

Jewish  
Joint  
Burial  
Society



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## **JJBS office**

1 Victory Road,  
London E11 1UH

tel: 020 8989 5252

## **FROM SPRING 2020**

### **JJBS office**

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Registered Charity No. 257345

Incorporated in England & Wales No. 937882

# The Jewish Joint Burial Society - About Us

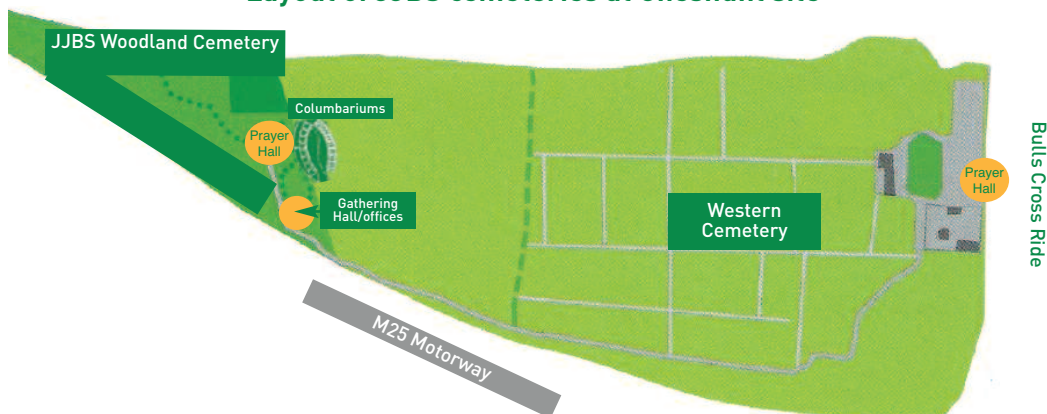
**The Jewish Joint Burial Society (JJBS), founded in 1968, provides funerals for synagogue members as part of the benefits of belonging to a synagogue. Currently JJBS covers over 17,000 members in 40 synagogues: 29 Reform; 6 Masorti; 3 Liberal and 2 Independent.**

JJBS provides funerals for congregants of member synagogues. This can be in a conventional grave with headstone in the Western Cemetery at Cheshunt in Hertfordshire where the JJBS has burial rights and in the Southgate Cemetery. Some members have a pre-existing arrangement to bury at the Edgwarebury Cemetery. These cemeteries primarily serve the London synagogues; in the rest of the country, synagogues use dedicated Jewish areas in municipal cemeteries. JJBS also has its Woodland Cemetery in Cheshunt where Jewish congregants and non-Jewish partners can be buried in a woodland or lawn setting.

When a member dies in the London area, the JJBS, in conjunction with the synagogue, makes all the arrangements for the funeral, whether it is a burial or a cremation, and covers the basic cost of the funeral. Outside London, the JJBS reimburses the synagogue for the cost of the funeral up to a fixed amount designed to cover the cost of most funerals.

Cremations in London normally take place at the Golders Green Crematorium. Ashes can be interred in the columbarium at the Woodland Cemetery. We also provide burials and cremations for non-members.

## Layout of JJBS cemeteries at Cheshunt site



# The Woodland Cemetery

The JJBS Woodland Cemetery is designed to be an environmentally friendly way of burying loved ones surrounded by a setting of trees and plants and marked only with a small ground level plaque rather than a full tombstone.

The plan for the Woodland Cemetery is for it to become a natural wood with English woodland trees and plants. It will take a number of years until full tree cover is established and in the meanwhile graves may be marked with suitable plants which will eventually naturalise under the tree cover. Although certain stone memorials are permitted, the aim is to ensure that everything else in the cemetery is natural, with no plastic or other materials on the graves.

For those who want a woodland environment but an upright stone, there is also a lawn area where the grave is marked with a simple upright stone and is surrounded by grass. In addition there is a columbarium where cremated ashes can be interred and marked with a plaque.

In the woodland section, relatives have the choice of two areas: *the natural area*, which will be seeded with grass and meadow plant seeds and allowed to naturalise

immediately with no individual grave spaces delineated, or *the garden area*: if so wished, the relatives can arrange for the individual grave to be planted with a selection of woodland plants (see list on the JJBS website: [jjbs.org.uk](http://jjbs.org.uk)).



