



SCM and Taizé weekend

Prayers of Freedom

Welcome Pack

22 – 24 October 2010, St Peter's House, Manchester

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1) First some introductions...

We're excited to be running this event together with Brother Paolo from the Taizé Community. A very special welcome to those who will be joining us from local Taizé groups, and those who heard about the event at Taizé this summer.

We'll be exploring the theme 'Prayers of Freedom' through workshops, Bible study and small group discussion, all framed within the pattern of morning, evening and night prayer. Come with an open mind and a good voice. We hope you enjoy your weekend!

If you want to find out more about the work of SCM and the Taizé Community and how you can get involved then there will be plenty of opportunities to find out more over the weekend.

Looking forward to seeing you in Manchester!

+ *Taizé is an ecumenical monastic community in France, made up of around a hundred brothers from many different countries. They want their life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and in situations of suffering. For over 50 years young adults have visited in large numbers for retreats and youth meetings. Taizé chants are a form of musical contemplative prayer popular throughout the world.* www.taize.fr/en

+ *The **British Student Christian Movement (SCM)** is an ecumenical student-led community of local groups and members passionate about living out a radical faith in today's world.* www.movement.org.uk

2) Practicalities

How much does it cost to attend?

The suggested contribution to cover costs for the weekend is £20 or £25 (with £5 going to the travel bursary fund). Many of you have paid online or by cheque but if you haven't made a contribution yet there will be a chance to do so on Friday evening or Saturday morning.

If you are finding it difficult to pay your travel costs there is a travel bursary available. Please get in touch with the SCM office (scm@movement.org.uk / 0121 2003355) if you would like more information about this.

What should I bring with me?

- You will need to bring a **camping mat, sleeping bag and pillow**. This still applies if you are staying with a local church contact. If you need to borrow any of these things then please get in touch with the SCM office.
- **Bible, notebook and pen** plus **musical instrument** if you play one
- There will be an **open mic evening** on the Saturday, with opportunity to share songs, poetry, drama, dance and anything else you'd like to entertain people with! So do think about this and bring along anything you might need.
- All meals will be provided but you may want to bring a **small amount of money** for snacks or drinks.
- If you can bring a **plastic/travel cup or mug** that would be helpful, as our crockery supplies are a bit limited!
- We will be creating a piece of art work over the weekend around the theme of Freedom. You may like to bring a relevant **quote, picture, photo, newspaper cutting or prayer** to add to the artwork.
- We advise you not to bring valuable items like laptops etc, but there will be a secure room where valuables and cash can be locked away if not needed.

3) Directions to St Peter's

Most of the activities during the weekend, plus meals and accommodation will be based at St Peter's House. We will also make use of the nearby church St Augustine's for prayers and the Catholic Chaplaincy at Avila House for some workshops. The Saturday evening prayer will be at Manchester Cathedral.

Address: St Peter's House, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9GH

St Peter's House (SPH) is the ecumenical chaplaincy centre for the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and the Royal Northern College of Music. It is situated in a big 1970s red-brick building set back from Oxford Road, right in the middle of all three institutions. The main entrance is at the top of some steps, but **there is also an accessible entrance without steps** – just let us know if you need to use it.

Travelling by car:

There is limited car-parking available behind St Peter's House – please let the SCM office know if you are intending to drive. Follow directions to Manchester City Centre and then 'Universities' or 'Aquatic Centre'. Follow the signs to the Aquatic Centre car park, and once you turn off Booth Street East, instead of going into the multi-storey carpark turn right into the back entrance of St Peter's House.

Travelling by train to Manchester Piccadilly:

St Peter's House is a 20 minute walk from Manchester Piccadilly. On exiting the station at the lower level (down escalators from the main concourse, past the tram platforms and exiting by taxi ranks), cross the road and continue straight along Fairfield Street and Whitworth Street towards Oxford Road station. Once you reach Oxford Road, turn left and St Peter's House is about 10 minutes walk on your left, just after the red-brick pedestrian bridge over the road. It is set back from the road, with steps going up to the main entrance.

