

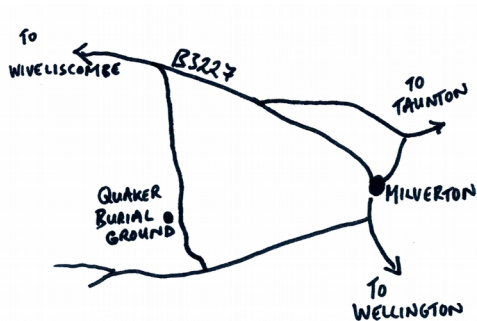
Directions and parking

The Milverton Burial Ground is situated on Quaking House Lane about a mile to the west of Milverton. The Quaking House is signposted from the B3227 Milverton to Wiveliscombe road, and the Burial Ground is just beyond the house on the right.

There are no formal parking spaces for the Burial Ground, although one or two cars may be parked immediately outside the gate for short periods, or in the layby passed on the right when approaching from the B3227. Visitors are asked to walk, cycle or car share whenever possible.

Postcode: TA4 1NG

Map ref: ST 10633 26037



Contacts

Please check the website at

www.westsomersetquakers.org.uk for the latest contact details for the Area Burials Officer and Area Funeral Advisors, or ask at your local Quaker meeting.

West Somerset Area Meeting
www.westsomersetquakers.org.uk



Milverton
Quaker Burial Ground

This pamphlet is for those considering a burial (or interment or scattering of ashes) in Milverton Quaker Burial Ground which belongs to West Somerset Area Quaker Meeting (WSAQM), and is situated about a mile from Milverton.

Milverton Quaker Burial Ground is a place of serenity, somewhere for quiet reflection and retreat. Quakers have been buried there since 1688, when there was a meeting house on the site. WSAQM have retained ownership of the burial ground, and it is still used as a final resting place by local Quakers and, by special request, other local people who have found peace there during their lifetime. Burials follow traditional Quaker burial practices which reflect our testimonies of simplicity, equality and respect for the earth.

Planning for one's own death or those of people close to us may be emotional and difficult. We encourage you to consider arrangements early and to complete a Funeral Wishes Form; knowing your wishes is likely to help the bereaved. The Area Meeting Burials Officer and Funeral Advisors are there to give you support and advice in this—please use them (see back page). A time of simple prayer and worship, using the silence traditional in Quaker practice, may be arranged if wanted at the time of a burial or an interment or scattering of ashes.

Quaker burial practices bear witness to our testimonies and reflect hundreds of years of Quaker discernment. Anyone wanting a burial at Milverton is asked to follow practices already in use at the burial ground.

In particular, please note the following points:

- ❖ We use our land sparingly and for this reason do not allow reservation of plots. However double depth plots may be prepared in advance so loved ones can end up buried together, while still taking up a single plot. We do not use consecrated ground as all ground is considered sacred.
- ❖ Gravestones have only been allowed since 1850 and are viewed as marker stones. At Milverton, all marker stones lie flat and we ask that new stones follow tradition by being simple in design with wording that records only names and dates of birth and death. The reason behind this is to 'guard against any distinction being made in that place between the rich and the poor' (Quaker Faith and Practice 15.20).
- ❖ We ask that bodies are buried so they recycle naturally, without being inhibited by chemicals (where possible with the use of non-toxic naturally derived embalming fluids and dressed in natural fibres) and without the introduction of plastics (e.g. coffin liners) or metal.

Coffins or shrouds should be easily biodegradable, avoiding hardwood. 'Green' coffins do not need to be expensive.

- ❖ With regard to planting on individual graves, we ask that this is done in consultation with the Burials Officer so it is in keeping with the semi-wild nature of the burial ground. We also ask that if cut flowers are laid on graves, they are left without wrappings or vases.
- ❖ The scattering or burial of ashes is also possible: please ask the Burials Officer for further information about this.
- ❖ Quakers consider maintenance of their burial grounds to be a shared responsibility of their community. There is no charge for their use, though those using the burial grounds are often glad to make a donation towards their upkeep. Direct costs for preparing the grave or having a gravestone are the responsibility of the family of the deceased. However, the Area Meeting would not wish anyone to be denied a gravestone due to the cost. Where this is an issue, it should be discussed with the Burials Officer and, where appropriate, the Area Meeting will help pay towards this.

