



Youth Pilgrimage Taizé 2026

INFORMATION PACK



YOUTH MINISTRY
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Welcome

Welcome to the Taizé information pack for 2026!

We are so excited that you are thinking about joining the pilgrimage, it really is an amazing experience for young people.

The pilgrimage this year is from the 18th July - 26th July 2026. These dates include our travel to and from Taizé and our week long stay. This pack contains everything you need to know about the trip, what happens at Taizé, accommodation, food, kit lists, safeguarding, and how to book and pay for your spot.

Booking Deadline is 25th of May, please ensure we have your completed booking forms and final payments by this date.
For any questions please contact
kieron.rowley@parishofputney.co.uk

Information Evenings: we shall be holding some info evenings to allow parents/guardians and young people a chance to find out more about the trip. These will be held online and can be booked via the Taizé page on the YMIC website. Dates of meetings: 28th Jan @ 7pm & 4th March @ 7pm.





What is Taizé

Taizé is a small village in the south of France in the Burgundy region. Since the 1940s the village has been home to an ecumenical community of brothers. over the summer the brothers invite 1000s of young people from across the world to gather at Taizé

The meetings in Taizé are centred around prayer, community life, and reconciliation. People come to meet with each other, to talk and share our lives, and to encounter God. The brothers of the community come from a diverse range of Christian denominations and so it is truly a place for Christians of all churches to gather as one. it is also a place for young people to take time out and contemplate and pray. It is an inclusive space for people of faith, some faith, or no faith, to come and reflect on life. The community has a particular calling to young people.

Scan the code to
see a video of
Taizé



Travel to Taizé

Travel to Taizé is via coach, crossing on the DFDS ferry from Dover to Calais. We will be setting off from London on the 18th of July and arriving in Taizé in the morning on the 19th. We will depart from Taizé on Sunday 26th of July, returning to London in the evening. Pilgrims need to arrive in good time to have all documents checked and to load luggage ready for a strict departure time.

Food on the journey:

Everyone will receive a meal voucher for each ferry crossing which will entitle everyone to a hot meal.

There will be a breakfast stop on the outbound journey, pilgrims will need money to purchase breakfast at this stop. On the return journey there will be a packed lunch provided as well as the meal voucher on the ferry for the evening meal. It is always good to have snacks packed for the journey and for the stay at Taizé.



Travel Itinerary

Outbound: Saturday 18th July 2026

Pick up locations:

St Andrews, Fulham Fields - Sign in: 17:00, Depart: 18:00

All Saints Church, Putney Common - Sign in: 17:15

Depart: 18:20

Ferry Crossing: Arrive at port 20:20 - Ferry departs 22:50

Breakfast stop on route

Arrive at Taizé: 10:00

Return: Sunday 26th July 2026

Depart Taizé: 11:00

Packed Lunch Provided

Ferry Crossing: Arrive at port 18:00 - Ferry departs 20:00

Drop off Locations :

All Saints, Putney Common - 22:30

St Andrews, Fulham Fields - 22:45





What happens at Taizé?

The day at Taizé is centred around prayer which happens three times a day. The prayer involves the singing of simple chants, readings, and periods of silence. We sing in multiple languages and so the worship is simple to learn.



Each day also includes a time of reflection on the bible in large groups led by one of the brothers. Then people split into their small groups (assigned by age) and discuss with each other about the reflection. These groups also play games and become close friends whilst at Taizé.



Meals

Meals at Taizé are simple and shared together as one big community. All dietary requirements are well met. All meals are included as part of the stay at Taizé.



Community Work

Running a village with this many young people is a big task and everyone pitches in to make Taizé happen. Each person is assigned a work team and will undertake a simple task to help the whole community run smoothly.



Silent Spaces

throughout Taizé there are silent gardens and spaces to relax. There is plenty of free time to enjoy. The gardens are a great place to rest or read.



Oyak Cafe

Oyak is the onsite cafe which opens several times a day. it sells snacks, pizza, crepes, and ice creams. In the evening it is the place to sing and dance and have a party. It is run at cost and so is very cheap, making it accessible for everyone.





Accommodation at Taizé

Accommodation at Taizé comes in two forms and the emphasis is on simplicity. Taizé is well fitted with toilets and shower blocks all of which are cleaned and maintained to a high standard. This year we shall be staying in the barracks,



Camping

Many choose to camp on the fields at Taizé, there are ample toilet and shower blocks near by and lighting on the pathways. You will need to bring your own tent and sleeping gear.



