



welcome to the carter community

We are delighted you are coming to Trinity College and especially the Carter community. We have been praying that your transitions will be smooth and you will be well-rested and ready for your new adventure in Bristol.

The Carter community is comprised of the main Carter building and a number of nearby 'satellite' houses. Whichever you are in, we remain one community. Living on the college site and sharing life together 24/7 is a wonderful privilege. We're a diverse group when it comes to ages, backgrounds, academic programmes, church experiences and personalities. This variety makes Carter both fun and challenging.

Carter isn't just 'accommodation'. It's a *home* and will become family as we journey together. This community should be one that provides you with prayerful support, spontaneous adventures and meaningful friendships during your time at Trinity.

Your involvement in the community is very much up to you, so any introverts reading this needn't be too worried! If you want to head to the pub, play a game, watch a film, or enjoy a glass of wine and a chat, there's bound to be someone who wants to join you; yet there's enough going on that if you would prefer some down-time by yourself no-one will be offended!

We've tried to pre-empt questions or information you might like to know in the next few pages. If you still have questions or worries concerning Carter specifically and want to engage with someone already living here, please get in touch with me, Luke Aylen, the 'Carter Rep', or Ruth Phillips, the 'Deputy Carter Rep'. Our emails are on the back page.



Luke & Ruth, Carter Reps

carter community vision

Living in community can be an immense blessing but can also be costly. Some love community life while for others it's a new or even challenging experience. We want Carter to be as positive and life-giving as possible to each member of the community. We believe that God uses the joys and struggles of life together to grow and form us. With this in mind, there are three marks that we want to shape our life together. We can't force them, they are all gifts of the Spirit, but we long to see them find fuller expression in this home and community.

humility

We are all different. That's a good thing! Remembering other's difference and being willing to constantly put the needs of others above our own is the foundation of community life. The faults that we see in others are the subject of prayer rather than of criticism. We strive to be generous, gracious and forgiving towards each-other.

love

Despite difference, we are united by the love we share in Christ. We want to be intentional towards every member of our community. Specific friendships will develop but we want our love to extend to *everyone*, even those we have little natural affinity with. We want to avoid gossip, cliques or selfishness and remember that love is measured in sacrifice.

joy

Carter is filled with fun and laughter. We love gathering, eating, and celebrating together but also long for God to cultivate something even deeper. Rather than grumbling and complaining, joy seeks contentment. Joy remains even in times of darkness and difficulty, giving cheerful courage and an inward serenity.



practicalities

eating in carter

Most meals are provided by college. Lunch is in the dining hall every weekday with a 'main', 'vegetarian' or 'salad' option. On Tuesday we receive an evening meal with the part-time students. All dietary requirements can be accommodated with advance notice. The meals are delicious!

College provide Carter residents with food for breakfast (cereals, tea, coffee, milk and bread). These are in the main kitchens but some people take stuff up to their kitchenettes.

In the evenings and at weekends we make our own meals, often sharing and cooking for one another. The WhatsApp group and whiteboard in the entrance hall are great for organising this. We have a guest kitchen for hosting but visitors are welcome in the main dining room.

The Carter kitchen is generously sized and each resident has their own cupboard, fridge and freezer space. It is fully stocked so there is no need to bring your own pots, pans or crockery.

bedrooms, corridors & kitchenettes

Each bedroom has a single bed, desk, desk chair, easy chair, wardrobe, shelving, chest of drawers and basin. Bedding is provided (but not bed covers). A mattress-topper might be a good idea too. There are only two sockets in each room, so bring an extension lead!

The corridors are single-sex with four or five bedrooms, a bathroom and a kitchenette. Bathrooms have a single shower stall, a bath with shower and a toilet.

Kitchenettes provide space for socialising and relaxing on a smaller scale, with a seating area, worktop, kettle, toaster, fridge and basin. The kitchenette is a great place for a cup of tea and some peace and quiet!



laundry, cleaning & maintenance

The laundry room is available for use at all times except between 11-2 weekdays. There are two washers and two driers. You will need to buy a laundry card at reception in order to use the machines. You might want to bring your own drying rack too!

Bathrooms are cleaned weekly but restocked with toilet paper and towels on a daily basis. We are responsible for bedrooms, corridors and kitchenettes. The main kitchen gets cleaned weekly but with so many people using it, we all need to pitch in every day to keep this space useable! Cleaning materials are available from college cleaning staff.

