



## CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS PILGRIMAGE 2018

This resource pack provides the key information for group leaders to register their pilgrimage group and to help plan their trip.

Further information and resources to help plan and for use with pupils and parents can be found on the [Taizé website](#).

### Key information

- Sunday 15 - Sunday 22 July 2018 (travel from Saturday 14 and returning to the UK on Monday 23)
- This pilgrimage is for pupils in years 10-13 from Church of England secondary schools.
- Led by the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd and Rt Hon. John Sentamu, and the Bishop of Ely, Rt Revd Stephen Conway.

### What is the pilgrimage all about?

- Coming together as a community of schools to step forward together to 'live life in all its fullness'.
- Providing young people in Church schools the opportunity to grow spiritually.
- Enabling young people to have deep and meaningful interaction with those of different nationalities, denominations and faiths.  
Experiencing what it is to live well together in community.

*"A wonderful way to boost the spiritual development of young people is to encourage them to experience and be involved in pilgrimage. This is a very exciting initiative and I very much hope that you will consider the opportunity and you continue to help your pupils' spiritual development."*

*The Most Revd and Rt Hon. Justin Welby,  
the Archbishop of Canterbury*

You can view a film from the *Yorkshire Schools Pilgrimage to Taizé* in 2017 here:  
[www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/taize/](http://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/taize/)

## What is Taizé and why go?

Taizé is an inter-denominational monastic community in France, founded by Brother Roger after WWII. Since the early 1960s tens of thousands of young adults have travelled each year to Taizé to take part in International Youth meetings hosted by the Brothers. Taizé helps young people mature in a safe but challenging environment and all are invited to participate in the community life where each person is free to be who they are.

As Taizé is an experience rather than “talk”, it is accessible to those who do not think of themselves as being religious, as well as those of other faiths. All are welcome to come and journey together in their exploration of life and faith.

Each day includes Taizé services, biblical reflections, small international discussion groups, some practical activity and prayer with the whole community. All students are offered the opportunity to engage with faith more deeply in a welcoming, gentle and inclusive environment. In addition to this, Taizé is a really cost effective and safe way to take young people to Europe to experience a wide range of languages and cultures.

**(More information about Taizé and daily life with the community can be found on pages 6-8)**

## Why it works for schools and what the students get out of it

Since you will be joining the Taizé community for the week and taking part in the rhythm and life of the Brothers, all activities and events are already organised for you. Therefore, from a school perspective, it is a very straightforward trip to run. As a teacher, your focus can be on supporting your students throughout the week, building the community, as well as engaging in the Taizé experience for yourself. It's difficult to put into words the effect that a week in Taizé can have, but our experience has found that students and staff alike are encouraged and challenged by their time in the community. Staff and students from the *Yorkshire Schools Pilgrimage* in 2017 commented:

*“I found the week so refreshing and such an opportunity to refocus and re-centre myself...I loved the simplicity of the day and the space to be...”*

*“It was fantastic to see students with no faith background entering an experience of prayer and worship. Taizé provides a space for this to happen and it is quite unique...”*

*“All of our students have been effected in a good way and the trip has opened up an opportunity for us to develop a student chaplaincy team, which I am really excited about.”*

*“My faith in humanity has been restored and I finally felt I could be myself and didn't need to worry about what anyone else thought of me.”*

*“I feel more confident in making new friends and I am going home to look for opportunities to serve – that was the best bit of Taizé.”*

## Practical Information

- This pilgrimage is for pupils in **years 10-13** from Church of England secondary schools.
- We encourage schools to come in groups of **20-30 people (including staff members)**, but smaller or bigger groups are welcome.
- Sunday 15 – Sunday 22 July 2018 (travel from Saturday 14 and returning to the UK on Monday 23).

The pilgrimage is being led jointly by the Church of England Education Office and the Archbishop of York Youth Trust. The Youth Trust will be running their usual *Yorkshire Schools Pilgrimage* with the Archbishop of York during the same week, and look forward to joining up with the national Church of England Schools pilgrimage when in Taizé.

Schools will be responsible for their students throughout the trip and will need to complete all the necessary travel, health and safety and risk assessment forms. Suggested proformas and further information can be found on the Taizé website, the Archbishop of York Youth Trust website or by getting in touch with either the Youth Trust or the Education Office (see below).

**Taize website** [www.taize.fr/en\\_article11580.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article11580.html)

### The Church of England Education Office

[www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools)

Contact: [jemma.adams@churchofengland.org](mailto:jemma.adams@churchofengland.org) 02078 981491

### The Archbishop of York Youth Trust

[www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/taize/](http://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/taize/)

Contact: [Louise.Amende@abyyt.com](mailto:Louise.Amende@abyyt.com) 01904 231018

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## The cost

The cost of the trip will be based on the contribution to stay at Taizé and the cost of travel.