Barracks

The dorms at Taizé are called barracks and these are shared dorm rooms with bunk beds. each room sleeps 8 and they are single sex rooms only. all barracks have toilet and shower blocks. groups are kept together and group leaders sleep in separate barracks nearby. In the barrack you still need to bring a sleeping bag and pillow.

Kit List

- **UK Passport/ Non Uk Passport with Visa if required - GHIC Card** (all passports will be secured in safe during our stay).
- **Sleeping bag, pillow, suitable night wear**
- **Summer clothes, also jumper, and water proof coat** (rain storms are common in the region).
- **sturdy shoes/trainers/sandals** (the ground around the village is stony and dusty).
- **Sun cream, hat, refillable water bottle.**
- **Wash bag and towel.**
- **Medications/treatments**, please ensure you provide full details of regular medications on the booking form.
- **Pen and note pad**
- **Spending money** (Euros) The site cafe is very cheap and so spending money can be minimal. However, the monks shop has many wonderful gifts and souvenirs that cost more.
- **Snacks**, (Taizé food is simple and some need a little extra, best not to bring food that will melt).
- **Mobile phones and charger** are welcome at Taizé outside of prayer and meeting times. However, please refrain from bringing expensive tech as theft can occur. All items are brought at your own risk.





Cost & Contacts

The pilgrimage to Taizé will **cost £300** and this includes all travel, accommodation, and food costs at Taizé.

To book a place on the trip you will need to fill in the online booking form which can be accessed via the YMIC website. **we require a non-refundable deposit of £100.**

Once we have your booking form and deposit your place is secured. You are able to settle the balance of your trip at any time but **final payment in full must be made by the 25th of May.** The payment link is accessible at any time from the Taizé page on the YMIC website.

Bursaries are available for those who need assistance with cost. please contact Fr Kieron for a discrete conversation. If you prefer, you can also speak to your local Vicar and they can make contact with Fr Kieron on your behalf. There is an opportunity to donate above and beyond the cost of your trip to enable more young people to access bursaries

YMIC SW/all other enquiries:

kieron.rowley@parishofputney.co.uk

YMIC LD specific enquiries:

Jacob@standrewsfulham.com



Leadership & Safeguarding

This trip is a joint trip between YMIC Southwark and YMIC London. Leaders and youth workers from both networks will be accompanying their respective groups.

Bespoke safeguarding guidance has been produced in collaboration with the diocese of Southwark and London, you can read the policy on the Taizé page of the YMIC website.

All adults on this trip are DBS checked and trained and every measure is taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people in our care. young people will have a dedicated group leader to look after them during the trip.



Fr Kieron Rowley
Safeguarding Lead



Jacob Holme
Dept Safeguarding Lead



Accident ¶ Emergency

Taizé is a safe and secure environment and everything possible is done to prevent accident and injury. In the case of minor injury or sickness there is a small health centre onsite with trained volunteers to provide first aid care.

