



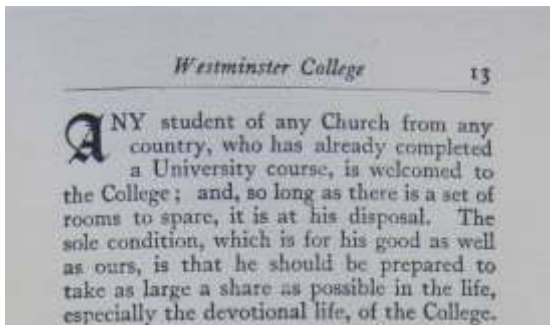
Community in the College : from the Archives



WR2/2/5 1904 Prospectus; WR2/3/1 Handbook c.1923



WA4/10 College photo by Stearn & Sons, 1905



WR2/3/1 Handbook, c.1923



WR4/2/1 'Oldest' College Rules

It's lovely to be able to welcome our colleagues, students, and guests back to the College in person, after nearly two years of remote learning and social distancing. **The day-to-day way we've been working together as a community has changed so much during the pandemic, it's interesting to look back in the archives at the College community life of yesteryear.**

An early prospectus from 1904 (WR2/2/5) describes how as a residential College, students' rooms were "furnished with all necessary articles of furniture, and bed and table linen is provided", and that meals are served to the students together in the hall - though students are welcome to provide their own afternoon tea in their rooms. Applicants are reassured that they will all work, live, and eat together; and this College photograph from 1905 (WA4/10) - one of a series of annual photos - shows the students, Senatus and Principal outside the new College building in Cambridge where they lived.

A handbook from the mid-1920s (WR2/3/1) emphasises worship - another aspect of the community of the College - saying that "Any student of any Church from any country, who has already completed a University course, is welcomed to the College; [...] The sole condition, which is for his good as well as ours, is that he should be prepared to take as large a share as possible in the life, especially the devotional life, of the College."

As well as prospectuses, three sets of College Regulations have been preserved in the archives. Sadly, none of them are dated; but WR4/2/1 - marked as 'oldest' - shows some of the expectations for student behaviour. Rules include academic dress being worn after dusk, no ping-pong after 8pm, and a charge of 5/- a term for extra lamps in the bedrooms - which must be "fixed by a qualified mechanic"!



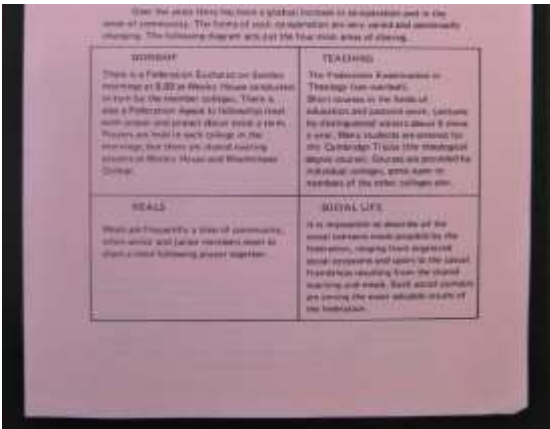
WSR2/3/3-5 Prospectuses, 1950s-1970s

Prospectuses in the archives from the mid twentieth century (WSR2/3/3-5) use similar descriptions of the course of study, and include formal photographs of the College and its rooms; but by the time Westminster had joined the Cambridge Theological Federation in 1976, the photos used in WR2/3/6, a prospectus from the late '70s or early 80s, is visually emphasising a sense of community, using informal photographs of students worshipping together, using the library, and having coffee.



WR2/3/6 Westminster Prospectus, late 1970s or early 1980s

The Federation is a collaborative ecumenical partnership of the Cambridge theological institutions, founded in 1972. This pink leaflet about the Federation, which accompanied the same prospectus (WR2/3/6/1), highlights four key areas of community: worship, teaching, meals, and the students' social life – which last of which is described as “among the most valuable results of the federation.”



WR2/3/6/1 Federation Information, late 1970s or early 1980s

After a long time working remotely, our community is starting to re-connect in person, and we're now able to welcome students and staff back into the building for the same four things – worship, teaching, meals, and social meetings – as well as hopefully maintaining all the new ways of connecting which we have developed in the last two years.

Helen Weller, Archivist
Spring 2022