The cost to stay at Taizé is based on a suggested contribution amount per day. For 2018 the suggested contribution for 7.5 days (arrive Sunday morning, stay through until the following Sunday afternoon) including a pack lunch to take on journey home is as follows:

- €64-86 (£57-77) per young person per week
- €124-169 (£111-151) per adult per week (camping) **or** €154-214 (£138-192) per adult per week (staying in Taizé accommodation)

School group leaders may give their contribution at the young persons' rate if they wish.

More details can be found here [www.taize.fr/en\\_article13891.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article13891.html)

You can pay the contribution for your group in three ways:

1. Pay in advance online using a credit/debit card – there will be an option to do this on the registration form.

2. Pay via bank transfer in advance – you can arrange this through your registration (using your registration code).
3. Pay the contribution in cash or by credit/debit card on arrival at Taizé.

You will also need to factor in your travel costs to work out the total cost of your trip.

***We do not want any school groups to miss out on this opportunity because of the cost. This is a relatively cheap trip but if you are concerned about the cost please get in touch with us and we will try and direct you to local funding bodies that may be able to help.***

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## **Booking your group**

You can register your group on the Taizé website here: [www.taize.fr/en\\_article78.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_article78.html).

**You can register your intent before you know your final numbers.** Go to the link above and create your registration using your contact details. You can include an estimate for your group size.

**Please indicate in your registration that you are taking part in the Church of England Schools Pilgrimage.**

**Once you have registered please email [jemma.adams@churchofengland.org](mailto:jemma.adams@churchofengland.org) so that we know your school is joining the pilgrimage.**

Once you have registered your intent you will receive a registration code – please use this code in any correspondence you have with the community. You can email the community through the registration. Please contact the community to discuss any needs your group might have.

(Full registration instructions can be found on the above link.)

**At least one month before the trip you will need to confirm all the details of your group.**

All group members travelling need a passport and a European Health Card.

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## **Travelling to Taizé**

You will need to arrange appropriate travel for your group to and from Taizé. Many youth groups and schools choose to travel by coach, but you could also fly, take the train or hire a mini-bus.

Travel suggestions can be found on the Taizé website here [www.taize.fr/en\\_rubrique18.html](http://www.taize.fr/en_rubrique18.html)

You could arrange to travel with other schools going from your diocese or local area. If you would like to be connected with other schools going from your area please contact the Church of England Education Office.

Many groups have previously used Nuneaton Coaches [www.nuneatoncoaches.com](http://www.nuneatoncoaches.com) to travel to Taizé. They offer a regular shuttle service to Taizé (this can include members of the public) and can also provide private hire.

Groups should arrive at Taizé on Sunday morning. Most groups will travel from Saturday, through the night to arrive by Sunday lunchtime. Groups will leave Taizé the following Sunday afternoon, travelling through the night and arriving back in the UK on Monday.

## Accommodation

There are two accommodation options at Taizé:

### 1. Camping

- This is the best way to keep your group together and create a meeting place and communal area where you can check in with your group.
- Groups will need to arrange to bring their own tents to camp in – group leaders will need to arrange to bring tents to accommodate everyone and pupils will need to bring sleeping bags and camping mats.
- The camping fields are close to everything you need at Taizé.

### 2. Single-sex dormitory accommodation

- Dormitory accommodation is available and can be allocated to your group if you cannot camp.
- Dormitory spaces are allocated by the Taizé community and are split between male/female, under 18/over 18 and dormitories for group leaders.
- Dormitories are very basic and groups will need to bring their own sleeping bags.

There are shower and washing facilities on site for use by campers and those in dormitory accommodation.

So that your group can stay together and we can create a communal space for our pilgrimage we recommend camping.

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## Meals

All meals are provided and some dietary requirements can be provided for – please contact the community through your registration to discuss any dietary requirements your group might have.

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## Safety

The brothers of the community want Taizé to be a place of trust and a safe place for all who come. Safety information is included in the practical information sheet given to all groups on arrival. The guidance for the young people in your group includes the following:

- Do not go walking alone on isolated paths outside Taizé
- Alert the group leader, a brother or a sister if you become aware that any person has been subjected to sexual abuse or any act of violence
- Alert the group leader or a brother if you see any use of drugs or excessive consumption of alcohol
- Do not leave valuables (money, passports, phones etc) in tents, dormitories or cars. There is a safe deposit office where valuables can be left during your stay.

It is also important for you and your group to be aware that as part of the extra security measures in France, places of public worship are protected by military patrols.

## Packing List

Pack light and do not bring valuables.

- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping mat
- Torch (and spare batteries)
- Wash kit and towel
- Clothing and footwear
- Waterproofs – there can be thunderstorms.
- Sun cream and sun hat
- Paper and pen
- Musical instruments
- Football/games for free time
- Spending money – (Euros) for snacks, postcards and to use in the Taizé community shops. You will also need enough money for food and snacks on the journey too.
- Adapters are needed to charge phones. Please note that many networks do not work in the village. All other electronic equipment is discouraged.