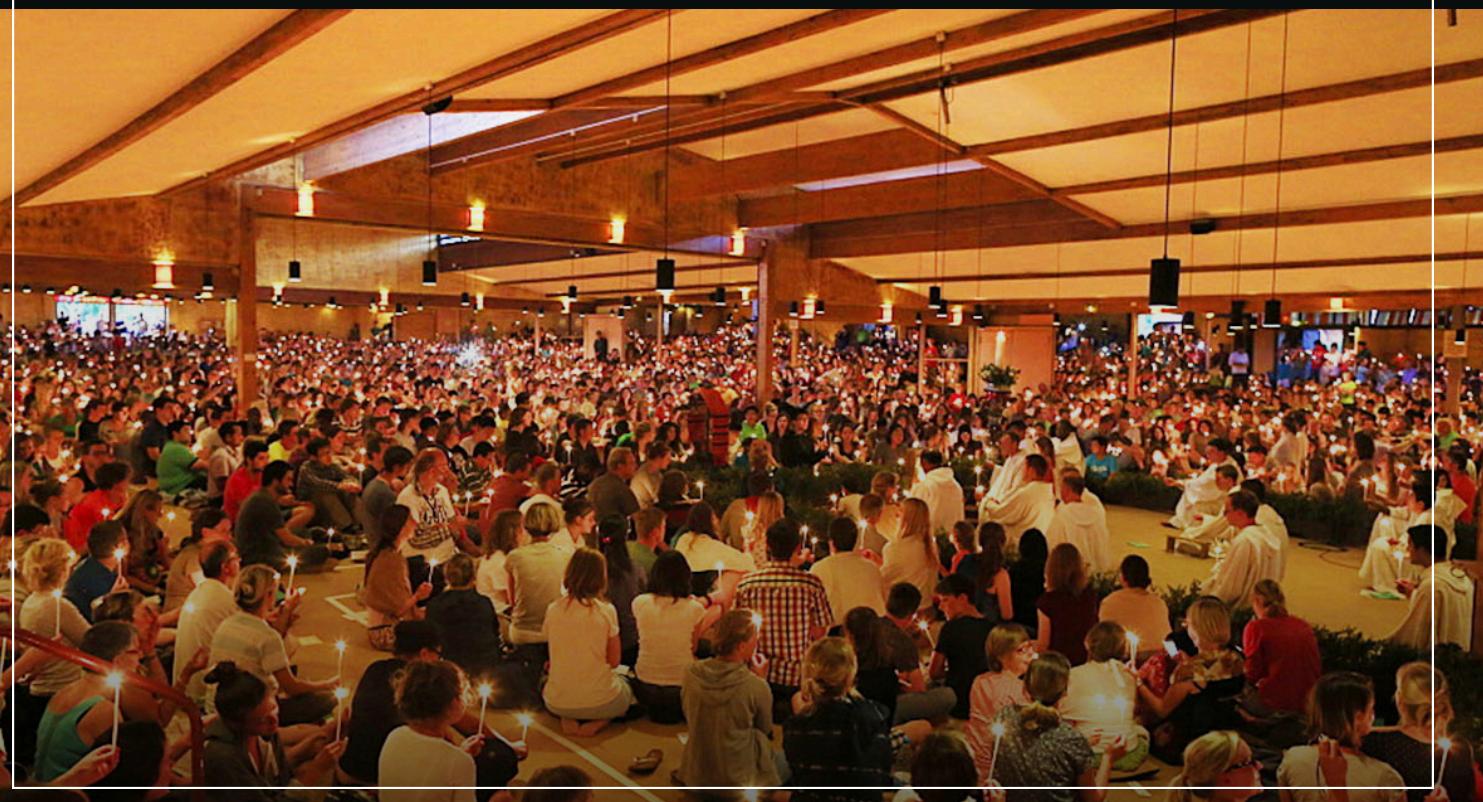
In the highly unlikely scenario that a young person requires more serious medical care, the community has vehicles on hand to drive your young person and relevant adult leaders to the nearby hospital in Cluny. It is essential that all pilgrims, if eligible, have a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). The GHIC enables access to state medical care whilst outside the UK.

It is a requirement for taking minors oversees that parents name a responsible adult to act in loco-parentis. This person, will be a member of YMIC staff and they will be able to make medical decisions in the case of emergency. If such an occasion were to arise, you would be contacted immediately.

Young Adult Pilgrims

In event of there being spare seats on the coach, these seats will be offered to well established young adult groups within our own church communities. These are likely to be young adults (20s-30s) who will attend Taizé as part of the separate adult programme at Taizé. These pilgrims will have no involvement in the youth pilgrimage. These additional pilgrims will simply travel in the coach to and from Taizé. The sale of spare tickets is vital to keeping the trip affordable and viable for our young people.

- Young Adult pilgrims wishing to travel to Taizé do so as independent groups and YMIC is not responsible for your registration, accommodation, contribution at Taizé.
- If you wish to book a space on the waiting list for a spare ticket please email kieron.rowley@parishofputney.co.uk
- travel only tickets cost £200 per person and do not include your financial contribution to Taizé which you will need to make independently.
- All young adult pilgrims will need to provide a reference from a trusted source either your local parish priest, chaplain, or a college/uni tutor who has known you for at least 6 months.





"whoever is on a journey towards God goes from one beginning to another beginning. Will you be among those who dare to tell themselves: begin again! Leave discouragement behind! Let your soul live!"

Br Roger
Founder of Taizé



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