



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

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

Almost certainly, the answer is 'Yes', although 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 because 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. We have a bursary scheme. Get in touch to find out more.

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
- £40 weekly allowance for food & basics
- Tuition, books and teaching materials
- Termly quiet days, retreats & Spiritual Direction
- End of year pilgrimage / residential
- Weekly Community Meal

## **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.

## **Diversity**

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

We are committed to be an ethnically and culturally diverse community, and are particularly encouraging applications from applicants of BAME heritage, as they are currently under-represented in our community

## **International Applications**

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, we are suspending international applications for this academic year. We hope to be in a position to receive international applications from September 2021.

## **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 fully 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**

Step One: If you would like to apply to join the Community, please get in touch. We will arrange an informal chat or online video call for an initial conversation.

Step Two: Download and complete an application form from [leicestertreeoflife.org](http://leicestertreeoflife.org). Return your form to us via email and we will acknowledge its receipt.

Step Three: We will prayerfully consider all applications and take up references.

Step Four: An online discernment conversation.

Step Five: You will need to complete a DBS check, medical form and read and sign our Community Residents Agreement to secure your place.

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