Because of worship and the general feel modest clothing is essential i.e. sleeves on tops, trousers rather than shorts (shawls or scarves can also be used to cover shoulders).

For times when the weather is warm please ask your students to bring shorts of a good length (i.e. which cover their thighs) and not mini-shorts.

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## About Taizé

### The Beginnings

The Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order founded after WWII by Brother Roger. Brother Roger first came to Taizé in 1940 when, at the age of twenty-five, he left Switzerland, the country where he was born, to go and live in France to assist people suffering during the war. He settled in the small village of Taizé which was quite close to the demarcation line dividing France in two. Thanks to a modest loan Brother Roger bought a house with outlying buildings that had been uninhabited for years. He asked his sister, Genevieve, to come and help him offer hospitality and they sheltered refugees fleeing the war. Material resources were limited: there was no running water, so for drinking water they had to go to the village well and the food was simple, mainly soups made from corn flour bought cheaply at the nearby mill.

In 1942 they were warned that their activities had been found out and everyone had to leave. Brother Roger then lived in Geneva where he began a common life with his first brothers. They were able to return to Taizé in 1944. In 1945, a young lawyer from the region set up an association to take charge of children who had lost their parents in the war. He suggested to the brothers that they welcome a certain number of them in Taizé. A men's community could not receive children. So Brother Roger asked his

sister Genevieve to come back to take care of them and become their mother. On Sundays, the brothers also welcomed German prisoners-of-war interned in a camp nearby Taizé.

Gradually other young men came to join the original group, and on Easter Day 1949, there were seven of them who committed themselves together for their whole life in celibacy and to a life together in great simplicity.

### **Taizé Today**

Today the community is made up of over one hundred brothers from around thirty different countries, both Catholics and those from various Protestant backgrounds. By its very existence the community is a 'parable of community' that wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated peoples.

The brothers of the community live solely by their work. They do not accept donations. In the same way they do not accept personal inheritances for themselves; the community gives them to the very poor.

The Taizé community have a long history of welcoming young people into their community. The first international gathering of young people took place in the 1960s and since then Taizé has become a pilgrimage site visited by thousands of young adults from across the world every year. Taizé offers a unique international and ecumenical environment that allows young people from all backgrounds to explore their faith and spirituality whilst experiencing community life and making new friends from around the world.

Nothing is compulsory about Taizé but your group should be prepared to take part in all the activities. There is so much to learn and experience that most people feel inspired to take part and fully immerse themselves in the experience.

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### **Worship**

Three times a day everyone gathers with the community in the church for prayer with songs, a scripture reading and silence. It will not be like any kind of church service most young people have been to before and for most people this is the most inspiring and significant part of being in Taizé. During the worship there are simple chants in a wide variety of languages. You don't need to know these in advance as chant books are available and your group will learn them throughout the week. After the worship in the evening the chants go on for some time and there are brothers from the community available to talk to people who wish to.

Morning prayer ends with the distribution of communion, for those who wish to receive. The midday prayer is the shortest.

There is a Eucharist service on the Sunday morning.

## **A Typical day at Taizé (Monday- Friday)**

**8:15 am** morning Prayer, then breakfast

**10 am** bible reflection, sharing, practical work

**12:20 pm** midday prayer, then lunch

**2 pm** song practice

**3:15 pm** bible reflection, sharing, workshops

**5 pm** tea

**5:30 pm** meetings, practical work, workshops

**7 pm** evening meal

**8:30 pm** Evening prayer, then vigil with songs in the church or free time

**9:30 pm** free socialising time at 'Oyak'

## **Meetings**

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. The meetings provide a space where young adults can meet people their age from other countries and talk about important things.

Each day, the brothers of the community introduce a biblical reflection organised by language, followed by a time of discussion in small groups. In the afternoon there are workshops which explore themes of faith and life touching on work, society, art and culture, social justice, world peace and more.

## **Staff involvement in the meetings**

School staff members may need to help support the group work activities that take place in the meetings. Sixth formers do not need to be accompanied but year 10-11 students should be accompanied by an adult from their

group. The students are organised into a mixture of smaller groups so students get to know and interact with other students from across the globe.

## **Free time**

Between meals, meetings and worship there is plenty of free time. In the evening there is a great time of socialising at 'Oyak' where there is singing, dancing and all kinds of spontaneous entertainment in the midst of the crowd. Taizé also offers young people the opportunity to spend time alone and the church is always open for those looking for quiet.

## **Community living**

A part of experiencing community life at Taizé is joining in with the daily tasks, for example by serving the meals, washing-up and keeping the site tidy. All are expected to join in and volunteer and most young people find this to be an extremely fun and valuable part of their time at Taizé.

## **Mealtimes**

Mealtimes offer the ideal time to come together as a group and for school staff to connect and speak with your students. They are also a good opportunity to meet students and staff from other schools on the Church of England Schools Pilgrimage, but also those from other communities across the world.