

Quaker Funerals: practical, pastoral and spiritual responsibilities
Woodbrooke 22 to 24 November 2013
Resources: Books, Organisations, Websites and Links.

This resource list brings together recommendations from our own and others' reading and experience and we are grateful to have been able to draw on the useful QDD booklist. There are many more resources around, but probably these are a good enough start for those wishing to follow up their own needs and interests. We invite further recommendations!

Quaker publications

Funerals and Memorial Meetings. (Elders & Overseers Handbook, 2012) Pastoral Care: Ageing, Dying, Death and Bereavement

This is Who I Am: Listening with Older Friends. (Elders and & Overseers Handbook) Pastoral Care: Ageing, Dying, Death and Bereavement

A Song Of Death, Our Spiritual Birth: A Quaker Way Of Dying Lucy Screechfield-Mclver. Pendle Hill Pamphlet 140. 1998. The author traces her understanding of death as a "spiritual birth, the completion of God's work upon us".

Mourn us not: Friends' reflections on death and bereavement. Edited by Joanne Harris. Friends Fellowship of Healing, 1992.

Handbooks and key texts

The Natural Death Handbook (Fifth Edition 2012). "Provides updated insight into the hidden world of dying and death, but also includes a compelling and ground breaking Book of Essays by some of the best writers in the field". (Book Review from Natural Death Centre: www.naturaldeath.org.uk)

The Affordable Funeral Planning Handbook (2013) can be downloaded free: http://www.thefuneralconsultancy.co.uk/uploaded_files/tinymcelfuneralhandbook.pdf

The Dead Good Funerals Book. (2004) Sue Gill & John Fox. A practical guide to alternative funerals

Dying to Know: Bringing Death to Life (2010) Andrew Anastasios: pub Hardie Grant "A collection of conversation starters that lifts the lid on death and helps connect us all a little more. It places death firmly in the circle of life." Widely recommended.

The Good Funeral Guide: Everything you need to know -- Everything you need to do (2010) Charles Cowling.

Spiritual

Befriending Death. James Woodward. SPCK. A valuable practical and spiritual resource.

Beyond the Horizon: A Search for Meaning in Suffering — Cicely Saunders. Darton Longman & Todd. 1992.

Our greatest gift: a meditation on dying and caring — Henri Nouwen 2009. Book and audio CD.
Anam Cara: Spiritual Wisdom from the Celtic World — John O'Donoghue — 1999. "An encouragement to explore the mystery of being and illumines death as bringing freedom to life."

Fiction, Memoir, Poetry

All in the End Is Harvest: An Anthology for Those Who Grieve. Agnes Whitaker, Sue MacGregor, Colin Murray Parkes. Darton, Longman, Todd / Cruse.

Michael Rosen's Sad Book. Michael Rosen, Quentin Blake. Walker. 2011. A book for all ages that deals with spiritual darkness — but is also curiously uplifting. A template for grief and recovery.

Until Further Notice, I Am Alive. Tom Lubbock. 2012. The art critic Tom Lubbock died of a brain tumour in January 2011, aged 53. This book gives a poignant lesson in how to die with grace.

Not Dead Yet: a manifesto for old age. Julia Neuberger. 2009. A manifesto on age that aims to change the way we think and to galvanise ourselves into action.

Nothing To Be Frightened Of Julian Barnes. 2008. A sort of memoir / meditation on acknowledging the fact of approaching death: a blend of warmth, humour and melancholy.

Do Not Go Gentle. Neil Astley (ed.) (2003) Poems for funerals. Broad-based in its choice, both religious and non-religious.

A Grief Observed. C. S. Lewis. 1966, reissued 2001. A memoir / meditation on coping with bereavement after the death of his wife from cancer. Probably one of the best books on early stage bereavement.

On Hallowing One's Diminishments. Jon Yunblut. 1990. A lifelong student of mysticism shares the experience of contemplative prayer in facing many forms of diminishment: birth defects, natural disasters, aging, and death itself. (Pendle Hill Review).

Academic

Natural Burial: Traditional-Secular Spiritualities and Funeral innovation — Douglas Davies & Hannah Rumble (pub: Continuum 2012).

Practical

A Guide to Natural Burial. Ken West (2010)

We Need to Talk about the Funeral: 101 Practical Ways to Commemorate and Celebrate a Life. Jane Morrell & Simon Smith. 2007. A colour book covering all aspects of planning a funeral.

