

NEW TAIZE STYLE WORSHIP

Starting on Epiphany January 6th

When I applied for the post of vicar at St. Mary's, one of the many things on the job spec was to introduce some more meditative worship to the variety of services offered already. And so it is with great joy and pleasure that the New Year sees the start of a new regular service in the Taize style. These services which will include other elements from the other contemplative practices, give more time for space, silence, meditation and reflection. In our busy worlds it is good that we take time out to wait and listen to what God is saying to us. The services will be on the first Sunday of the month at 5pm lasting about 35-45 minutes and will be followed by refreshments in church, like we do on a Wednesday morning.

Heather and I have been to the Taizé community in France six times and Heather describes it as one of the highlights of her Christian life. We want to bring some of that experience to the members of St. Mary's.

Taizé music takes a biblical phrase and uses it as a meditative chant of worship. Taizé worship also lets us hear scripture and lets God speak to us through it. There will be an opportunity to light candles in prayer and rest in God's presence in the beauty of our church.

We hope to have a group of musicians and singers to help lead the worship, if you would like to be part of that group please let me (Rev Simon) or Heather know. We plan to have our first rehearsal on Sunday 6th at 4pm prompt, in preparation for the service at 5pm.

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz, a Reformed Protestant. Guidelines for the community's life are contained in *The Rule of Taizé* written by Brother Roger and first published in French in 1954.

The community has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage, with a focus on youth. Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible study, sharing, and communal work. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation. The community's church, the Church of Reconciliation, was inaugurated on 6 August 1962. It was designed by a Taizé member and architect, Brother Denis. Young Germans from Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, created for reconciliation after World War II, assumed the work of building it. Owing to the founder's commitment, since its inception the community has evolved into an important site for Catholic-Lutheran ecumenism. A Catholic, Brother Alois, succeeded as prior after his predecessor's death in 2005.

Link to sample of Taizé music

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwRMT2_pi9c&index=10&list=RDT0ZgOLSiViY

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