

# WESTMINSTER TO 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

A Place for Christian Learning, Renewal and Hospitality

2023



# Message from the Chair of Governors



Westminster College looks backwards with gratitude, ready to learn from the past but not to live there. It engages with the contemporary world and the Church, alive both to its challenges and to God's enduring purposes. And it has a vision of the future, in which, forever reforming, we are called to be as effective and fruitful for coming generations as were our forebears for theirs.

Confident that under God's good hand we have been brought this far, today's strategic plan seeks to ensure that tomorrow, for the building up of the Church and the glory of God's name.

As we trust God's gracious provision, so we know of our need of human and material resources and invite the support of all who share that vision. Everything offered will be an encouragement and gratefully received.

**Rev. Nigel Uden**  
Convener of Governors



# Message from College Leadership

In a time marked by many challenges, we have developed a compelling vision of how the College can continue to serve Christ and the gospel into the future.

Building on what we have done well:

- We believe that Westminster can be a place where the Bible and our traditions can be explored and inspiration be found there to motivate Christian mission relevant to our twenty-first-century context;
- We believe that Westminster can be a place where Christians can come to ask questions, to pray, to find rest and relaxation to equip them for witness and service;
- We believe that Westminster can be a place where vocation can be explored in community that in scope is intergenerational and international.

In short, we believe Westminster can be a place of Christian learning, renewal and hospitality. We appeal to you to support us in bringing this vision to life, not simply for Westminster's sake or for the sake of the United Reformed Church, but for the sake of the Kingdom which Jesus proclaimed and for whose coming we pray and live.



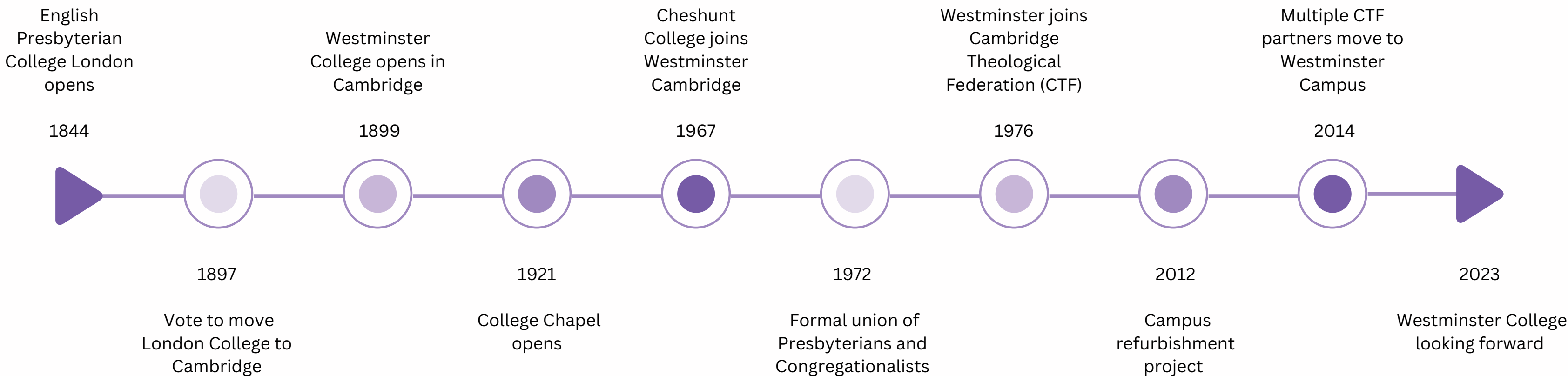
Rev. Dr Robert Pope  
Interim Principal

# Our History and Journey

As a theological college and Resource Centre for Learning, Westminster has played a vital role in training ordained ministers for generations.

Rooted in its mission to educate and equip individuals for spiritual leadership, the College has a rich history of nurturing minds and fostering a deep understanding of theology.

Its accomplishments are reflected in the countless ministers and members who have emerged, ready to guide and serve their communities with unwavering faith and wisdom.





# Our Vision, Mission and Values



## Our Vision

We envision a Church:

- renewed in its witness to Christ
- alive to the power of the gospel
- committed to reconciliation, justice and peace.



## Our Mission

Equipping, inspiring and nurturing, Christians globally through Reformed and Nonconformist traditions.

## 4 Value Pillars Informing our Direction

### Collaboration

Working with partners who share our vision and mission.

### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Treating all as human beings created in God's image and siblings in Christ.

### Discernment

Approaching education and resources responsibly, wisely and theologically.

### Social and Eco-Justice

Practising sustainable employment and caring for creation.





# 2030 Key Strategic Aims

## 1 - Christian Learning

- Providing theological education, supporting scholarly research, and facilitating critical dialogue that positively impacts Church and society.

## 2 - Christian Renewal

- Offering rest and retreat to nourish body, mind and spirit.

## 3 - Christian Hospitality

- Thriving as an inviting, attractive venue for memorable occasions.





# AIM 1 - CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Delivering an integrated and life-long approach to theological learning for the whole people of God, through:



## EDUCATION

- Increased student numbers.
- Technological enhancement across on-site, hybrid and local-led delivery modes.
- Innovative and tailored educational programmes to students, synods and churches.
- Expanded networks and associate tutors.
- Enhanced 'Education for Ministry' in all phases in the United Reformed Church (EM1, 2 and 3).



## RESEARCH

- Improved academic profile and scholarly activity as a whole Church research centre.
- Provide robust, theologically-based advice to address strategic political, social and public policy questions.
- Increased library and archive accessibility for researchers, congregations, church bodies, councils and committees.



## ENGAGEMENT

- Increased collaboration with partners who share our vision as an ecumenical and inter-religious hub.
- Facilitated discussions, colloquia and workshops on topics relevant to the life of the churches in Britain and around the world.
- Strengthened ties with university partners.

