

Trinity College



BRISTOL

deepening, transforming, equipping
for Christian life and service in a changing world

deepening

Prayer for Trinity College

Lord Jesus Christ,

In your goodness you give to your church
places for training and equipping of the saints
for your mission and ministry in the world.

We pray, with thanksgiving, for the life of Trinity College,
for its continued faithfulness to this holy trust.

We pray for its blessing;

We pray for its flourishing;

For the sustaining of those who lead
and teach and enable within it;

For vision and resourcing for its
developing programmes of learning and training;

For its distinctive gifts to be known and offered more widely,

To be a voice and enabler within a church in transition.

For the glory of your name and the coming of your Kingdom we pray.



equipping

deepening, transforming, equipping

for Christian life and service in a changing world

transforming

Introducing Trinity College

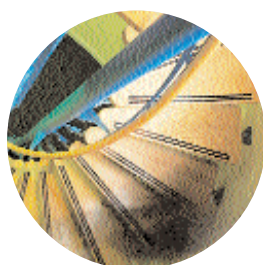


Thank you for your interest in Trinity.

These are exciting and challenging times to be training for Christian service. You will want to be sure that you receive teaching that will deepen your understanding of the scriptures and of theology. You will be looking for teaching that will enable you to engage critically, creatively and relevantly with life in a fast changing and uncertain world. You will be looking to grow in personal maturity and life in Christ. These are our priorities too.

We place great value on personal and spiritual growth as the focus of training for Christian life and ministry. We believe that effective Christian ministry or any kind of Christian endeavour is sustained by a mature ability to reflect theologically upon the challenges that meet us. A vision for mission underpins all our teaching and learning. And we seek all this in the context of a vibrant and creative life of worship and community.

The following pages will give you a flavour of our vision and our life here. You may also like to visit our web site www.trinity-bris.ac.uk. If you would like to visit us in person you can be sure of a warm welcome on one of our special open days or our interview and hospitality days.



Trinity has been at the forefront of training men and women for Christian ministry in Britain and abroad for the last 30 years. The present college builds upon a faithful tradition of Christian theological training in Bristol that goes back to the 1920s.

We are one of the largest Anglican theological colleges in the UK. The college has about 100 full-time and 80 part-time students. The community here is made up of Christians from many different cultures, denominations and backgrounds. Located within the evangelical tradition of the Anglican Church, Trinity College trains men and women for service and ministry in the whole life and work of the Christian Church.

A large number of our students are training for the ordained ministry of the Church of England or another province of the Anglican Communion. Some are training for Christian ministry in other denominations as well as in non-church situations. Some are retraining after many years in their initial career. Some come after several years of full-time ministry here or overseas; others are still exploring what their vocation is to be. Some are hoping to work abroad, while yet others come to Trinity to be better equipped to be a Christian presence in their secular employment.

Our courses range from certificate to degree level and, for the many who are wanting to pursue postgraduate study and research, from masters to doctoral level. All of our courses can be taken part-time.

Living in Community

If you come to Trinity College you will be joining a community. We believe this is very important. Those who will go into the world to be community builders and leaders must themselves be shaped by life in community. So, for a limited period of time we are thrown together with people we might not otherwise choose. Our vocation is shaped by the experience of studying, living and worshipping together.

For many people this becomes one of the most significant gifts of their time at Trinity. But this is not an insular experience. We seek to benefit from the many advantages of residential training while keeping an openness to church and society. Our vision is to be a community without walls.

We are a **diverse community** of men and women, married and single, across a wide age range, and all contribute from their very varied life experiences. The presence of spouses and children adds a further dimension to shared life.

We are an **ecumenical community**. Although the majority of students are Anglican, a variety of other denominations are also represented. We work very closely with Bristol Baptist College as well as with Wesley Methodist College and the interdenominational West of England Ministerial Training Course.

Our training programmes and our spiritual life are vitally linked to the needs of the church and its mission in today's world. To this end we rejoice in being a **strongly international community**. Typically, men and women representing at least twelve different nationalities are studying here. They bring their wide experience of life and ministry, the insights and challenges of their own culture and add to both the richness and diversity of our life in community.

