

Further afield

Other initiatives to consider –most of which we are already involved in

Bash (noun): a festive social gathering, a party



We're throwing a party.

1-5 June • Haileybury

Half-term activity days for students 11-16 years old

BASH is back! BASH is a non-residential camp for young people, ages 11-16 year old during the May/June half-term. From 1-5 June, young people from Hertford, Ware and the surrounding area are invited to take part in incredible fun, amazing worship, adventure activities, fantastic fun with old friends and new... all for £35 per person. BASH will be held at Haileybury from 10am-5pm. For an application form or more information, please contact Sara Weston (Young Life, 01992 509001) or Andy King (Hertford Baptist, 01992 582951).

And we would love everyone to be involved in this fantastic opportunity to share God's love with young people! You can serve alongside us in many ways.

a) Prayerfully. We really want to fill up the camp with 50 young people from the local area. We need a good strong team of people to lead and get alongside these young people and we really want the lives of young people in Hertford to be touched by this opportunity. Please pray that through this, we (as the Church) may further our area of Christ's influence in our community. You are also invited to pray during BASH, as we will have space set aside at Haileybury.

b) Financially. We have already raised about £3,500, but still need to raise £1,000. That sounds a lot, but in all truth, there are thousands of Christians in Hertford and Ware, so we are not asking for much to change and affect the lives of young people for eternity.

c) Practically. We need people's availability. We need help to reach the young people during the week, prepare all

we are doing, lead teams of young people, help with transport... This is a great opportunity that will not only impact the lives of the young people, but I have no doubt will also change yours.

d) Invitationally(!) If you know of young people aged 11-16 who would benefit from this BASH party, then please pick up an application form or speak to Andy King (Hertford Baptist, 01992 582951) or Sara Weston (Young Life, 01992 509001).

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to provide a fantastic few days for young people.



Prayer Letter Spring 2011

The Pastors have now been on the Streets of Hertford and Ware for 18 months and continue to be well received. During the first year they patrolled on 90, evenings, approximately 1800 volunteer hours, some warm, some wet and some very cold. Over 1000 bottles and cans were binned, 95 pairs of flip flops and 30 space blankets were handed out. But more importantly many people were given help and support when they needed it and hundreds of conversations were had and relationships built up with those who are regularly out.

The Pastors have become part of the scene and are accepted as a helpful presence by not only those out to enjoy themselves but also the police and Local Councils. Unfortunately due to illness and other problems a number of the pastors are currently unable to go out on patrol.

Give Thanks for

- The commitment of the volunteers serving as Street Pastors
- The new volunteers who have come forward this year
- The good reception the pastors continue to receive on the streets
- The enthusiastic support given by the Police and the Local Councils
- The positive way the Churches of Hertford and Ware continue to work together
- Others who, both nationally and locally, willingly give their time to support Street Pastors throughout the Country

Pray

- For those Street Pastors who are currently unable to patrol
- That people will come forward to join the prayer team
- For the protection and safety of the pastors when they on the streets
- That more volunteers will come forward to be Street Pastors
- That the pastors will have meaningful conversations with those they meet
- That funding will be forthcoming for the work
- For the work of our Co-ordinator, Rick Hartwig, and those who work nationally.

Anyone interested in joining the prayer support group can contact me on 01279 777931 or email david@tweedales.co.uk

David Tweedale
Street Pastor Prayer Co-ordinator

Pilgrimage to Taizé

Each summer, a group of young people from the Diocese spend a week in Taizé, a monastic village in Burgundy, France. It is an opportunity to meet and to worship with

other young people from all over the world, as well as find time to see the beautiful village, relax by the natural source of St Étienne, or just play cards outside the tents.

Taizé is home to a group of Brothers who have taken monastic vows and now spend much of their lives looking after the thousands of young people who journey to Taizé for the peace and spirituality that it offers.

A normal day at Taizé includes prayer in the church, bible study and group discussions, practical work around the site and plenty of food, socialising and time to soak up the sun!

There are so many reasons to go to Taizé: the worship is so different from 'normal church' the Taizé chants, make the services seem so beautiful and so peaceful that you can just sit and listen for hours. It is also a great experience to meet new people and make new friends, not just within the group but from all over the world. A group of us will be going again between 23rd July and 1st August this summer, and it would be great to get as many people along as possible. If you're between 15 and 30 and interested in coming have a look at the information below and get in touch to find out more. Hope to see you there! *(Josh Young)*

The Taizé Experience - Leaving the typical English Summer behind us, we made our way to Dover for the ferry crossing. This would take us to Calais and then it would be a further nine hour trip to our destination of Taizé in the South of France. Spirits were raised as old friends were reunited and new ones were being made. We were a group of varied ages and also had two families with young children who continued to bring laughter to the group throughout the week.

In the not too early hours of Sunday morning, fighting off the urge to fall back to sleep, we arrived at the Taizé community. As we stumbled off the coach memories of previous years came flooding back and expectations for the week ahead were high. We pitched our tents together and it became apparent that,

All Saints Alive

out of the 4000 pilgrims that come to Taizé from all over the world, English groups were few, as snippets of German and Polish were heard from other pitches.

After a reasonable night's sleep we were able to start the day and Taizé routine proper. Each day in the Taizé community is centred on three half hour services at 8:30am, 12:30pm and 8:30pm. The services offer a chance for meditation, stillness and prayer and of course the beautiful Taizé chants.

There are options for how to spend the rest of the day; Bible study or helping with chores around the campsite and kitchens. Meals in Taizé are communal and everyone mucks in to help serve the 4000 pilgrims and to join in the task of washing up, which usually involves an international water fight! The brothers of the community provide a Bible study for everyone after breakfast each day, this is always an engaging and rewarding hour. The afternoons are set aside for chores, workshops run by the brothers and meetings in small groups with people from around the world to discuss the mornings bible readings; this gives the opportunity to learn more about different countries and people's relationships with God.

Evenings can be spent at the onsite cafe "Oyak", continuing conversations with new friends, joining the community singing, or simply personal reflection in the church.

The week at Taizé was eventful both spiritually and physically, with a member of our group injuring themselves whilst attempting some ninja moves! The experience that Taizé provides is unique because of the international aspect of it and the simplicity of community life that still manages to be conveyed despite the numbers of people. Everyone in our group got something out of the week, whether it was the opportunity to renew our connection with God, or simply enjoying the time out from the chaos of regular life.
(Mary Topley – Pilgrim)

Taizé 2011 - We will travel by bus from St Albans leaving mid-afternoon on Saturday 23rd July and returning around 6am on

Monday 1st August. The pilgrimage is open to young adults between the ages of 15 and 29. You are welcome to bring your children and there is a special families' programme and camping area. Costs will be around £180 (please ask for costs for families) which includes travel and all food. Accommodation is in tents, and for those who do not have their own tent there are big dormitory tents available.

For information, or to request a booking form, please contact The Revd Ysmena Pentelow on 01727 81849 or ysmenapentelow@talkatlk.net also www.taize.fr (the Taizé website); www.gotaize.org.uk (our website)



Passion and Compassion

A Retreat

Led by

**The Revd Michael Roden
Rural Dean and Team Rector
of Hitchin**

15th – 17th June 2011

**The Claret Centre
The Towers, Buckden,
Cambridgeshire**

£120 – single room

£100 – sharing a double room

(For an en-suite room, add £5—only 3 available on a first come, first served basis)

Booking forms available from:

disretreats@stalbens.anglican.org

or by calling the Retreats Coordinator, Revd T. Bell
on 01462 768 123