We have a WhatsApp group for any maintenance issues (like a leak, a broken window, a malfunctioning socket, etc.) Luke or Ruth will then contact college on your behalf to make sure the issue is attended to. It is much easier for everyone if there is only one point of contact between college and Carter rather than each individual going separately.



storage

If you find your bedroom is not big enough for all your stuff, additional storage space is available next to each staircase which is securely locked. Bike storage is also available in a locked shed to the rear of Carter. Please do bring with you your own bike lock and any other security equipment.

guests

Hospitality is important to many of us. Carter is our home and college have tried hard to make it feel more like a home and less like a hall of residence. This includes our own guest accommodation, J-Block, which is free for us to use. The wing consists of two bedrooms, a bathroom and a kitchen/dining room. You can invite guests to stay overnight or entertain with a bit more privacy in the daytime or evening. College needs to know about overnight guests for fire safety, so contact reception *first* when booking J-Block then add it to the calendar in the entrance hall. The college cleaners won't enter J-Block so we need to look after it ourselves and make sure we have changed the bedding after our guests have left and cleaned.

family life

Carter is more than accommodation; it will become home. We may not be the family you would have chosen but God has seen fit to throw us together! One of the most challenging aspects of living in community and on site is the boundaries between work/study and home life. Our studies, theology and college life will, of course, seep into Carter home life but we try to keep the community somewhere that we can switch off, leave that essay behind for the night, and relax. Being respectful to others in this regard is really helpful. It's important not to compare yourself to others too much. There will always be someone else working hard (and making you feel guilty) or someone doing something fun (and giving you fear of missing out). Work out what you need to do and ensure you give yourself the breaks and rest you need. God has called you to Trinity and Carter, so be yourself!

social

Socialising together is a central part of Carter life. You can be as involved as you like but there is never any pressure if you are more of an introvert. There is almost always something spontaneous going and we encourage people to initiate outings, film showings, games, or other fun things which can be listed on the WhatsApp group and whiteboard.

Occasionally we try to gather as a wider community for specific socials organised by our Carter social reps. In the past we have been on trips to the Brecon Beacons, the beach, and all sorts of cultural or social events in Bristol. We've had pizza nights, bonfires, film nights, pub trips, board games, and parties. It would be great to see some new activities this year!

Onsite, we have a games room with table tennis and snooker. There is a pool table in the common room and the ability to jam in the chapel if you are musical. We even have a few acres of woodland with a fire pit on the grounds and the extensive Bristol downs on our doorstep if you like to be outdoors.

We'd also encourage socialising with other members of the Trinity community and people from your church. Joining a club or doing something outside of the community can be really helpful and important too!

prayer

Prayer is central to our community. We all find what works for us. Some corridors meet weekly (or even daily) to pray together while other times it's more spontaneous. Once a week we have Carter prayer, a relaxed opportunity to share and to pray for our whole community. It's optional and there is no pressure to attend, but it's a very important and wonderful part of community life and we'd really encourage you to come along as often as possible.

pastoral care

We try to look out for each other at all times, be real about struggles, and recognise that each of us processes things in different ways.

For some who have lived in their own home, moving into a community can be a huge adjustment to make. Likewise, studying theology can be intense and unearth all sorts of issues or questions. Please don't be alarmed if you begin to struggle at any point; it is not uncommon and there is support available for you. Please speak up. The last thing we would want you to do is suffer in silence.

Carter reps and pastoral tutors will always happily lend a listening ear. College also has male and female chaplains if you would like to talk or pray with someone impartial.

communication



Communication is key when living in community. It seems straightforward, but the key to a happy community is to talk to each other! Problems are best resolved in person, and we can look out for one another too. We also have 'house' meetings every term or so just to make sure everything is ticking along smoothly.



There are two Facebook groups you can join before you arrive 'Current Community: Trinity College Bristol' and 'Trinity College: the wider community' where you can share general questions before you arrive. These are also very active during term time and a great place to keep up to date on college life.



If there is anything you want to ask that you don't want to put on a public forum, drop us an email. Email can be useful in term time too, especially for those without smart phones.

Luke - laylen@me.com

Ruth - ruthphillips91@live.co.uk



Once you have arrived, if you have a smart phone we will add you to a Carter WhatsApp group. This is where day-to-day communication happens easiest. Use it for planning shared meals, organising socials and letting us know about maintenance issues.



Never underestimate the power of the whiteboard! Our favourite non-techy communication tool near the lounge is great for organising meals and socials or to remind you of upcoming college events.

arrivals & final thoughts

arrivals

New Carter residents move in on **Wednesday 4th September from 10am**. This gives you a couple of days to unpack and settle in before the first college events (pastoral group socials) on Friday.

There will be communal meals and tea and coffee on tap on the Wednesday and Thursday if you haven't managed to buy any food yet! We will then have a big Carter community meal on the Friday night.

Let the Rebecca in the property department (r.ford@trinitycollegebristol.ac.uk) and me (Luke Aylen) know roughly when you will arrive on the Wednesday and we will help you unload all your stuff. Just come to reception when you arrive and we will all come and help!

final thoughts

No amount of information can communicate what Carter will be like. This is partly because the community is shaped by the personalities and people there. We don't know what it will be like because you are a crucial part of it! We can't wait to discover what the community will be like this coming year and get to know you!

We (Luke and Ruth) can only speak personally and say that Carter has been possibly the biggest highlight of our time so far at Trinity. It really has become family and home. Please don't feel daunted or anxious about the move. You are very much in our prayers and we really can't wait to meet you in person and get to know you.



carter reps

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moving day info

Wednesday 4th
September 2019

*Trinity College, Stoke Hill,
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