



## THE COMMUNITY OF THE **TREE OF LIFE**

### **Is it for me?**

Almost certainly the answer is 'Yes' but unfortunately there are a few limitations...

#### **Age**

You need to be between the age of 18 and 35 on 1st September of the year you join the community.

#### **Relationship Status?**

You need to be single and willing to remain single throughout your year with the community.

#### **What's the Cost?**

We don't charge a fee to join the community - we don't want a lack of funding to be a barrier to anybody applying. We will work with you to raise funds and don't expect every member to be able to make the same financial contribution.

The cost to run the community is £8,500 per residential member. We ask you to give sacrificially, maximise your contribution towards this cost.

#### **What does the £8500 cover?**

- Accommodation and utilities
- All your food (three meals a day – including specific dietary requirements)
- Tuition, books and teaching materials
- Termly quiet days, retreats & Spiritual Direction
- Local travel to placements
- Community hooded sweatshirt & 'promise pendant'
- End of year pilgrimage to Holy Island

## **Am I Christian enough?**

Joining a residential Christian community is a major step in life and requires a level of Christian maturity. You will be living a shared rhythm of daily prayer, study and service alongside a group of other people. Aspects of the year will be demanding so a clear commitment to your faith and good standing in your local church are essential requirements.

## **Openness to Others**

The Community is fully ecumenical – you'll meet, worship with and pray alongside people from many different traditions and Christian backgrounds. It's vital that you have an openness to learning from other Christians. We don't want you to change your denomination or church affiliation, but we will ask you'll be open to learn from others.

We are open to international applications. Be aware, this may incur further costs for travel and visas. We require a good level of English so that you will be able to benefit from our teaching programme.

## **Could health be a barrier?**

We want the Community to be open to those with various physical or mental health challenges. We'd be happy to talk about the ways in which any condition you have may be managed to enable you to participate in community life.

## **Availability & Free Time**

You will need to be available from the 1<sup>st</sup> September until the end of June the following year. Community members will have two weeks 'free time' at Christmas and a week 'free time' at Easter, when there will be opportunity, for those who are able, to return home.

## **Application Process**

If you would like to apply to join the community, please get in touch. We will arrange a phone call or FaceTime for an initial conversation. You will then be asked to download and complete an application form. Return your form to us via email and we will acknowledge its receipt.

We will prayerfully consider all applications and take up references.

The final stage is an invitation to a discernment day or second online conversation. Overseas applicants are not required to attend a discernment day.

If you have questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us, we'd be happy to chat to you informally.