

Abundant Greatness

What makes for greatness? I've found myself wondering about that as so many voices clamour for attention. We speak about great events and great leaders. And that has come into sharp focus amidst some of the politics of chaos here and around the world in recent years.

Greatness can often seem to be about making the loudest noise, being in the limelight, attracting the most attention.

Greatness, some might say, gets demonstrated by the inexorable counter telling us how many likes we've received, or how many followers we've now got.

I have found myself returning to a familiar quote from Revd Dr

Martin Luther King Jr: ***"Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but greatness, because greatness is determined by service."***

Greatness all too often seems to be about seeking out the spotlight to let it reveal what people want the world to see and adore. But there's another way, a way less visible but more real. Its impact is not in the headlines but in the background. Yet its impact transforms.

Service is the greatness that Westminster celebrates. It unfolds its gentle goodness amongst us every day as rooms are prepared again and again and again. We enjoy its bounty when we sit



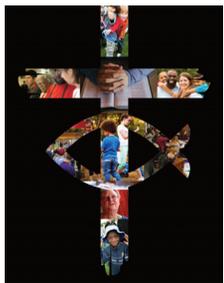
together to eat. We meet it in the welcome smile and the sincere "Thank you." We see it in the hours volunteers devote on our committees and the extra things people do to help make life a bit better for someone else. People notice it amongst us. And, as we prepare some to be URC ministers and others for all sorts of roles, it is service we are nurturing, honouring and releasing.

As our strap line so rightly has it, we all are: "Serving the United Reformed Church." Truly, greatness is all around.

“
We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.
”

Mother Teresa

Being Noticed and Being Appreciated



Recently I was at a meeting of the URC's Education and Learning Committee. That's the official URC body Westminster reports to and is accountable to. I

was sharing with them some of Westminster's recent news and telling them about the various groups we've welcomed and looked after in recent months. I wanted you to know that there

is a great deal of gratitude, support and respect from the people on that committee for all that Westminster is and does. I get to hear these things because I get to go to the meetings. But the gratitude needs to be made known across the college. They wish us well, and wish our students well. They do know just how much is going on here, and they are thankful for it and for the plans we have to keep on developing so that we never stand still or miss opportunities. They appreciate the commitment we all show in being here, and pray for us.