Our **weekly lifestyle** is expressed in daily worship together, learning together, the shared midday meal and the weekly college communion service. Students also make a regular practical contribution to the upkeep of the fabric and administration of the college through weekly jobs.

Weekends are kept as free as possible and students are encouraged to join a local church and share in the life of the wider community. At certain times in the year, however, parish placements and preaching teams take priority.

In the context of shared life, study and prayer, Trinity College, a 'community without walls', can offer you rigorous training for Christian witness, ministry and mission in today's world.





our vision is to be
a community without walls





Training at Trinity will equip you

- to think theologically and deepen your understanding and use of the Bible
- to strengthen your practical skills in ministry and ability to reflect upon them
- to develop a personal, social and spiritual awareness that will result in patterns of life-long learning

Training for Ministry

People come to Trinity to train for a wide variety of ministries and work situations, both in Britain and overseas. Some will be training for ordained ministry in the Church of England. Some will be preparing for other kinds of leadership and service in church and society. Ministry is more than fulfilling our own potential or developing our gifts – it involves the readiness, ability and wisdom to respond to changing demands wherever God may call us.

Ministries, gifts and callings

Each of us comes into training with particular gifts and calling from God. Those leaving college go into a wide variety of work and ministry. All study together except where more particular training needs are required. We meet these varied study and training needs through our flexible pastoral and mission based programme that enables a certain degree of specialisation.

Ordained Ministry

Ordained ministry asks us to make a profound commitment to service within a particular historical church. Alongside theological studies and practical training, there is the task of growing in a loving and critically informed understanding of the Anglican tradition that has discerned and supported your call to ministry.

Trinity has pioneered *Ministry Formation Groups* to enable this process to happen more effectively. All ordinands belong to a group for their time at college. Meeting regularly during the term with a tutor, they are also places of personal support and encouragement in the demanding task of preparing for ordained ministry in the church.

Theology and practice

We are convinced that theology and practical service belong together – and this is reflected in all our courses. Christian ministry is a call to become ‘thinking practitioners’ - relating mature theology to good practice. Our task at Trinity is to help you integrate theology and practice so that in the future you will reflect on your experience and continue to grow in wisdom and effectiveness.

Placements

Placements are an essential ingredient in our total programme. Students are encouraged to experience a new area of ministry through a sector placement. This may be in a hospital, prison or student chaplaincy, or a variety of community placements. Most courses also include a month long supervised placement in a local church, or other area of ministry, which is selected to suit the student’s needs for the type of future ministry he or she may undertake.

The city of Bristol and surrounding region offers a wide range of excellent practical training opportunities in church based and secular settings.

Preaching and Communication

Training in preaching has an important place in the college programme. We look carefully at different approaches to biblical interpretation and exposition, the art of preaching, and communication. At one stage of the course there is the opportunity of being involved in a weekly preaching team. Professional training is provided in the skills of voice projection and communication. Trinity has a small recording studio and good links with BBC local radio provide further excellent training opportunities.



Mission and Evangelism

In today's world all training for Christian ministry of any sort must also be training for mission. We are daily more aware that we live in a complex post-Christian, multi-cultural, multi-religious society and world. Just as jazz plays around traditional harmonies and gives them new life and expression, the church today is seeking fresh ways of living and proclaiming Christ's life in the world. At Trinity this vision for mission lies at the heart of our teaching and equipping for ministry. It is a priority that we express in a number of particular ways.

Trinity is an international community. We have students from around the world studying here. As a result we have developed strong links with churches and colleges in many countries.

The weekly Gospel in Action forum welcomes speakers working in a wide variety of mission contexts, both in Britain and abroad.

The study of Mission forms an integral part of our course structure. Here is the opportunity to reflect deeply on the joy and challenge of the church's mission in a wide variety of contexts, in the UK and overseas; to do groundwork on understanding other religions and, especially, to realise the importance of friendship with those of other faiths; to develop a coherent and culturally sensitive approach to mission in such a context. There are modules also on Muslim and Jewish thought, new ways of being church; and on the importance of the media.

