



The TLSE Funeral and Burial scheme – a Quick Guide

All full members of the synagogue are automatically members of the synagogue's funeral scheme and of Liberal Judaism's burial or cremation scheme. Both schemes have their own rules, however in summary, all members of the synagogue are covered for the basic cost of either a funeral at Liberal Judaism's cemetery Edgwarebury Lane, HA8 8QP or at the Western Cemetery, Bullscross Ride, Cheshunt EN7 5HT; or of a weekday cremation and funeral at Golders Green Crematorium. There is an additional one-off fee for members who join the synagogue at age 55 or over.

TLSE Funeral Scheme

The scheme covers the costs of standard coffin and shroud, collection of the deceased to King's Funeral Directors at N11 and thence to the cemetery or crematorium for a total journey of 40 miles within the M25, a temporary name tablet where burial is requested, and the services of a Rabbi at a funeral and one evening *shivah*.

Any extra costs will be agreed with the deceased's next of kin at the time, to cover (for example) the use of a Private Chapel, the cost of a doctor's and/or hospital certificates for cremation, any overtime or working out of normal hours, woodland burial, *tahara* (ritual cleansing) or any additional cars or excess car mileage.

Liberal Judaism (LJ) Burial or Cremation Scheme

All burials at Edgwarebury and at the newer LJ section at Cheshunt are always double depth with the upper grave space automatically reserved for spouse or partner of the deceased at no extra charge. The upper section is available for spouse/partner/son/daughter. It is never used for anyone unknown to the deceased.

In the older LJ section at Cheshunt all burials are in single depth plots. Reservation of an adjacent plot is possible only following the burial of the first of a couple. The 2023 cost is £747.

Transfer to the JJBS Funeral and Burial scheme

There are plans for both the TLSE funeral scheme and the LJ burial scheme to be transferred to the Joint Jewish Burial Society (JJBS) funeral and burial scheme from January 2026 (the "JJBS Transfer Date"). The benefits under the transferred scheme are almost identical to the current ones, and both new and current members should have no concerns about this transfer. The move will give greater flexibility when moving between synagogues, reduces administration, and saves some cost.

Full membership of JJBS only applies six months after joining TLSE, unless joining from a synagogue which is already subscribed to JJBS. In the event of death within 6 months of joining TLSE and on or after the JJBS Transfer Date, a charge will be made by JJBS, payable by the next of kin. For deaths in 2025 this is £6,300; the figure for 2026 and beyond will be confirmed nearer the time. ***By making your first membership subscription payment you are deemed to have accepted this condition.***

In case of a death of a member of the synagogue

The next of kin of the deceased should contact the synagogue's burial officer. The contact details can be obtained by calling the synagogue telephone number 020 8953 8889, where all the details are in the answering machine message. At the time of preparing this note the burial officer is Rabbi Gershon Silins, 07541 823802. In an

emergency you can also call the synagogue's undertaker Michael King directly, on 020 8368 7453. They will make all the necessary arrangements, including contacting the Rabbi.

Exclusions

The following are not paid for by the scheme but may be arranged by Liberal Judaism and paid for separately:

- Burial of ashes following a cremation and for provision of an inscribed tablet and rose bush over the plot or for the simple scattering of ashes in the cemetery
- An inscribed headstone. To arrange a headstone, contact LJ for a list of approved stonemasons who can make and install the headstone. Wording on headstones must comply with LJ guidelines.

Kings Funeral Directors

The funeral director who will be instructed is Kings Funerals who can be contacted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including Bank Holidays and Jewish Festivals on 020 8368 7453 or 07595 956 936. Any charges of another funeral director will not be paid by the scheme.

Shiva prayers

The Rabbi or an experienced lay leader will offer to hold *shiva* prayers, usually at a private address, in support of the next of the kin. Note that it is the responsibility of the deceased's synagogue (not that of the mourners) to arrange *shiva* prayers.

Stone-settings (tombstone consecration)

These are arranged by the deceased families through the Liberal Judaism office – contact the Lifecycle Administrator Lisa Godsal, l.godsal@liberaljudaism.org, 020 7580 1663.

Transfers

In some cases it is possible to transfer funeral and burial scheme benefits from or to other local Progressive congregations who are also members of the JJBS scheme. Contact the office for more details.

Notes

1. In very exceptional cases a member may have signed a disclaimer, in which case they are not covered by these schemes.
2. On joining the scheme you may have been asked to pay a joining fee based on your age or if unfortunately you have a restricted life expectancy; once this has been paid you are full members of the scheme.
3. In the event of a death within 6 months of joining the synagogue an extra fee is payable by the next of kin.
4. If the synagogue has agreed a subsidised or deferred subscription this does not affect your funeral and burial rights.
5. Friends of TLSE (typically a non-Jewish partner) may opt to join the TLSE Funeral and Burial schemes at an additional annual cost, plus a joining fee for those aged 55 or over.
6. Double depth woodland burials for Jews and for mixed faith couples can be offered, at an additional charge.
7. TLSE and Liberal Judaism can arrange funerals for non-members at the current charge, which is typically around £16,000.

8. This is a quick guide only and does not take precedence over the formal rules of the funeral/burial schemes, available from the office.

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