

Weekend of friendship between young Christians and Muslims to be held in Taizé, Burgundy, France, 5 - 8 July, 2018

After the friendship meeting held over a weekend in May 2017, another gathering is planned. The dates are **Thursday 5 July to Sunday 8 July, 2018**.

For the weekend in 2017, more than 300 people came from various regions of France. Among the young adults present, there were young people involved in the association "Coexister" (www.coexister.fr), who regularly share in dialogue between people of different religions and convictions. Others came at the invitation of the Islamic-Christian friendship group (www.legaic.org).

Whereas the 2017 meeting mainly involved young people from France, this time the invitation is addressed more widely to those of other countries and languages. Young people from 18 to 35 years-old are especially invited. It is not necessary to be Christian or Muslim in order to participate.



Poster

More detailed information and a flyer can be found on www.taize.fr/en_article21977.html

**Inner life
and friendship**

Weekend for young Muslims
and Christians in Taizé: 5 - 8 July, 2018

The Muslim-Christian Friendship Group,
the Taizé Community and its friends
from different countries are organising
a meeting with the theme
"Inner life and friendship" to awaken us
to the Presence of God, so that we can
better love, adore and serve God.

"When you were enemies God united
your hearts, so by His favour you became
brethren." Koran, III, 103

"In my Father's house there are many
dwelling-places." Jn 14.1

Information: www.taize.fr/en_article21977.html
If you want to travel together with others or share a car,
see the Facebook event: [taize](https://www.facebook.com/taize)

Practical details

Dates

- ▶ Arrive Thursday July 5 in the afternoon (if possible before 6pm)
- ▶ First introduction to the topic of the morning, Friday July 6 at 10am
- ▶ Conclusion and farewells, Sunday July 8 at 11:30am
- ▶ Then, departure or midday meal at 1pm for those who remain.

Christian and Muslim prayers

For the prayers of the Muslims, a permanent room will be available.

All are invited to the prayer of the brothers of the Taizé Community. The prayer is essentially made up of meditative songs, most of which are biblical verses. Everyone is free to sing or not. Christians can also attend the prayer of the Muslims. A respectful way to do this is to be present at the back of the room, without participating in the bodily gestures of the prayer.

Registration

Online: www.taize.fr/en_article78.html (please mention in the comments: “Muslim/Christian friendship Weekend”)

NB: From some countries, there are bus shuttles that bring people to Taizé and take them home on Sundays. If it is easier for you to take one of these shuttles, you can sign up for the week, participate at the beginning of the week in the usual weekly programme at Taizé, then on Friday change to the programme of the special weekend.

Cost: same contribution as for normal meetings at Taizé: 8-11 euros per day, including meals.

Travel: see Taizé website for ideas, including the weekly coach from Nuneaton and London

Accommodation: in dormitories. Bring a sleeping-bag.

For other information or questions, please write to us: meetings@taize.fr

We are already looking forward to welcoming you! Ahla wa sahla!



The impetus for these meetings to foster and deepen friendship has come from the fact that over the last three years about 40 young refugees from Sudan (Darfur), Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq, in majority Muslims, have been welcomed in the village of Taizé – a small village of about 200 inhabitants.

More about what happened in 2017...

The method of dialogue was simple: not to focus solely on what separates, nor to pass too quickly over differences, but to visit one another with the respect that one attaches to the home of one's host. By this humble way of working we were able to take a small step towards understanding the prayer of others, their intimate link with God and their experience of faith.

Among the speakers, Sr. Carol from the community of Mar Musa (Syria) gave a heart-rending testimony to the need for dialogue in the Middle East between Christians and Muslims and the way in which the monastic community to which she belongs contributes in Iraq, Syria and other countries of the Middle East. Muslim and Christian students from Toulouse spoke about their joint action for the homeless. Fadila Semai explored the extraordinary friendship that united Christian de Chergé, the prior of Tibhirine, to Mohammed, a man who saved his life by giving his own during the war in Algeria. Ghaïss Jasser and Naziha Meftah opened the way to the music of the East, with poems by Khaled Roumo set to music by their ensemble “Wajd”. The imams Embarek Guerdam and Ahmed Belghazi testified to their way of building communities open “to the four winds of God”.