Training in the theory and practice of evangelism is a core part of Trinity's vision for preparation for ministry of any sort. The college offers a one year Certificate and two-year Diploma in Evangelism, and students are encouraged to include units from these courses as part of their overall training package.

The Bristol Urban Theology Project is another example of our commitment to mission, of the innovative approaches to training at Trinity and of the excellent training resources available in the local region. The project is jointly owned by the college and Bristol Diocese. It is possible for three-year students to spend six months or one year of their course immersed in an urban situation and explore hands-on issues of pastoral care, mission and evangelism, under the supervision of clergy and other experienced practitioners in urban ministry. The project is not simply aimed at students who wish to serve in Urban Priority Areas. The UTP provides a challenging context for anyone committed to learning the basic skills of ministry and theological reflection in a demanding cross-cultural environment.

Ministerial and other students have the opportunity to take part in at least one college mission during one of the vacations. These are run in partnership with an evangelist from *Through Faith Missions*. There is also an annual weekend when the whole college goes out in teams to share ministry and mission in various situations.





Mission is jazz. It must be innovative,
allowing something new to emerge
– a music that transforms.

Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
that you may discern what is the will of God



The Library

Trinity has one of the largest theological libraries in the country, with some 40,000 books, 140 journals and periodicals on current subscription, an extensive collection of pamphlets, items on microfiche and audio-visual material. Over the years our policy has been to build it up into a resource not only for the support of the college and its courses but also for theological research. Computer and internet facilities are available both in the library and in a separate student computer suite.

College Bookshop

The College has a well-stocked bookshop offering substantial discounts on standard retail prices.



Doing Theology

'Will the course give me all I need to be a Christian minister?'

Of course a two or three year course in theology will not send you out a 'finished article' with all the answers. But the study of theology is not about memorising information so much as transformed thinking, believing and living. Trinity will train you to grapple with the Bible and the church's theological tradition and so develop a mature and growing ability to think theologically. We want your time in college to be laying exciting foundations for life-long learning in ministry.

'My vision is for practical ministry. Will Trinity try and turn me into an academic theologian?'

A common concern for students coming to college is that academic theology will force them to become someone they are not – or even undermine their vision for Christian ministry.

At Trinity we will meet you at your level of vision, experience and thinking and help you to take it on. Our aim is to give all students a thorough all-round training. In an ever more confusing and complex world, Christian ministers have the challenge of responding to the world intelligently, clearly and from a solid theological

foundation. We believe that good practice flows from good theology and faithful theology flows into sacrificial service. There is no separation between academic theology and practical training at Trinity. Our courses are specifically designed to enable individuals to develop academically and pastorally.

'I have not studied for years.'

Will I be out of my depth?'

Trinity caters for a wide variety of students looking for different emphases in their training. Men and women from many different age groups, backgrounds and cultures study here. At the beginning of each year there is an introductory course on the Study of Theology and support is always available when needed. Students come with very varied experience of academic study. Our courses are flexible and allow students of different abilities to find appropriate routes for study.

'I want to take a year out of work and study.'

Do you have a course for me?'

We are experienced at providing specifically designed courses for people like you. Others come to study as part of a process of retraining or exploring a new direction in their life and vocation.

'I am interested in postgraduate study.'

Can I do this as part of ministry training?'

Yes, you can. Trinity provides a variety of postgraduate and higher degree courses that are fully integrated with the practical training programme. Our research facilities are excellent.



College Courses



Trinity's University-Validated Courses

Trinity courses are modular, and a choice is offered from a wide range of modules at various levels.

Modules are arranged in five main areas:

biblical studies;

pastoral ministry;

church, culture and

society; mission,

religion and

communication; and

evangelism. Many of

the modules aim to

integrate academic

theological study with

practical application

and pastoral reflection.

It is usually possible to do any course at Trinity on a part-time basis.

