



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?**

We choose to invest time and energy in cultivating relationships of depth. We ask resident members to refrain from entering into romantic, co-dependent or exclusive friendships with other residents during their residency.

We ask resident members who are already in a romantic relationship with someone from outside of the residential community, to be open and honest with the Prior about this relationship. We will establish agreed boundaries around the time and effect this relationship may have on personal formation and community as a whole.

## **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 help you to identify sources of financial support and we don't expect every member to be able to make the same financial contribution. We also have a Support Fund.

The cost to run the community is £8,500 per residential member. We ask you to give sacrificially and maximise your contribution towards this cost. Residents typically access funding from student finance, New Wine DY or Church of England funding, as well as personal giving.

## **What does the cost cover?**

- Full accommodation including a private bedroom
- Three meals a day shared in Community
- A small allowance for extras
- Termly quiet days, retreats & Spiritual Direction
- All support costs such as council tax, Wi-Fi and utilities

## **Am I Christian enough?**

Joining a residential Christian community is a major step in life and requires some level of Christian commitment. You will be living a shared rhythm of daily prayer, study and service alongside a group of similar minded 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**

Our goal is to build an inclusive Community that recognises and celebrates the image of God in all people, and we therefore welcome all applications regardless of disability, economic power, ethnicity, sex, sexuality, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health or neurodiversity.

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 people of BAME heritage.

## **International Applications**

We are continually reviewing our position regarding international applications, due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Please check our web site for updates and/or get in touch to find out more.

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

We want the Community to be open to those with various physical or mental health challenges. We would be happy to talk about the ways in which any condition 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 may have a two week break at Christmas and a week break at Easter, when there will be opportunity, for those who are wish, 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 online video call for an initial conversation.

**Step Two:** Download and complete an application form from [www.leicestertreeoflife.org](http://www.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:** You will then participate in an online discernment conversation.

**Step Five:** If offered a place, you will need to read and sign our Community Residents Agreement.

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