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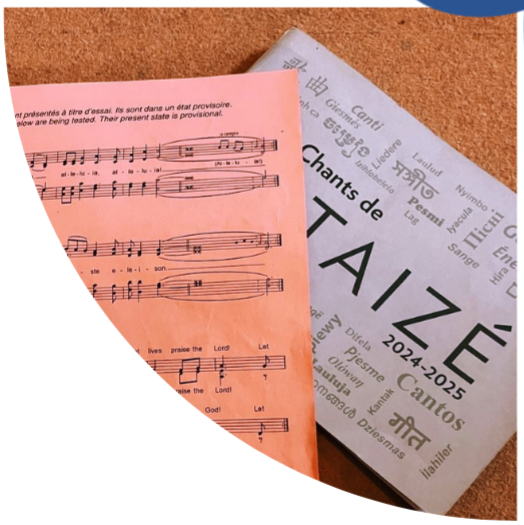
Living and telling the story of Jesus



Taizé pilgrimage 2027

bathandwells.org.uk/taize

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Our Ref: +MBW

5th October 2026

Dear Friends

I'd like to invite you to join us on a pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France that I shall be leading from 17th-25th July 2027, with support from the Revd Rich Miles, our Missional Priest for Youth & Young Adults. A group from Bath & Wells shared an incredible trip to Taizé in 2026. We're excited to embark on another pilgrimage in 2027!

We are sending you this invitation for three reasons:

- Visiting Taizé is an incredibly positive and fulfilling experience. While we often talk **about** God in church, a trip to Taizé allows for a profound encounter **with** God. We invite you to take this opportunity to connect with the Lord in a way that many have found deeply enriching and life-changing.
- Prayer and worship at Taizé offer both a collective and individual spiritual experience. Visitors can immerse themselves in a daily rhythm with God, which they can easily take home with them, integrating it into their daily walk with God.
- We'd like to know you better! Taizé has a particular vocation to offer its life to people aged 18-30. As a young adult in our diocese we'd really like intentionally to invest some time in valuing you. Often our interactions with you are brief and in larger gatherings. A week spent living life in community in Taizé will offer us all a richer experience of encountering each other.

Having given you the 'why', let me now let you know a little more about the 'what and the how'.

What is Taizé all about?
Taizé was founded as ecumenical community out of the conflict of WWII and is an extraordinary place to visit. Each week it offers several thousand young people from around the world and from different church denominations time and space to breathe, to listen, to think and to live for a while to the beat of heaven. People that go to Taizé often say it's an experience that's changed their lives. You can find out a lot more about Taizé by visiting their website. You might also enjoy seeing what a week in Taizé is like by watching this short film.

Cont'd …

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What happens at Taizé?
Three times a day everyone gathers with the Taizé community in the church for prayer with songs, a scripture reading and silence. The worship uses the Taizé community's chants. If you have experienced Taizé worship before, singing the chants alongside 3000 other people from all around Europe is as different as watching your local primary's year six team play in comparison to watching Liverpool play at Anfield.

Each day, the brothers of the community introduce a biblical reflection organised by language, followed by a time of discussion in small groups. This is an extraordinary opportunity to encounter the thinking, insights and perspectives of people from many different traditions and from all around the world.

The meetings at Taizé are about searching, listening and thinking about what it means to be a human being, and how we can do something to bring justice, peace and hope to our world. They provide a space where young adults can meet people their age from other countries and talk about important things. But at the same time, it is also possible at Taizé to discover how to be on your own.

In the afternoon each day there are workshops which explore themes of faith and life touching on work, society, art and culture, social justice and world peace.

Between the meals and times of prayer there is plenty of free time. In the evening there is a great time of socialising at 'Oyak' where over refreshments, there is singing, dancing and all kinds of spontaneous entertainment in the midst of the crowd. And the church is always open for those looking for quiet.

Nothing is compulsory about Taizé. The wonderful sense of freedom there makes the times of prayer and meeting tremendously compelling.

What are the practicalities?
Travel details are currently being finalised. We shall be travelling to Taizé by overnight bus.

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You will need to have a valid UK passport or valid non-UK passport with valid visa (if required).

The group will be camping, so you'll need to bring your own sleeping-bag, camping mat and a robust tent. There are shower and washing facilities on site. It can be hot in France at that time of year, but it can also rain, so you will need to come prepared!

All meals are provided at Taizé – a very large communal eating experience! Different dietary requirements are all properly catered for.

The cost of a week's pilgrimage to Taizé is around £425. We are exploring if we can find some additional funding to help subsidise the trip but we'd be grateful if you could ask for assistance from your local parishes or local trust funds that could help you. If none of this avails and cost alone would prevent your joining us, please do speak discreetly to myself or Rich who may be able to offer some further help.

Would you like to come?
We hope so much that you'd like to join us on our pilgrimage. We think it will be a wonderful and life-changing experience for us all. We're personally looking forward to the experience tremendously.

If you could get back to Rich with your response promptly that would be much appreciated or if you've already decided you want to come then you can get yourself signed up and booked on via our website bathandwells.org.uk/taize. If you've questions that you'd like to ask, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Thank you for considering our invitation. We hope so much that you will be able to be with us.

Yours with all good wishes,

+ Michael.

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