For one, two or three year students, the linked Certificate, Diploma, BA Degree and BA Honours Degree in Theological Studies are the central courses offered by Trinity College. These are validated by the University of Bristol and are designed to combine rigorous academic study of theology with the applied emphasis and concern for practical skills which characterise the college's vocational approach to theological study. All full-time students on any of the main vocational courses are full members of the college worshipping community.

For students with a good first degree it is possible to gain entry to an accelerated BA (Hons) programme and complete the degree in two years.

Those with suitable previous theological study may be admitted directly to the second year of the degree or honours degree programme.

For two year ordinands both the Diploma and the accelerated BA (Hons) are possible ordination training routes. (See also details of the ADMT).

For three year ordinands there is a choice for appropriate candidates - the degree, the honours degree, the accelerated honours degree followed by an MA or Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Theology, or the Diploma linked with a year's study with the Bristol Urban Theology Project.

Higher Degrees

MA in Applied Theology

The choice for those wanting to look at the interface between theology and aspects of life and mission of the church in today's world. There is a fieldwork element which can be based on the ongoing work of part-time students.

MA in Theological Studies

A perfect vehicle for those who wish to engage with theology at a more advanced level and especially useful in preparing for further research work.

MPhil, MLitt or PhD

Students can also study at Trinity for research degrees validated by Bristol University and supervised by the staff of Trinity and Bristol Baptist College, as well as others. These are, respectively, one, two and three year research degrees by dissertation.

Trinity's Internal Awards



Trinity offers a wide range of one-year courses leading to its own certificate and diploma awards. These may be pursued on a full or part-time basis.

Certificate in Christian Ministry (CCM)

A general introductory course in theology and pastoral studies. It offers a range of subjects, normally at the first-year level but also allowing a much wider range of choice. The flexibility of the CCM allows individual students to concentrate their studies according to their interests and concerns.

Certificate in Pastoral Studies (CPS)

For those wishing to extend their theological and pastoral resources. It includes both placement and dissertation.

Certificate in the Science of Mission (CSM)

For those particularly training to communicate cross-culturally, both at home and abroad. It includes both placement and dissertation.

Advanced Diploma in Theological Studies (ADTS)

For those who have already undertaken a foundational course of theological training. It is also a good way to prepare for postgraduate theological study.

Advanced Diploma in Pastoral Studies (ADPS)

A flexible course for those with previous theological study. It includes coursework, placement or fieldwork, and dissertation in an area of pastoral studies.

Advanced Diploma in Urban Theology (ADUT)

This course can be validated as a component year within ordination training. It is based around a year long placement in an urban environment, and assessment is largely by dissertation.

Diploma (or Certificate) in the Study and Practice of Evangelism

This course offers an opportunity to engage in a year's theological and practical study covering a wide range of issues to do with making Christ known in contemporary society. The academic level of the Diploma is that of the second year of the honours degree. For those who enrol for the Diploma without prior theological training, the course consists of the first year of the degree combined with the specialised year two. The Certificate in Evangelism is a level-one equivalent for those who have no previous theological qualification.

Theology Graduates

Advanced Diploma in Ministerial Theology (ADMT)

This offers a tailor-made ordination training route for those who have obtained a previous degree in theology. It is designed to allow students to pursue special interests of their own, whilst preparing for Christian ministry.

The ADMT could include an advanced diploma, a course for one year in Urban Theology, or a higher degree. The MA in Applied Theology or MPhil are the chosen routes for many, others choose to begin an MLitt or PhD.

MA Foundation

This is designed for theology graduates whose first language is not English. It is a year long course aimed at introducing students to postgraduate theological study in a British context whilst starting study for an MA. It incorporates a course of English language to prepare students for MA level study. The MA proper is taken in the second year.

For a full outline of the Courses offered ask for our separate leaflets.



Personal and Spiritual Formation

Training for Christian service at Trinity will mean far more than gaining theological knowledge and practical equipping – vital though these are. It challenges us, individually and in community, to learn more about being who we are, male and female, single and married, and from different ethnic backgrounds.

