

Westminster College

IMAGINE

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

Aesop

(a Greek story teller born around 620 BC)

IMAGINE

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

NEIL

Federer as Religious Experience

I'm no good at tennis. I can't imagine what it takes to be truly good at tennis, ever. The speed, power and focus amaze me. Wimbledon has been spectacular.

I'm no good at tennis, but there's a piece of sports writing that I love. In the *New York Times* on 20th August, 2006 (notice how long ago!) David Foster Wallace published "Roger Federer as Religious Experience" (just Google it for the original and its repeat publications since).

Wallace argues that Federer can do in tennis what just a very few athletes can do in their chosen sport; defy the laws of physics to do the impossible. He explores that and wonders about it. He

accepts that a big part of what is going on is Federer's unique ability. But he then muses on something else, the bit that grabs me and resonates with so much about Westminster.

Federer loves what he does and works tirelessly to do it better. He isn't so much thinking how to make a shot as simply making the shot with every atom of his being. It's beyond planning; it just is. Great play is his habit.

What if a community devoted itself so completely to doing better what it exists to do? What if every member of that community was, and knew themselves to be, a vital ingredient in the beauty and goodness of that community and the people it existed to serve? What if there was something



profound, beyond just policies and tasks, that made that community the blessing it was; something intangible and almost indescribable? What if, far deeper than mere niceness for the sake of profits, there was a community which constantly lived out the spirit of respect, love, servanthood and kindness? What if? Going there might be a sort of religious experience.

Welcome to Westminster!

Strachan Glass

We're getting bigger online! Thanks to our newly installed marketing team we're growing our social media profile. We're also determined to offer more resources online. Part of this will soon include the stained glass windows in our chapel. They are works by Douglas Strachan,

noted as Scotland's greatest stained glass creator of the 20th century (Google again?). They offer a host of Bible stories. Alison Gray and I have just recorded commentaries about them. Next step is a camera drone flight inside the chapel to record them. Then we'll put it

all together in a series of YouTube shorts. How awesome is that? And we've many more ideas. We want the world to visit us even if the world can't come.

