



Invitation



..... to Quakers

The Religious Society of Friends is open to all, and this is an invitation to you to join us in our spiritual quest. Probably you have heard the name, and know about our silent, expectant worship, but would like to know more.

What are the Quakers?
a movement?
a church?
a religion?

The full name is the Religious Society of Friends, a society of people who were originally, and still are, looking for 'the truth' in their lives and in society. Some people may feel that the Society of Friends is more a movement than a denomination or church, and some Quakers are members of other churches.

History:

The Quakers in Wales came into being in 1653 through Sion ap Sion (1625–1697); Sion was a fellow worker with Morgan Llwyd in Wrexham and was sent by him to Swarthmoor to talk to George Fox about the Quakers; he came back a Quaker himself and spent the rest of his life travelling through Wales addressing meetings and translating for leading English Quakers; some areas, such as Dolgellau and Bala, were noted for their adherence to Quakerism; Quakers such as the Lloyds, the Frys, the Cadburys and the Darbys were some of the most prominent families in the field of commerce over the centuries; in Wales some notable names more recently connected with the Quakers were George M. LL. Davies, Tom Nefyn and Waldo Williams.

How do the Quakers worship?

Experience is the essence of the Quaker faith and this living interpretation of the Spiritual is central to our approach to worship; we gather in silence, open to one another and to Spiritual

*“What canst thou say?”
George Fox, one of the founders of the Quakers.*

guidance; there is no formal order of service; there is not necessarily any reading or prayer; from time to time worshippers will share an experience or an insight with the meeting; worship can be completely silent; a meeting together, a worshipping together and an experiencing of the Spiritual together.

The Quakers and creeds:

The Religious Society of Friends grew from Christian roots, and Quakers today continue to receive inspiration from the Bible and from the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, but it is inevitable that individuals' spiritual vision is going to vary in its emphasis according to their experience and background, and Quakers also recognize the meaning and value in the teaching of other faiths. Quakers, then, avoid summing up their experience in a declaration of faith and keep the emphasis on the spiritual contact with the individual.

Today:

There are roughly 1200 members and attenders in about 30 meetings throughout Wales today under the umbrella of Meeting of Friends in Wales; through individual meetings and the Society as a whole, our spiritual testimony becomes a practical, active witness.

for more information about Quakers in Wales:

www.quakersinwales.org.uk

Tel. 01970 832055 email:

quakersinwales.jm@btinternet.com