Alongside the development of strategic and practical skills there is the complementary and demanding task of growing into a costly personal integration at all levels of human identity and flourishing – emotional, theological, psychological, spiritual and relational. This is an essential part of preparation for the demands of ministry in today's world.

Deeper still, our vocation is nothing less than to grow and develop as men and women of God. To that end training at Trinity will stretch and enable you to develop those patterns of spiritual life that will lay foundations for lifelong discipleship.

At Trinity we encourage this in a number of ways:

Pastoral Groups

Most full-time students are part of the pastoral group system. These groups are made up of a cross section of the community with a tutor. They meet for friendship, relaxation and fellowship. Regular meetings with the personal tutor and the yearly system of self assessment provide a framework for spiritual and personal growth – and the support that makes it possible. At Trinity we recognise that the integration of study and practical training into deeper prayer and spiritual formation requires time, discernment and encouragement. Many find further support from fellowship in smaller groups and prayer triplets.

Wednesday Spirituality programme

A central part of our week is the Wednesday Spirituality programme. This exciting course provides an exploration into the Christian traditions of prayer, contemplation and worship. A talk is followed by a period of silence for personal prayer and reflection – a space given to God in the midst of our busy timetable. This course makes a much valued and distinctive contribution to our vision for spiritual formation at Trinity.

Quiet Days

Once a term the college Quiet Day provides space for quiet prayer and reflection as part of our Christian discipleship. Quiet Days vary in their approach, sometimes led by an outside speaker, and sometimes offering a multiple choice of small group venues with different themes. In the summer term each pastoral group goes away into the surrounding countryside for its own Quiet Day.

Spiritual Companions

Students at Trinity can also draw on excellent spiritual and pastoral resources in the region. A scheme called Spiritual Companions offers to introduce students to an experienced local Spiritual Director for their time in college. The support of professional Christian counselling is also available and encouraged where needed.



Our vocation is to grow and develop
as men and women of God



‘The issue at stake is the whole shape of living’ David Ford

‘You will not be at home in the market place
unless you are also at home in the desert.’



‘The desperate need today is not for more
intelligent people or more gifted people
– but for deep people.’ Richard Foster

Worship at Trinity

Worship is central to our life together at Trinity. The day begins with an act of worship. On four days a week this is with the whole community. On Fridays, students meet for worship and prayer in pastoral groups. Student teams plan and lead the chapel worship and each team gives the worship a distinctive focus. Once a week there is a communion service, often with a guest preacher. Twice a term this communion service takes the form of a Federation Eucharist when we meet together with the others within the Bristol Federation for Theological Education.

Our community worship is expressed in a variety of ways over the course of a term. Anglican forms of worship provide a basic but flexible structure and there is also opportunity to be led in more informal and experimental styles. We rejoice in our diversity as a worshipping community and students from other Christian traditions are welcome to lead the community worship in ways that bring to life the vision of the worldwide church. The worship is greatly enriched by music that embraces contemporary and traditional styles and students are encouraged to use their musical experience and talents. Our times together include opportunity for personal ministry, prayer for healing, and the use of spiritual gifts.

The main chapel is set in the beauty of the Trinity grounds. Behind it the woods contain a prayer path leading to a prayer garden. Designed and built as a community project, the prayer path reflects the creative and innovative patterns of worship that characterise community life at Trinity. In the main house, the smaller 'Oak Chapel' is set aside for personal prayer and quiet.

Sabbaticals and Study Leave

We welcome to college from time to time people who want to take time out of their normal work to think and read and pray in the context of a worshipping and learning community. Individual programmes of study can be arranged. You can use the library and join in chapel worship. Accommodation is available in study bedrooms as well as an apartment specially set aside for this purpose.



Student Support

Single Students at Trinity

Single students bring a rich variety of background and life experience to life in the Trinity community.

Accommodation

In most years single members of the community range in age from early twenties to mid fifties with some coming from other countries from around the world.

This diversity creates a stimulating and enriching community in which to live and work as well as forming a vital focus for the life of the whole college community.

