

Catering

If it is the wish of the family, tea and coffee will be provided and served by the Meeting following the Meeting for Worship. Sandwiches, traybakes or biscuits are provided by the family.

Charges

There is no charge for a Meeting for Worship. There are however charges for burials and interment of ashes. Donations for the upkeep of the burial ground are welcome.

Headstones or Plaques

Conform to a Quaker testimony to simplicity. The design and wording requires to be discussed and agreed with representatives of the Balmoral Burial Ground Committee.

Flowers

The Quaker belief in living simply is also expressed in the display of modest flowers both in the Meeting House and in the burial ground.

Further Information on funerals

www.nidirect.gov.uk
www.rip.ie
www.citizensadvice.co.uk

Quaker Life and Practice pub. Ireland Yearly Meeting. Chapter 8.



CONTACTING US

22 Marlborough Park North,
Belfast, Northern Ireland BT9 6HJ

www.southbelfastquakers.org

info@southbelfastquakers.org

SOUTH BELFAST PREPARATIVE MEETING

QUAKER

FUNERALS & MEMORIAL MEETINGS
HELP FOLLOWING A DEATH

THIS LEAFLET IS PROVIDED TO OFFER INFORMATION ON WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A QUAKER FUNERAL.

Following the death of a Member or Attender of S Belfast Meeting contact will be made with the family. Two Friends will arrange to visit the family and discuss arrangements for a Funeral after the manner of The Religious Society of Friends.

The purpose of this visit is to offer sympathy and support, to gather their expectations and wishes regarding funeral arrangements, to share information if necessary about a Quaker Funeral and together discuss the format of the occasion.

The date and timing of a funeral is largely decided by the family with assistance from the undertaker who will advise regarding the collection of the death certificate, newspaper announcements, booking of the Crematorium if necessary.

Records of wishes

Friends and Attenders are encouraged to complete a form indicating their wishes regarding their funeral. On completion of the form, Friends should ask an Elder to hold the form in the locked cabinet in the Meeting House and give a copy of this form to their family.

South Belfast Quaker Meeting will be responsible for the holding of a Quaker Meeting either at an agreed suitable venue e.g. The Quaker Meeting House or the crematorium.

What to expect at a Quaker funeral

There is no set form for a funeral or Memorial Meeting held after the manner of the Society of Friends. It is a Meeting for Worship, open to all and often attended by regular worshippers

All present gather together in silence and anyone who feels moved may contribute briefly to the Meeting by speaking about the deceased or reading some helpful words. The inclusion of music as a form of ministry would be discussed with members of Ministry and Oversight.

The Meeting will start with a short introduction, to assist those unfamiliar with Quaker Worship. The Meeting ends with Friends at the front shaking hands.

The Meeting will last between 25 minutes (at the crematorium) and usually a little longer at The Meeting House.

In silence or otherwise all who are present may help by their thought or prayer in giving thanks for the life

of the deceased and bringing comfort and sympathy to those left behind.

Liaison link person

South Belfast Meeting will provide a named Friend who will act as the main link between the family and the Meeting, ensuring that the arrangements run smoothly.

Burials

If a burial in a Quaker Burial ground is to take place the link person will contact the convenor of the Burial ground committee and the permission to bury and the selection of a plot will be established. It is usual to hold a short period of worship at the graveside. South Belfast Quaker Meeting will take responsibility for this.

Cremations

Following a cremation and following discussion with the Meeting Liaison Link Person, and depending on the family's wishes, there may be a burial of ashes in the burial ground.

Records

For Friends records the link person will ensure that the death note is completed and forwarded in duplicate to the Monthly Meeting Recording Clerk. This applies whether the Member dies locally or otherwise. A death note should also be completed for any non member buried or whose ashes are disposed of in Balmoral Burial ground.

