

Dear Members, Elders and Ministers of the Kingston United Reformed Church,

Greetings from Westminster College, Cambridge. Thank you so much for all of your support and prayers. Please accept my apologies for my lack of contact, the summer is already upon us and I am not quite sure where the time has gone.

This letter marks the first in a series of letters that I will send over the summer, chronicling the past academic year serving as Student President of the college. This has been a rather demanding year and many momentous events have taken place. The resignations and employments of teaching staff in the Cambridge Theological Federation, and the closing of the Windermere Centre have all had an impact on the college community. This along with a major university inspection and the building of the ecumenical Woolf institute have also been very extracting of my time. Overall there have been many positive and negative events in the past year and due to confidentiality, I cannot disclose all the details.

Introduction of my time as Student President

In May 2016, I was nominated to be the Student President. Upon prayer and careful consideration, I decided to take on the role. The Vice-Presidents were students who were both in the same year as myself and I have known them since I started the candidating process. I am very thankful for their support and I have gained valuable experiences that I feel will be beneficial for ministry.

In this role, I was responsible for chairing the Student Council Meetings, being the student representative in formal occasions and events, showing pastoral awareness and being the link between the student body and Senatus (teaching staff).

Before taking on the role I settled on a few ground rules; 1st I would not make any decisions without prayer first; 2nd, I would take any concerns from students seriously; 3rd I would not listen to gossip and would seek both sides of a story; 4th, I would take a few days before acting upon a contentious issue; 5th, I would seek to work closely with Senatus as much as possible; 6th, I would try to do what is best for the whole community; 7th, I would always seek to discern how God may be served in each situation.

I believe that these principals rested on the biblical values I had learned in the army. To have Courage, Discipline, Respect for others, Integrity to God, Loyalty, and Selfless commitment.

This was the beginning of my year as Student President and I did not realise how crucial these early disciplines would be in so many challenging times and situations. However, that will need to wait to be continued.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacob Bali".

Jacob Bali