The Carter building, situated in the College grounds, is the main single student residence; it comprises single study bedrooms, common rooms, TV lounges and kitchens. There is also a house off the main site which offers an alternative kind of community experience for single women students.

Life together

The lively and varied life of single students at Trinity is encouraged by a variety of planned (and spontaneous) social activities. These also help in bringing together people of differing ages and backgrounds to make Carter their home.

Every other year a weekend is arranged with pastorally experienced speakers to enable students to reflect on personal issues of lifestyle, relationships and ministry. This is always much appreciated. An annual weekend away is also a feature of the year - arranged for space and relaxation together.

International Students

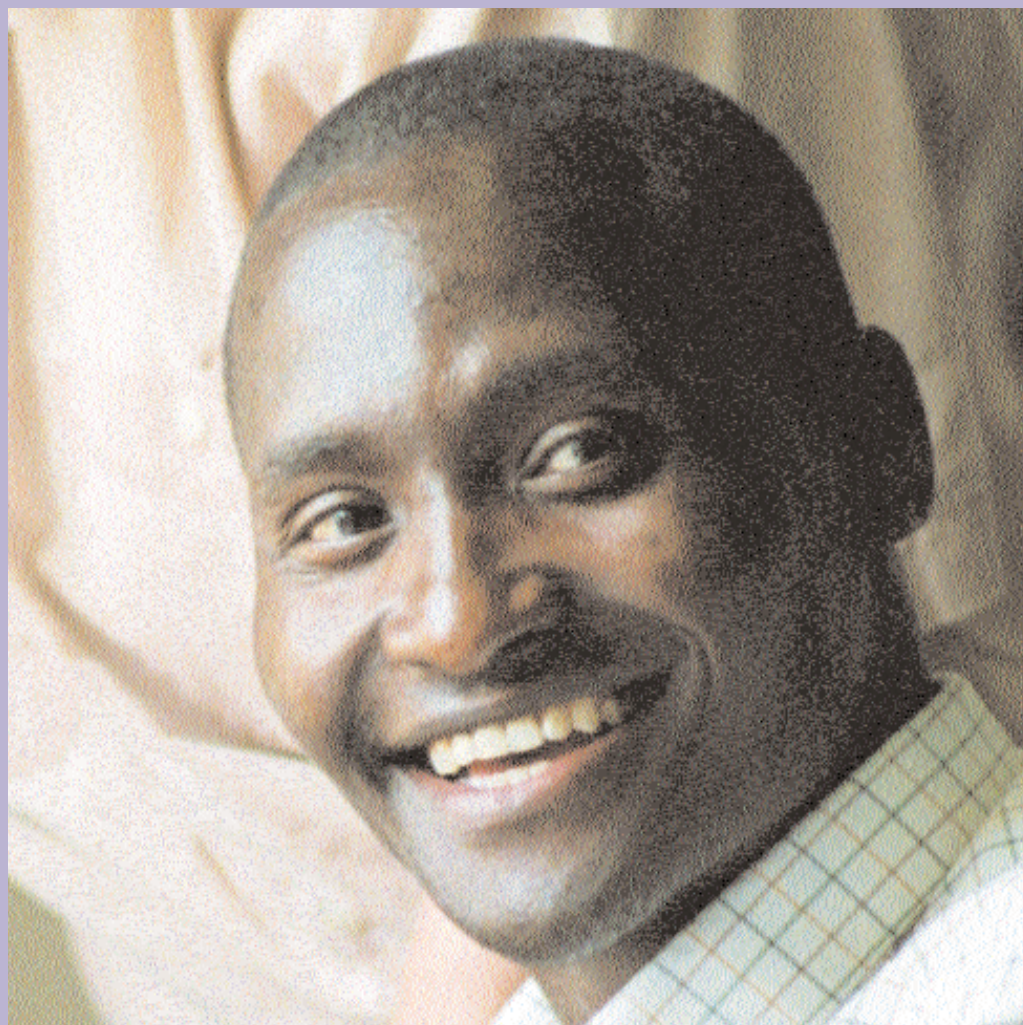
Trinity has a long tradition of serving the international church. Students from all continents come to study here and help shape the life of the college community. For many international students there are opportunities during the year to lead worship in chapel, to contribute to discussions on the life of the church in their home countries and to lead times of community prayer for the international church.