Understanding Childhood bereavement. Leaflet: www.understandingchildhood.net/posts/bereavement-helping-parents-and-children-cope-when-someone-close-to-them-dies/

Organisations

Quaker concern around dying and death has the purpose of facing realistically and exploring today's concerns around the end of life and dying: spiritual, emotional, social, medical and legal. www.quaker.org.uk/quaker-concern-around-dying-and-death

Friends Fellowship of Healing has some relevant publications on its website: www.quaker-healing.org.uk

Quaker Social Action (Down to Earth project) is a practical service helping people living on low incomes to have the funeral they want at a price they can afford: www.quakersocialaction.com/downtoearth

Child Bereavement U K supports families and educates professionals when a child dies and when a child is bereaved. www.childbereavement.org.uk/

The Compassionate Friends offer grief support after the death of a child.

www.compassionatefriends.org/

Compassion in Dying supports people at the end of life to have what they consider to be a good death by providing information and support around their rights and choices.

www.compassionindying.org.uk

Natural Death Centre is a social, entrepreneurial, educational charity that gives free, impartial advice on all aspects of dying, bereavement and consumer rights.

www.naturaldeath.org.uk

Cruse Bereavement Care. <http://www.cruse.org.uk>

Trade and professional organisations:

Association of Green Funeral Directors www.greenfd.org.uk

National Association of Funeral Directors www.nafd.org.uk/

Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors www.saif.org.uk

Websites and links

www.dyingmatters.org

www.finalfling.com (Glasgow based) Most Outstanding Contribution to Understanding Death in the Media Good Funeral Guide 2012

www.funeraladvisor.org.uk

www.goodfuneralguide.co.uk

www.naturaldeath.org.uk

www.thefuneralconsultancy.co.uk

Some examples of funeral directors and organisations doing things differently:

www.arkafunerals.co.uk (Brighton)

www.greenfuse.co.uk (South & Central Devon) (Joint) Good Funeral Guide' Funeral Director of The Year 2012

www.thegreenfuneralcompany.co.uk (Cornwall & Devon) (Joint) Good Funeral Guide' Funeral Director of The Year 2012.

www.poppysfunerals.co.uk (Greater London) Winner 'Most Promising New Funeral Director', Good Funeral Awards 2013.

www.familytreefunerals.co.uk (Gloucestershire).

www.iangeorgefunerals.co.uk Cheltenham funeral director specialising in green burials.

www.woodlandburialwestmill.co.uk (Oxfordshire / Wiltshire borders) A Community Interest Company (CIC) - a not for profit business offering a reasonably priced and supportive service to the community. Good resource material can be found in their Links page and their newsletters. Has Quaker connections. Also links to www.kickingthebucket.co.uk

<http://www.westallpark.co.uk> natural burial ground (Worcestershire).

<http://bellacouche.com> the leafcocoon — a wool felt shroud / coffin.

www.greenfieldcreationscoffins.co.uk cardboard coffins in a wide variety of styles.

DIY coffin designs — web search for *homemade coffin* or *bookcase coffin*.

Miscellaneous

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas University of Bath Centre for Death and Society.

www.quakerbooks.org/browse/Death-and-Dying The website of Quaker Books of F G C Philadelphia, USA.

<http://www.hta.gov.uk/bodyorganandtissuedonation/howtodonateyourbody.cfm> Government guidance on body donation.

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages/lasting-power-attorney> Government information on Lasting Power of Attorney.

<http://www.alzheimers.org.uk> The Alzheimer's Society has useful information on Advance Statements and Advance Decisions - search on their website for *living will*.

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/our-services/wills-and-trusts> MENCAP provides information about writing wills involving people with learning or other disabilities.

Film

A Philosophy of Closed Eyes Sacha Kullberg Belgium, 68 min 2012 Documentary (6 min. Excerpt — English subtitles <http://vimeo.com/48726798>)

The relationship we have with our mortal condition often reflects our (sometimes conflictual) relationship with nature. In this film, which is constructed as a journey through three European countries — Belgium, the Netherlands and Great Britain — we discover men and women who have chosen to work in the funeral world. They reflect on the position of the human dead body in a world where earth, water and air (past and future of the body) are being given less and less space, and the hereafter (once the future of the soul) has fallen into the background.

Interview with Sacha Kullberg: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZwjoG0zsLY>

Legacies and Giving in Memory

Sometimes donations are made as a tribute to the memory of a relative or friend. Gift Aid envelopes are available for donations collected at a funeral or memorial meeting from Andrew McVicar andrewm@quaker.org.uk or telephone 020 7663 1119.

Online donations can be made via www.quaker.org.uk/inmemory

For information about leaving a legacy see www.quaker.org.uk/legacybooklet and www.quaker.org.uk/sites/default/files/Legacy-pledge-form.pdf