

Westminster College

# IMAGINE

## “Prayer is where the action is.”

John Wesley  
1703-1791

The days are getting longer. Even though, as I write this, East Anglia is bracing for a blizzard, still Spring is approaching. My annual spell as a nocturnal Principal who leaves home and returns home in complete darkness is starting to ebb into twilight. Soon it will be fully day again as I walk. I'm glad.

It makes me think of the link to Lent. We're in a season in these 40 days up to Easter that has many overtones of things hidden in darkness; of the unseen being noticed.

As Jesus is tested and tempted he's in the wilderness, away from company and crowds. It's a battle that is his to fight. So, too, in Lent, we are invited to enter in to

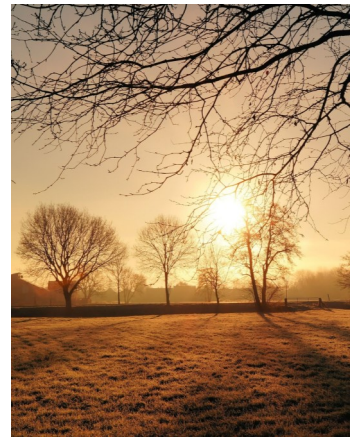
something of that battle by looking deep into our own souls. We are called upon to notice what might be lurking within and around us that needs confessing. We open ourselves up to God's gaze in the knowledge that not all of who we are is good and some of who we are we would hide from God entirely if we only could. Lent is about unmasking, acknowledging, humbling ourselves.

But it's more than that. The days are getting longer. Light is starting to drive the darkness further and further away. Lent is also a time to take things up, to renew our faithfulness by turning it to deeper action, greater commitment, more conscious adoration, more

### A Community of Prayer

It is such a blessing to me that prayer continues to be at the heart of the college. That's symbolized in part by the hearts with their requests for prayer on the tree in the chapel. It is brought to expression in our regular rounds of worship and in the gatherings for prayer that

punctuate the week. It flows through conversations as needs and gratitude are shared. And this is but the hint of the tapestry of prayers woven privately day by day. Across the URC and around the world we are being prayed for too. I know that plenty of us are facing all sorts of



passionate prayer. The turn inward can also be a turn outwards, away from self to the world and to others.

As we walk each of these days the light will be growing and the world will be changing. Then it will be Holy Week. The story of Good Friday and Easter Saturday will be retold across our churches and communities so that the truth of Easter can burn even more brightly. Out of wilderness and into darkness light shines.

challenges right now. I know that there are even more things I haven't become aware of. Whatever your needs, whatever your delight or your pain, please know that prayer is holding you. Thank you for praying for me too.

IMAGINE

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

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