Significant friendships are formed and perspectives widened. Some come as single students and join the community living on-site in college. Others bring their families and live in off-site accommodation managed by the college.

English is not the first language of learning for a number of students who come here. Some are given the support of a specialist teacher to help them improve their academic and conversational English.



‘You cannot be an effective minister to others without a mature and developing awareness of yourself’



Sport

Trinity has a keen football team and facilities for croquet, volleyball, table tennis, snooker, pool as well as access to squash, badminton and tennis courts. The Bristol University Union building has an excellent swimming pool. We keep Wednesday afternoons as clear as possible to give time for sport and other leisure pursuits.

Trinity recognises the particular role played by families in both ordained and other full-time ministries



Enjoying the region

Situated just off the Bristol Downs and close to the Avon Gorge, students at Trinity can enjoy living close to areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The city of Bristol has fine recreational and cultural facilities with plenty of cinemas, arts centres, music venues and theatres. The famous Bristol zoo is a family favourite and within easy walking distance of the college. For days further out, the Cotswolds, Bath, the Forest of Dean, the Mendips, Cheddar and South Wales are all within easy reach. The International Balloon Fiesta takes place very close by.



Student Support

Couples and families at Trinity

The process of coming to college and making a new home in the community involves uprooting and change for everyone. Spouses and families feel this at least as much as the students. Trinity has a justified reputation for its support for couples and families.

Of course no two circumstances are alike. Some spouses continue to follow their own careers while others do not. Children are at different stages. The needs are therefore very varied. Trinity's vision is to welcome spouses and children into the life of the college community as far as they wish, and are able, to be involved.

Some wives and husbands of students attend college lectures and courses, as official or unofficial part-time students. Spouses are welcome to sit in on any modules. They make a valuable contribution to the classes they join. Many husbands and wives come to the Wednesday Holy Communion service - the central service of the week. All are welcome to join in any other of the college's activities wherever they are able.

Connect

Connect is the spouses' network. They meet on Monday evenings either centrally or in more locally based support groups. The programme includes



fellowship, Bible study and prayer as well as training and social events. There is also a weekly contemplative prayer group on Wednesday mornings. Pastoral support and Spiritual Direction from outside college is also available as part of Trinity's commitment to supporting spouses and families in their time at college.

Children and young people

For the youngest children Trinity runs a full-time Day Nursery on site with well-qualified professional staff. Regular Ofsted inspections have highly commended the standard of care provided. The nursery is available from 8.00 in the morning until 5.30 in the afternoon, five days a week. Children of full-time members of the college attend the nursery at greatly subsidised fees. Children are also welcome into college meals. On several occasions each term there are special events, all-age worship services, children and youth programmes running during the weekly communion service, and meals with a particular focus for children and young people.

In these different ways the Trinity community provides a place of important security at a stage characterised by change all round them.

Housing

The college manages a large number of houses and flats for married students and families grouped in various locations within striking distance of college. These groupings aim to foster mutual support and fellowship through both planned events and informal friendship. There are studies available in college for students who live off-site.

Preparing for ministry together

Trinity recognises the particular role played by families in both ordained and other full-time ministries and the subsequent pressure that sometimes results. We therefore aim to prepare couples for the demands of future life in ministry by putting on marriage enrichment weekends and evenings on 'Couples Together in Ministry'.

There are separate leaflets profiling members of the college faculty, giving more details of the courses and study programmes on offer, and providing information on fees. If you don't have these please ask our Admissions Secretary (admissions@trinity-bris.ac.uk or tel + 44 (0)117 968 2803) who can also let you have application forms.

We are always happy to arrange informal visits if you want to get a preliminary feel of the college and we also hold open days. For latest information visit our website on www.trinity-bris.ac.uk



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