



A Quaker funeral



Further information about the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) may be obtained from:

Quaker Life
Friends House
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020 7663 1030/1031

Britain Yearly Meeting, registered charity no 1127633.

www.quaker.org.uk

For Quakers it is important that funerals take the same simple form as a regular meeting for worship.

A Quaker funeral or memorial meeting can take place in a Quaker meeting house, a crematorium, at the graveside or in another convenient meeting place. It is open to all and is a form of worship based on the Quaker practice of stillness and reflection.

Gathering in silence, we come together to remember the person who has died, to give thanks for their life, and to bring comfort and support to those who are grieving.

The meeting will start with a short introduction from one of the Quakers present. In the stillness and silence that follows, anyone present may speak if they feel moved. Quakers call this 'ministry'. It could be a brief story or a memory, a thought, a prayer or other helpful words. Sometimes music may be played. It is helpful to leave a pause for reflection between contributions.

Those who introduced the meeting will bring it to a close by shaking hands – and you are invited to shake hands with those around you.

Our Quaker experience is that in the united and uniting stillness we are brought together in the depths of worship. Whether in silence or in speech, everyone present will have contributed to this time of loving fellowship.

For death is no more than a turning of us over from time to eternity. Death, then, being the way and condition of life, we cannot love to live, if we cannot bear to die.

William Penn, 1693
Quaker faith & practice 22.95