



## *College House Institute of Theology*

College House Institute of Theology has strong affiliations to the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch - the Bishop of Christchurch is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Standing Committee appoints two members to the Board, but several other Board Members come from other denominations. Originally part of the College House (an independent university Hall of Residence), the theological activities formed an independent trust in 1990.

The purpose of the Institute is to offer courses in and support for Christian education in the area of the Christchurch Diocese (which extends to Timaru and across to the West Coast on the South Island). We also have the responsibility for running the Diocesan Ordination programme. The courses and certificates that we offer cover a wide range of topics designed to enthuse and inform. In recent years we have also become closely associated with Otago University by our Director's involvement in teaching some of their distance papers for the BTheol at that Institution.

The Library consists of some 15,000 volumes on two sites covering Christian theology, Biblical study, and pastoral theology. In addition to this, we have recently assumed responsibility for the administration and housing of a 2000 volume library of the Anglican Resource Centre which includes periodicals, books, videos, and audio tapes as resources for people involved in leading worship, working with youth, or who are interested in material to guide their own spiritual journey.

When I first came to College House - in the days when we taught many papers for the LTh qualification, the purpose of the library was defined as 'supporting the courses taught as well as the education and information needs of clergy and laypersons everywhere.' I am delighted to say that, 18 years later, apart from a shift from a book budget of \$2000 and 530 items issued per year to a book budget of \$10,000 and issues of 3,000 per year - nothing else has changed. We still loan our collection and offer library services to all comers for no fee. Many students of the Bible College in Christchurch, Distance students of Otago University, Religious Studies students of Canterbury University are heavy and appreciative users of our collection.

We have an automated library catalogue, which has recently been migrated from CATALIST to the web-capable eLM in preparation for putting our catalogue onto the web. We are charter members of the New Zealand Interloan Scheme and contributing subscribers to TePuna. Our webpage lists and annotates all new accessions and we hope within the year will provide a link to our catalogue.

*Judith Curtis  
Librarian  
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