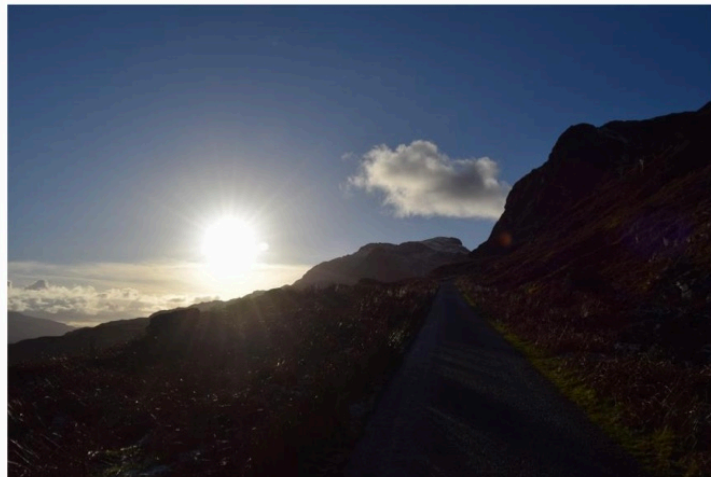


BOLTON WEST MISSION COMMUNITY



TAIZE FOR ADVENT

Light in our darkness



**A service of music and reflection
to prepare for the
holy season of Advent.**

SUNDAY 30th November 2025 at 6 pm
ST JAMES' CHURCH, ST JAMES' STREET,

Taizé Service ... Rev'd. Malcolm explains

On the afternoon of Advent Sunday we have a reflective Taizé service. You may have seen the notices for it and thought what on earth is that?

The Taizé movement was founded in 1940 by a Swiss, Roger Shultz, who sought in a divided and disordered world to create a place of silence and work, where a new way of living out the Scriptures could be found. Buying a small house in war torn France in the village of Taizé, just north of Cluny, Brother Roger created an ecumenical community which would go on to have a worldwide reach, in its direct work, firstly with refugees in France, and then in charitable work in various places of need around the world through dispersed communities.

But it is probably though the style, and particularly the music, of their worship that most people have heard of the Taizé Community. The developing community drew on the Orthodox tradition of chants featuring Psalms and other scriptures, and through some very talented composers, created the form we now recognise as Taizé chants. Taking a line of scripture, and often a fairly simple repeated melody, then sometimes ornamenting this with a solo part for a voice or other instrument, it is music which is very easy to sing along with, or just feel around us; it can create a sense of calm and belonging.

In our Taizé service for Advent, we will intersperse Taizé chants with reflections on the themes of advent, hope, love, joy and peace, as well as readings and prayers. If you have never sung Taizé chants before, don't be put off, they are very simple, repeated a number of times so if you don't know the words and tune at the start, you will by the end! Because the words are simple and repeated, we don't have to spend a lot of time desperately trying to think about how to get our mouths around within us as we sing them.

Why not give it a go and start this Advent with a calming of your body and soul?