

THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY



Human encounter lies at the heart of the Anthroposophical Society – a conference at the Goetheanum – the General Anthroposophical Society headquarters in Switzerland



Rudolf Steiner

| ANTHROPOSOPHY

Anthroposophy was developed by Rudolf Steiner (1861 – 1925), as ‘a path of knowledge to guide the spiritual in the human being to the spiritual in the universe’.¹ Starting from his insight that thinking is a spiritual activity, Steiner showed

how we can extend our scientific consciousness to embrace a knowledge of the spiritual dimension of existence. The outcome is a science of the spirit capable of providing us with the ability to comprehend the spiritual as well as the physical nature of life, and to recognise the importance of this knowledge for the future of humanity.

The understanding gained by Steiner’s research into the spiritual nature of each human being and of the world around us has led to a wealth of practical initiatives such as Steiner Waldorf education, biodynamic agriculture and anthroposophic medicine and therapies. On-going work takes place in many other fields, including science, drama, speech, music and eurythmy (an art of movement), architecture and the other visual arts, as well as social care, sociology and economics. Further information relating to the many areas of work arising from anthroposophy is available from Rudolf Steiner House in London. (*see page 5*).

Rudolf Steiner’s published work includes some 30 books and the transcripts of over 6,000 lectures, many of which are available in English translation from the original German. Copies are available from the Bookshop or Library at Rudolf Steiner House or via any bookshop. Catalogues are published by Rudolf Steiner Press (www.rudolfsteinerpress.com) and SteinerBooks (www.steinerbooks.org). There is also an on-line archive (www.rsarchive.org).

1) *Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts*
Rudolf Steiner Press.

THE GENERAL ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Founded by Rudolf Steiner at Christmas 1923, the **General Anthroposophical Society** is, as Steiner expressed it, ‘an association of people whose will it is to nurture the life of the soul, both in the individual and in human society, on the basis of a true knowledge of the spiritual world.’² The **Society** has its centre at the **Goetheanum** in Dornach, Switzerland, (*see page 5*) and is connected with national societies and initiatives throughout the world, with its members coming from many cultures and all continents.

The aim of the **Society** is to make a spiritually based contribution to the life of humanity. As such, the **Goetheanum** provides a space where members of the **Society**, as well as the general public, can come and learn and collaborate by participating in a rich programme of conferences, performances and courses.

The heart of the **Society** is the **School of Spiritual Science**, which aims to continue Steiner’s research and its practical application. (*See page 4*)



The Café at Rudolf Steiner House In London

2) 1st Principle of the Anthroposophical Society, Christmas 1923.

A copy of the Principles and Statutes of the General Anthroposophical Society is available from Rudolf Steiner House.

THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN

The Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain provides a focus for activity in the United Kingdom and is a branch of the **General Anthroposophical Society**. The Society is entirely non-sectarian and anyone is welcome to join. The only requirement for membership is to recognise that the existence of an institution such as the **School of Spiritual Science** is justified. Membership of the Society is not, therefore, dependent on agreeing with the results of Rudolf Steiner's spiritual research. Steiner considered freedom of thought to be fundamental to human existence, including the freedom to disagree with his teachings.

Members of the Society come together to pursue questions that are important to them, ranging from a general study of anthroposophy to the exploration of a particular field of knowledge. The result is a lively dialogue about anthroposophy in relation to contemporary life. The life of the Society embraces local group work, festival celebrations, courses, lectures and artistic events as well as major national and international conferences.

Members of the Society receive regular newsletters that cover activities in Britain and around the world.

A copy of the Statutes, Rules and Bye-Laws of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain is available from Rudolf Steiner House. (*see page 5*).



Rudolf Steiner House in London.
The home of the Society in Great Britain

THE SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

The School of Spiritual Science is a modern esoteric school. It stands at the heart of the Society and provides a modern path of spiritual development for those for whom anthroposophy has become the basis of their lives. Such esoteric schools existed in the ancient mystery centres of pre-Christian times when human beings had a natural clairvoyance and perceived spiritual beings directly. As this direct contact with the spiritual world decreased, changes in human consciousness occurred which led to the emergence of greater free will, increased individual awareness and modern scientific thinking.

When the activity of the ancient mystery centres ceased, there arose the opportunity for the development of a conscious and self-directed path of inner development such as that cultivated in the School of Spiritual Science. Central to the work of the School is a series of mantric verses given by Rudolf Steiner in a course of 19 esoteric lessons.

Members of the School are responsible for representing anthroposophy. They also carry out spiritual research, making the results available to humanity as a whole. All members belong to the School's General Anthroposophical Section and specialist Sections currently include Natural Science, Mathematics and Astronomy, Medicine, Agriculture, Education, Social Science, Literary Arts and Humanities, Art, a Section for the Arts of Eurythmy, Speech, Drama and Music and a Youth Section.

To become a member of the School requires a familiarity with anthroposophy and a willingness to collaborate with others. Normally applicants will have been members of the Anthroposophical Society long enough for them to become familiar with its life, usually for at least two years.

| CONTACTS

Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain

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35 Park Road, London, NW1 6XT
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Society website: www.anthroposophy.org.uk
Rudolf Steiner House: www.rsh.anth.org.uk

Goetheanum

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Website: www.goetheanum.org

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Society is funded by its members, who are asked annually for a financial contribution to support its work. A substantial proportion of the British Society's income is passed on to the General Anthroposophical Society, which largely depends on the financial support of the national branches. Whilst there is a guideline for annual contributions (currently £140 per year), financial considerations need not prevent people with a serious interest in anthroposophy from joining. For those with limited means, a contribution of £30-£40 per year would cover basic costs including the newsletter and other mailings to members. The Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain is a registered charity and participates in the Gift Aid scheme, enabling it to make the most of donations by UK taxpayers. Please contact the Membership Secretary at Rudolf Steiner House if you would like further information.

JOINING THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

If you would like to know more about membership or the activities of the Society, please contact the Membership Secretary at Rudolf Steiner House. If you would like to join the Society, please return the attached form. We would appreciate your adding brief biographical details and a note of any particular areas of interest you may have. Once your membership has been confirmed you will receive a welcome pack, including a membership card, the Principles and Statutes of the General Society, details of local Society groups and initiatives and information about finances.

| MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership of the General Anthroposophical Society by joining the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain. I consider as justified the existence of an institution such as the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland, in its capacity as a School of Spiritual Science.

I agree to the information given below being held by the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and to its being shared with the General Anthroposophical Society, as necessary for the furtherance of the aims and objects of the Society.

Signature

(block capitals please)

First name Second Name

Surname Male /Female

Address

.....

..... Post Code

Date of birth / /

Profession / occupation

Areas of special interest.....

Telephone.....

E-mail.....

(optional) Please provide the name of anyone you know who is a member of the Society

Please send this form to: The Membership Secretary, Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain, Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road, London, NW1 6XT