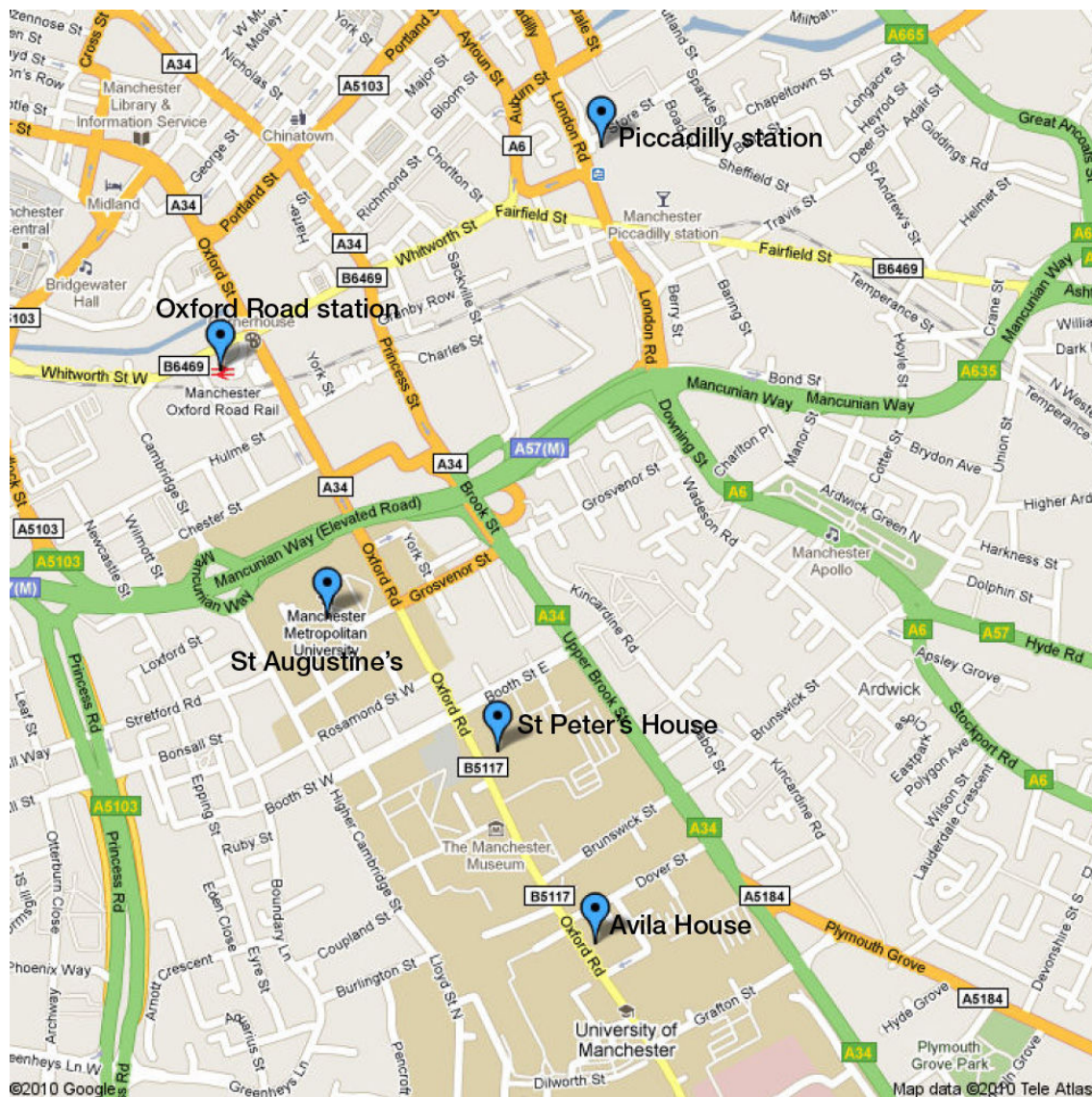
From Oxford Road station:

Turn right out of the station approach and walk down Oxford Road for about 10 minutes. St Peter's House is on your left just after the red-brick pedestrian bridge over the road.

If you get lost you can phone Rosie on 07855 012734.

