days of aftermath, that we find words and offer silences, that we



foster solidarity. It matters, as a faith is being contorted by some, that we abide in faith as the promise of life in all its fullness. It matters that we still live in Easter's light and in Christ's victory. It matters, too, that we hear, alongside scripture, a voice like Tony Walsh's in his poem *This Is The Place*, and his concluding words reciting it the day after the bombing: "Choose Love, Manchester!"

IMAGINE

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

NEIL

## Art Studio Dedication and Looking to 2017-18

**Patience** is rewarded. We've seen the art studio built and then, in thankfulness for Federation colleagues in the Eastern Region Ministry Course, turned it into an office. Now, though, supplies are arriving, shelving is in place and I've been unpacking easels! At 12:30pm

on Thursday 8th June any who can are invited to join members of the college Management Committee to dedicate the studio to God, and to creativity.

**We** will be fixing a time for Senatus, students and others to reflect on this term and look

ahead to next year. We need to explore things like daily prayers, pastoral care, tutor groups and more. Please watch out for details.