## AIM 2 - CHRISTIAN RENEWAL

Creating a space for reflection, retreat, prayer, development, worship and spiritual nourishment, through:



### WORSHIP

- Foster the College's identity and culture as a place of prayer and worship, with participants contributing to its spiritual life.
- Develop and promote the College as a destination for personal and group retreats.
- Expand opportunities for church members to explore Christian spirituality.



### STUDY

- Develop fresh opportunities outside the academic syllabus for personal growth and spiritual development steeped in Christian discipleship and intellectual curiosity.
- Enhanced sabbatical programmes to reflect changing needs.
- Offering a sustained space for reflective Christian thinking.



### SERVICE

- Work with all stakeholders across the URC and communities to deliver learning experiences that engage the challenges and opportunities of Christian mission in the twenty-first century.
- Establish an on-campus vocational community for individuals to explore how God is calling them to lives of service and meaning.



## AIM 3 - CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

Westminster showing a warmth of welcome, a sense of belonging and provision of excellence, through;



### HISTORY AND SETTING

- Honouring the College's 125th anniversary in 2024.
- Showcasing the spiritual and mission opportunities our Cambridge location offers.
- Providing a place of Christian welcome for the Church, other organisations and the general public.
- Enhancing the tranquillity, peace and natural beauty of the grounds and premises.

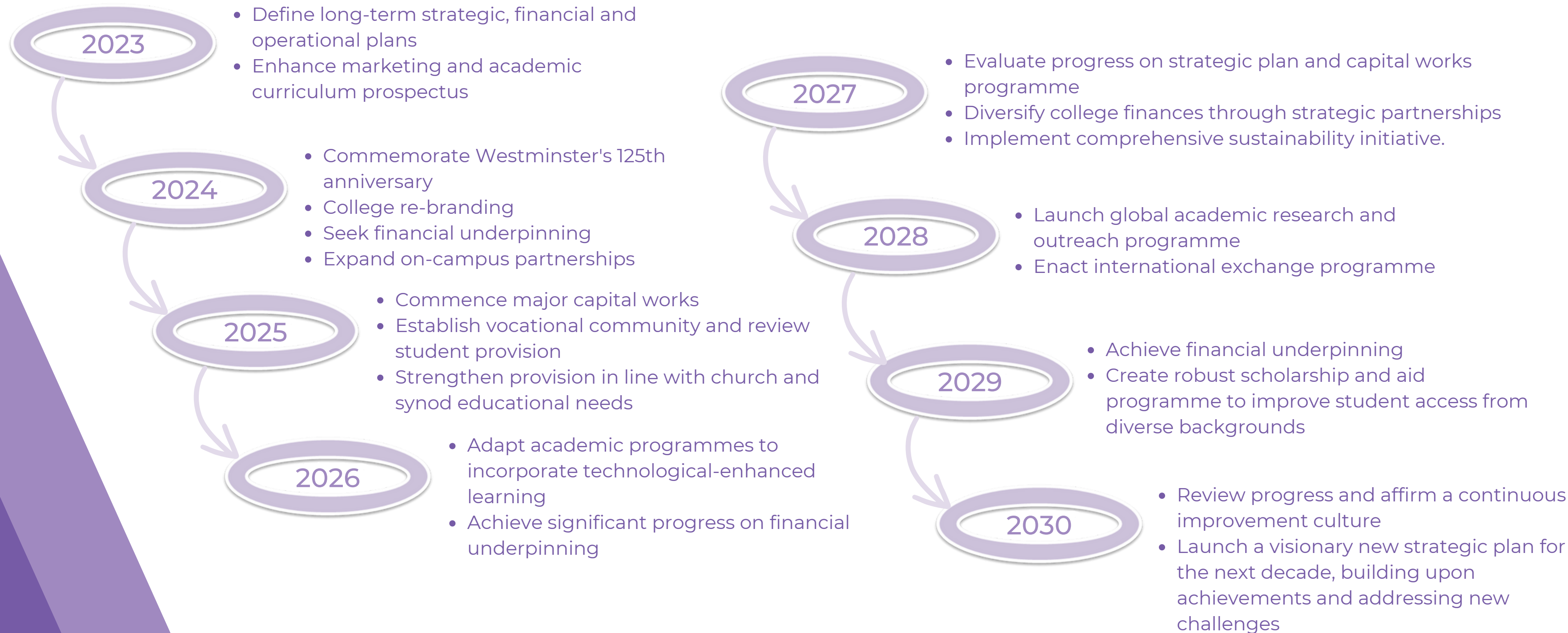
### AN ENRICHING MEETING PLACE

- Nurturing a shared, relaxed community, facilitating respectful conversation and enabling the exchange of ideas.
- Extending Christian hospitality and welcome to the wider public.
- Engaging, promoting and facilitating Christian business, conferences and events.

### WARMTH OF WELCOME

- Seeking new ways to show seamless excellence across service areas.
- Serving Church and commercial hospitality needs.
- Encouraging the public to enter Westminster College with an awareness of the College's roles, resources and theological provision.

# 2023-2030 Major Objectives





# United in Purpose

Westminster College's unwavering commitment is to facilitate and empower both the local and universal Church, while proactively addressing the evolving needs of our broader society.

This 2023-2030 strategic plan represents our dedication and accountability to fulfilling our strategic objectives.

Aligned with our ethos and purpose, this strategic plan integrates with:

- 2023-2030 Financial plan
- Westminster College student Prospectus
- Annual Westminster Business Plan

We will measure our progress against key performance indicators, and adapt to shifting dynamics and emerging opportunities.

We extend the invitation to all our stakeholders to join us in advancing Westminster College into the future.





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