4) Map

You can view the Google map online here: <http://bit.ly/aaeJ67>



5) Timetable

Friday		Venue
17.00	Arrivals and registration	St Peter's House
18.00	Evening meal	St Peter's House
19.00	Welcome and introductions, meet in small groups	St Peter's House
20.30	Night prayer (with prayer around the cross)	St Augustine's
21.30	Free time and socialising	St Peter's House
Saturday		Venue
07.45	Breakfast (available until 09.15)	St Peter's House
08.30	Morning prayer	St Augustine's
09.00	Welcome and registration for day participants	St Augustine's
09.30	Reflection on the theme, small group discussions	St Augustine's
12.20	Midday prayer	St Augustine's
13.00	Lunch	St Peter's House
14.00	Workshop slot 1 (14.00 – 15.30) Break and tea/coffee (15.30 – 16.00) Workshop slot 2 (16.00 – 17.30)	St Peter's House and Avila House
17:45	Evening meal	St Peter's House
19.30	Prayer at Manchester cathedral (song practice 19.15)	Cathedral
21.30	Free time and entertainment	St Peter's House
Sunday		Venue
08.30	Breakfast	St Peter's House
09.15	Closing reflections together	St Peter's House
11.00	Join with ecumenical service at St Peter's or local church	Various
12.30	Lunch and goodbyes	St Peter's House

6) Workshops

You'll be able to sign up to the different workshops on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Venues for the workshops will be announced.

These workshops will run twice (at 14.00 and 16.00)

Il Signore ti ristora – Taizé song practice *led by Clare McQuitty*

Space to learn and practice some of the Taizé songs that we'll be singing over the weekend. For singers and musicians.

Exploring "the blissful responsibility to enjoy the world" through its own substance

led by Anna Sikorska

Using materials from our everyday lives, you are invited to gather together to make, break, weave, build, entangle, fix, and prepare. This is a space for enjoyment of materials and process with no required outcome, no expectations and a starting point of a small willow frame. All are welcome!

Practical service: painting/decorating a house for asylum seekers *led by the Boaz Trust*

Something completely different! The Boaz Trust is a Christian organisation working with destitute asylum seekers in Manchester. You'll be helping to paint and decorate one of the Boaz Houses up the road in Rusholme. **Please note:** This workshop option is for the whole afternoon - but you can take some tea and biscuits with you!

These workshops will run once (at 14.00)

Hidden Treasure: seeking our vocation *led by Br. Paolo*

Reflecting on our life with Matthew 13:44-46. Come and explore this topic with an introduction followed by discussion.

Building a prayer labyrinth *led by Clare Dowding from St Peter's House*

Together we'll be creating an outdoor prayer labyrinth. Come and get involved in the practicalities, and take some time at the end to walk the labyrinth.

Who Counts? Freedom for people excluded by poverty and homelessness *led by Liam Purcell (Church Action on Poverty)*

People experiencing poverty in the UK are denied the freedom to participate in society - they cannot live life in all its fullness. Hear the stories of how people are cut off and left behind. Learn how you, and your church or SCM group, can pray, act and give during Poverty & Homelessness Action Week 2011, to make sure that everyone counts.

These workshops will run once (at 16.00)

Living simply in a consumer world *led by Rosie Venner*

Why might we choose to live simply? Perhaps to share wealth more justly or to live more sustainably in a world of limited resources? To break free from the social pressures of consumerism? Can it be joyful? Together we'll share our own experiences, challenges, questions and hopes in an honest conversation about simple living.

Safe in my Prison: the temptations of isolation in 21st century life

led by Amy Hailwood (FoR) and Matt Jeziorski (Pax Christi)

Explore the dynamic tensions between freedom and safety in our personal relationships and international security policies. This fun and interactive workshop will encourage both personal reflection and political action.

SCM: Being part of the movement *led by Andy Treharne*

This workshop is designed for both current and prospective members of SCM as well as those who are just curious. The workshop will provide an introduction to SCM and will focus on the history of the movement, what it stands for and why/how the movement is run by its members. We will discuss how people can become involved in aspects of the movement such as events, campaigns, groups and others.

7) Volunteers

This weekend will only happen with your help! Please consider volunteering for one or more of the following jobs. It would be great if you could let us know in advance – but there'll also be sign up sheets on arrival.

Blogging

Can you keep people in touch with what's going on by updating our blog throughout the weekend? It doesn't have to be long, detailed or profound (although it could be all three!) – it's just nice for members who can't be with us to feel part of the event.

