

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
(Quakers)**

**Sutton Meeting**

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**(QUAKERS)**

**Sutton Meeting**

**Friends Meeting House  
10 Cedar Road  
Sutton, Surrey  
SM2 5DA**

**Meeting for Worship:**  
Each Sunday at 10:30 am

**Children:**  
Sunday 10:30 am  
graded classes, including a crèche

**Clerk:**  
Gordon Steel (020 8647 7134)  
**Assistant Clerk:**  
Marian Noble (020 8715 2205)

**Resident Warden:**  
Graham Ellis (020 8642 5876)

## QUAKER WORSHIP

- True worship may be experienced at any time; in any place - alone on the hill or in the busy daily life - we may find God, in whom we live and move and have our being. But this individual experience is not sufficient and in a meeting held in the Spirit there is a giving and a receiving between its members, one helping another with or without words. So there may come a wider vision and a deeper experience.' (Quaker Faith and Practice, para 2.11).
- Each Sunday we meet in silent waiting. Chairs are set in a circle, round a table on which are placed flowers, copies of the Bible and *Quaker Faith and Practice*. People sit wherever they wish. Silence may predominate for most of the hour. Usually there is some spoken ministry; perhaps three or four worshippers will be prompted by the Spirit to stand and speak, offering a message to others.
- After an hour, worship is concluded by the shaking of hands. We then hear the notices and share coffee and tea in our library.
- Our silent worship is a waiting upon the Spirit of God. We seek to be open and sensitive to its prompting, which may bring to our lives an appreciation of love, truth and beauty, and a desire to serve.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Classes are held each Sunday at 10:30 am, including a crèche for babies. Classes work through themes each month and the children usually join in Meeting for Worship for the last ten minutes.

### **Purley and Sutton Monthly Meeting Link Group**

The Link Group provides an opportunity for 11 to 18 year olds from local meetings to worship together and discuss issues of their choice.

They meet at 10:30 am on the Second Sunday of the month at Sutton Meeting House.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Please check the notice boards in the Meeting House lobby for current programmes and dates for the following:

**Tuesday Group** - meets at the home of Pat and Gordon Steel: 2 Hill Road, Carshalton. 8:00 for 8:15 pm. A discussion group with a varied programme to which all are welcome.

**Mid-week Meeting for Worship** – is held on Wednesdays at 3.30, for half an hour followed by a cup of tea and a chat.

**Meetings for Healing** – are held once a month, on Wednesday before the mid-week Meeting for Worship.

**Bible Study** – these are held at roughly monthly intervals on Friday evenings in the Meeting House library at 8:00 pm. The intention is to approach the Bible without preconceptions.

**Sunday Talks** - held monthly between October and March on Sunday afternoons after a picnic lunch. The subjects and speakers are published in Sutton Meeting's programme leaflet.

**Social events** - occasionally a social event is held on a Saturday evening, between October and April. The annual pantomime is performed in early January. Please refer to the Sutton Meeting programme leaflet.

## QUAKER ORGANISATION

- The Religious Society of Friends has no paid clergy and the administration of local meetings is carried out by members. The main local unit is 'Monthly Meeting'. We are part of the Purley and Sutton Monthly Meeting within which are six worshipping groups at Caterham, Croydon, Epsom, Purley, Streatham and Sutton. Monthly Meeting deals with applications for membership, transfers, records of deaths and appoints elders and overseers within each local 'Preparative Meeting'. Elders are responsible for the spiritual nurture of the meeting, overseers for the pastoral care of its members.
- A week or so before Monthly Meeting, we hold a Preparative Meeting when we manage our week-by-week affairs; activities, links with other Quaker and non-Quaker bodies and our own finances.
- Nationally, we are part of the Britain Yearly Meeting, the executive committee of which has the remarkable name 'Meeting for Sufferings' (in the early days its role was to support Friends who were suffering for their faith).
- Internationally, the many Yearly Meetings throughout the world are held together loosely by the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC).
- The financial needs of the Society are met by contributions. Most members and many regular attenders make an annual donation in response to a 'schedule', giving opportunity to direct funds to various types of Quaker Work. Boxes are also available on Sunday mornings for contributions to the local and national work of the Society.
- Quaker business meetings have a characteristic form. We begin and end with worship. The business is presented by the 'clerk' whose task is then to ascertain 'the sense of the meeting' and to embody this in a written minute. Only when the minute is accepted by all present can the item be concluded. There is no voting, we seek unity, not consensus or majority rule.

## QUAKER FAITH

- The Religious Society of Friends is rooted in Christianity and has always found inspiration in the life and teachings of Jesus.
- We value the Bible and other devotional writings that help us to understand the ways of God. We view the books of the Bible in the context of the time they were written and in the light of modern scholarship.
- Friends do not adhere to any formal creed, believing that faith is dynamic. Each of us may have a direct experience of the presence of the Spirit; in this we may glimpse some part of the truth about God. The silence of our Meetings for Worship provides an opportunity for a corporate awareness of this Spirit.
- We believe that the whole of our worship - indeed all our lives - should be sacramental and therefore we do not believe that outward sacraments such as baptism and communion are necessary.
- Rather than being too concerned with any particular theological emphasis, we seek to find the relevance of the Christian message for our times, aiming for love in action.
- Friends are encouraged to work together with other Christian Churches as well as those of other Faiths in a spirit of co-operation, believing that no one group has sole access to the truth and that we should be open to the light from whatever source it may come.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

- An **information pack** may be obtained free from Harvey Gillman, Quaker Home Service, Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.
- **Quaker Faith and Practice.** This book, first published in 1738, is revised about every generation and the current edition was published in 1995. It is an anthology of writings by Friends over 300 years and covers a wide range of experiences. It also contains '*Advices and Queries*' (i.e. guidance for daily living) and details of Quaker business methods.
- **Quaker Web Site :** [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)
- **Library.** Sutton Meeting House library has a helpful collection of Quaker, devotional and religious literature for enquirers. It includes:

*Quaker Faith and Practice*

*Advices and Queries*

*The Amazing Fact of Quaker Worship* by George Gorman

*A Light that is Shining* by Harvey Gillman

*Portrait in Grey* by John Punshon

- Leaflets are available in the lobby
- A Monthly Sutton Newsletter gives information on our meetings and activities.