

Westminster College

IMAGINE

“Grace and love go beyond the acceptable minimum or the way things are usually done... [they are] about wanting and seeking the best for someone else.”

Mark Greene in *Fruitfulness on the Frontline: Making a difference where you are* 2014



It's a season for anniversaries. The NHS was 70 years old on 5th July. There are plenty of problems with it of course; delays and waiting times, underfunding and stretched staff, buildings needing repair, scandals and abuses. But it's still one of the most glorious inventions our nations have managed. It offers us a level of care and a shared commitment to each other's wellbeing as a society that are magnificent. I give thanks for all who work in it and their healing vocation.

Here's another. Amidst the rubble and ashes of Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War churches were deeply involved in helping

millions of refugees and joining efforts to rebuild communities and nations. In 1948 some 147 churches joined together to work for a better world and witness to the love of God. The World Council of Churches was born and will be 70 on 23rd August, the date it was inaugurated in Amsterdam.

Since then the WCC has, like the NHS, suffered plenty of setbacks. But it also played a key role in the fight against apartheid in South Africa, in being an early campaigner for recognition of the threats of global climate change, in advocating human rights and the protection of the vulnerable, in building understanding between different

bits of the Christian family and between people of different faiths. The URC has been a key player all along. The Woolf Institute, the Cambridge Theological Federation and Westminster all owe plenty in our own vision and commitment to the ideas that have flowed on through the WCC.

I give thanks for these two organisations that have faithfully made the world better. Anniversaries are good moments to remember some of the things we might otherwise just take for granted and ignore. They tell us history matters; we have a past that shapes us.

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

NEIL

URC General Assembly, 6-9 July, 2018

General Assembly meets in Nottingham this month. This is the URC's highest decision-making body. When we launched the appeal that transformed Westminster it needed the 2010 Assembly to give its blessing, and agree to put in the first £1mil. of the 7 we

would need. Assembly is ultimately the body we are accountable to. And, with wonderful consistency and commitment, Assembly supports us. So my prayers are with all gathering. And, especially, with Revd Nigel Uden, our convener of Governors, as he takes the

chair as one of the two Assembly Moderators, with Revd Elaine Colechin, one of our alumni, who is one of Assembly's Chaplains, with Alex Clare Young and Alison Gray as they attend. God bless this gathering and guide it's decisions.