Cooking / Washing-up

Some lovely folk will be cooking various meals over the weekend, but sometimes we'll be left to fend for ourselves! There will be sign-up sheets for cooking/washing-up at the registration desk when you arrive. You might want to consider volunteering as a local group.

First aiders

Are you a first-aider? Let us know! We promise you won't be the only one...

Musicians

If you'd like to bring an instrument (other than voice, which will already be well catered for!) then let us know, so we can make sure we have music for you.

Pastoral support / Chaplains

Do you have experience in giving pastoral support? Are you a chaplain? We need your help!

Registration desk

Please let us know if you'll be arriving on Friday at or before 5pm, and can help with this. We'll also need volunteers to help register day participants on Saturday morning.

Security patrol

We would like volunteers for door duty and a security patrol, which will run on Friday and Saturday night from 11pm. Volunteers will work in pairs, in 2 hour shifts. Sign-up early to get your preferred shift!

Small group facilitators

If you have experience facilitating groups, and would like to facilitate a small group throughout the weekend, get in touch.

Cathedral set-up

Feeling practical or artistic? We need a few extra hands to set up the Cathedral space for the evening prayer. There'll be some chair-moving, candle-placing and drape-hanging!

Tidy-up

If you live locally and/or aren't in a particular hurry to get home on Sunday, please let us know if you can spare an hour to help us leave St Peter's as we find it.

Photographer(s)

We'd like some photos of the weekend – can you bring a camera and take some nice shots for us?

Please contact georgewalsh@ymail.com to volunteer, or for more information

P.S. Other things will come up that need doing throughout the weekend. Please muck in and help. Part of being a member-led movement involves everyone taking a bit of responsibility for everyone having a lovely weekend!

8) Accessibility, pastoral care and safety

- If you haven't already told us on your registration form, please let us know if you have any accessibility needs – for example, St Peter's has an accessible side entrance, without steps.
- Also, if you haven't done so already, please let us know of any **dietary requirements** (besides vegetarianism, as all food will be vegetarian).
- Chaplains and pastoral care volunteers will be available throughout the weekend, and will be introduced during the opening session on Friday night.
- There will be a *time out* room during the weekend, with quiet space for rest and reflection.
- We will have both separate male / female and mixed sleeping areas.
- A security patrol will operate during the evenings / overnight. There will also be a locked room where valuables can be stored (but we can't be responsible for them so please avoid bringing valuables where possible).
- Once again, if there's anything else we can do to help you to feel comfortable, safe and included during the weekend, just get in touch with the office.

9) And to be getting on with...

The theme of freedom is vast; it seems to touch every part of our lives! As we shall not have a very long time together, it would be great if some of you who are coming to "Prayers of Freedom" can already start thinking about what freedom means to you.

What questions around freedom would it be good to share in the small discussion groups? Please make suggestions! (Send them to brpaolo@taize.fr) Br. Paolo will introduce our reflection on the theme of freedom in three parts:

1. "Swimming in the sea, not in a swimming pool" – In our consumer society we are constantly being offered choices between all kinds of products. This kind of "supermarket shelf" choice does not really offer us a freedom that counts. A quote which touches on this: "People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use" *Søren Kierkegaard*. So how will we find the perspective to get through to the wider, deeper questions?
2. "What are you doing with your freedom?" – The link, both biblical and in experience, between freedom and responsibility. Where do we find motivation for commitment, even when our decision will apparently "weigh" so little (see Bonaro Overstreet's poem here: <http://www.movement.org.uk/blog/are-you-coming-prayers-freedom>)? How do we avoid taking ourselves too seriously?
3. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Cor 3:17) – There is not only the freedom that we have, but also the freedom which we long for. As we try to live lives of the gospel, lives of faith, it can often feel that we are on a very narrow path. We receive inner freedom as a gift: in the same way as for happiness, we cannot aim for it directly. But there are some steps that we can work on as a preparation: Giving up comparing ourselves to others. Reconciling the hurts of the past. Not living by reaction. Making a long-term commitment to other people...

If you have any questions related to the weekend please get in touch with the SCM office on 0121 2003355 or email scm@movement.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you there!