After an interment in the Woodland Cemetery, a plain wooden frame is placed around the grave while the ground is allowed to settle. The seeding or planting is done a few weeks before the stone setting. To



# The Woodland Cemetery

maintain the natural look, only plants from the approved list can be put in or on the grave either by the family or by one of our approved gardeners or by the Woodland Cemetery staff but at the family's own cost. We request that before you plant up a plot you contact our staff who will be happy to advise you. The plan is that we will continue to plant trees and if you wish to designate one as a memorial, please contact us. No shrubs or trees may be planted on the plot itself. No planting is allowed in the Lawn Cemetery. No other decoration, such as pebbles, gravel or bark, flower vases, additional plaques or surround, may be placed on the grave. Any unsuitable addition will be removed. In line with our environmental policy, plastic flowers are not permitted under any circumstance. According to Jewish tradition, small pebbles can be placed on the name plaque, but it is recommended that these are removed periodically as they can damage the stone. Non-Jewish symbols are not permitted.



Once the planting is complete the plants will be allowed to naturalise in the woodland environment under the trees as they are planted. The area around the graves will be kept tidy by the cemetery staff but the family is responsible for maintaining the gravestone and looking after any plants. It must be understood that, as part of tree planting programme and the naturalising process, the nature of the area will change over time as it becomes a mature woodland. Any unmaintained graves will be allowed to naturalise. The location of every grave is marked on our plan of the cemetery.



# The Woodland Cemetery



Arrangements for stone settings and agreeing the wording on tombstones should be made with the office. Arrangements for the memorial stone should be made with the approved stone masons except for the columbarium, for which you will first need to contact the Sextons.

If an adjacent plot is reserved it will be grassed over until it is required. Where a second person is buried in an existing plot (double depth burial) the same process of settling and replanting (at the family's expense) will occur.

From mid-2020, a Gathering Hall will be available to hire for light refreshments after funerals or stonesettings.

**The Sextons will be happy to provide you with more information or guidance. Tel: 020 8989 5252**



# JJBS Frequently Asked Questions

## Q How does the scheme work?

As a member of one of our synagogues, your membership of the JJBS burial scheme is automatic. Your synagogue pays an annual, non-refundable fee to JJBS both to cover the actual cost of the funeral and the plot and to provide and maintain the JJBS cemeteries. If you live within the Home Counties area this provides you with the right either to a burial at Cheshunt or Southgate or a cremation at Golders Green Crematorium. In the rest of the country, JJBS will either arrange a burial at one of these cemeteries or make a substantial contribution to the funeral costs.

These rights begin as soon as you join a member synagogue. However, during the first 6 months of membership the cost of burial or cremation will be charged at double the standard benefit charge.



## Q How are funerals arranged?

All funeral arrangements are the responsibility of each synagogue in conjunction with JJBS. You must notify the synagogue when a death occurs. The rabbi, synagogue and JJBS will make all the arrangements.

## Q What is covered by the scheme?

The basic cost of the funeral is free. The Scheme covers the cost of undertakers, bearers, transportation, cremation fees, taharah, plain coffin and shroud, plot and cemetery costs.

The synagogue will provide a rabbi to conduct the service, as well as either a rabbi or a suitable lay member to conduct the shiva prayers as required.

## Q What is not covered by the scheme?

The JJBS cover only allows for either the cost of a cremation or a funeral not both, and it does not cover any costs relating to the provision or placing of a tombstone. When ashes are deposited in the Columbarium in the Woodland Cemetery, there will be a charge for interment of ashes plus the cost of any plaque..

## JJBS Frequently Asked Questions

There are extra charges for using the Woodland Cemetery as woodland burials take up additional space and trees have to be planted. A woodland burial does not require a costly full tombstone and there is no future maintenance of a gravestone, but the family may provide a small, low cost, memorial plaque.

You can also be buried at a cemetery of your choice but this may require an additional contribution, depending on the costs of the funeral.

There are various extras and additional special services which are not covered by the scheme. To find a full list of what is and what is not included, as well as the related charges, please visit the JJBS website ([jjbs.org.uk](http://jjbs.org.uk)).

### **Q** What about stone-settings?

The setting of a tombstone and related costs are the responsibility of the family. All arrangements are made in conjunction with the synagogue, rabbi and JJBS office. Stone settings on Sundays are very popular, so longer advance planning is recommended. A list of licensed stonemasons is available from the Sexton's office, who will approve the wording on the tombstone. Once the tombstone has been laid, it is the responsibility of the family to ensure that it is kept clean and in good order. The maintenance of the cemetery does not cover maintenance, repair, vandalism or re-setting of tombstones. For woodland burials, there will be a special memorial service at the graveside instead of the conventional stone setting service.





