

Westminster College

# IMAGINE

Twenty-four seven in 'the six  
days world',  
In endless cycles of unnerving  
news,  
Relentlessly our restless hurts  
are hurled  
Through empty cyber-space. Is  
there no muse  
To make of all that pain an  
elegy,  
Or in those waves of white noise  
to discern  
Christ's inner cantus firmus, that  
deep tone  
That might give rise at last to  
harmony?  
We may not seal it off or drown  
it out,  
Nor close our hearts down in the  
hour of prayer,  
But listening through  
dissonance and doubt,  
Wait in the space between, until  
we hear  
A change of key, a secret chord  
disclosed,  
A kind of tune, and all the world  
transposed.

Malcolm Guite  
A new sonnet

IMAGINE

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

NEIL

## Thankfulness

We're under way for another academic year.

I want to give thanks for all who contribute day after day to the community that finds a home at Westminster. I've always rejoiced in the total team here as we've changed and transformed this place together. But it really struck me these past few weeks.

I had the challenge of taking a course I know inside out and converting it from a couple of hours/week across two terms to an intense four days of input and conversation backed up by online learning. I was thrilled to be trying, because if I can't be excited in my teaching I can hardly expect anyone to be excited learning with me. You'll have to ask our two

first year students how it went! Others were getting their teaching ready, supporting colleagues across the Cambridge Theological Federation, and ensuring our Living Ministry Programme students had a great week together for the first time.

Meanwhile, others were creating the most glorious wedding days for families and welcoming a host of visitors and guests enjoying our hospitality. Our kitchen team offered a fabulous meal to all of the first year students across the CTF (people were in awe of the quality and efficiency) whilst others were ensuring that our key committees, which oversee all we do, had everything they needed for their meetings. All of this in a building now loved and



cared for as never before; clean and sparkling bedrooms and communal areas, rehung historic paintings lovingly protected, grounds smart and flourishing. The sheer volume and intensity of work in every bit of Westminster is astounding. The quality and attention to detail is superb.

Thank you for keeping us on the move as we keep up our journey of transformation and service. It matters.

## Women and Westminster

In a world so often dominated by men, Westminster honours in its history many remarkable women right up to today. You'll be familiar with the twin sisters, Agnes and Margaret, whose pictures have pride of place in our dining hall and who did so much to bring Westminster to

Cambridge in the late 1890s. Now we are celebrating in a fresh way another awesome woman. Take a moment to go up to the landing outside the library and see the newly hung portrait of Selina, Countess of Huntingdon (1707-1791). Amongst much radical work she

founded the theological college at Trefeca (Wales) in 1768 which became Cheshunt and ultimately merged with Westminster in the 1960s. See the college website and blog for more, including where another college painting is.