# JJBS Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q** What if I join the scheme later in life?

A Your entitlement to a funeral is included with your synagogue subscription. The annual fees paid by your synagogue to JJBS are the same regardless of your age when joining the synagogue. However, if you were 50 or over when you joined the synagogue, there is an additional contribution to be paid. Please see [jjbs.org.uk](http://jjbs.org.uk) for details.

## **Q** Are the benefits transferable?

If you move from one JJBS member synagogue to another without a break, your burial rights are transferred. The rights are not transferable to or from a non-JJBS synagogue.

## **Q** What if I am a member of another burial scheme?

If you pay into another burial scheme, as well as being covered by the JJBS scheme, when you die, your synagogue will receive a sum from the JJBS which would normally be paid to your estate.

## **Q** Can plots be reserved?

The family can reserve plots at the time of a burial in either the Western or the Woodland Cemeteries for other family members or a friend. There will be a charge for this. You cannot pick any spot in the cemetery, only a space next to a deceased relative or friend.



# JJBS Frequently Asked Questions

## Q What if my partner is not Jewish?

Jewish members and their non-Jewish partners can be buried in double-depth graves in either the woodland or the lawn sections of the Woodland Cemetery.

Non-Jewish partners can become non-Jewish subscribers of participating synagogues and pay an annual fee towards their funeral costs; alternatively they can receive a non-member's funeral at a discounted rate.

## Q What are the arrangements for children?

There is no cost for the funerals of members' children under the age of 21. After a child reaches 21, they must join a member synagogue in their own right to be covered for burial or cremation. There are dedicated areas in the Woodland and Western parts of the Cemeteries for burial following neo-natal deaths.

## Q What about funerals for non-members?

JJBS will undertake the burial or cremation of a Jewish person who is not a member of the synagogue at a special charge. Burial can be in either the Woodland or Western Cemeteries.



## Q How can I find out more about the scheme?

You can either contact your synagogue office or visit [jjbs.org.uk](http://jjbs.org.uk) for more detailed information about the scheme, including a full list of additional charges.

### *Chevra Kadisha (preparing the deceased for burial)*

The term *chevra kadisha* or holy fellowship refers to the group tasked with preparing the bodies of Jews for burial, according to tradition, and protecting them from desecration until the time of burial. This group is called upon to ensure the proper respect for the deceased is shown, and they carry out the ritual cleansing of the body and subsequent dressing for burial (*taharah*).

This is considered a *mitzvah* worthy of high praise, since tending to the dead is a favour that the recipient cannot return - a favour without ulterior motives or a *chesed shel emet*, 'a good deed of truth'. This phrase comes from the Book of Genesis where Jacob asks his son Joseph, "do me a 'true' favour" and Joseph promises to bury his father in the Land of Israel.

JJBS has an up-to-date, fully-equipped facility for carrying out *taharah* at Cheshunt and its own *chevra kadisha*, made up of volunteers from member synagogues, to prepare the bodies of those who have passed away.

If you would be interested in learning more about this *mitzvah* please contact your synagogue administrator, or contact the JJBS office

[admin@jewishfunerals.org.uk](mailto:admin@jewishfunerals.org.uk)  
website: [jjbs.org.uk](http://jjbs.org.uk)

Refer to the inside front cover for full address details.



### **Western Cemetery Cheshunt**

Bullscross Ride  
Cheshunt, EN7 5HT  
Tel: 01992 717 820

### **Woodland Cemetery Cheshunt**

Bullscross Ride  
Cheshunt, EN7 5PF  
Tel: 020 8989 5252

Both the cemeteries above are accessed from south of Junction 25 of the M25

### **Southgate New Cemetery**

Brunswick Park Road  
New Southgate  
London, N11 1JJ  
Approximately 1 mile north  
of Arnos Grove Underground Station

### **JJBS Contact details**

1 Victory Road, London E11 1UH  
Tel: 020 8989 5252

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### **Directions to the Cemeteries at Cheshunt**

Leave the M25 at exit 25 and take A10 South in direction of Central London but almost immediately turn right at traffic lights into Bullsmoor Lane (past Capel Manor). At the mini-roundabout turn right into Bulls Cross and follow for about 50 yards bending sharp left onto Whitewebbs Lane. Turn first right into Bulls Cross Ride and follow road over M25 to the entrance which is approximately 150 yards on left. Turn sharp left for the Woodland Cemetery.

From south use A10 for about 4 miles north of the junction with the North Circular Road. At the traffic lights signposted Crews Hill turn left into Bullsmoor Lane (and follow above directions).

