

## **Governor's Report on Joint Jewish Burial Society 2018 – 2019**

Working at the JJBS is not an easy task – every phone call has the potential for being heart-breaking and we hope that all staff deal with every death professionally and compassionately.

If the JJBS fall short of the highest of standards, the Chairman of Governors expressly asks that he is contacted via the JJBS website – [www.jjbs.org.uk](http://www.jjbs.org.uk) – currently under FAQ's.

Good work is being carried out in the office on matters of best practise in streamlining administration and updating of the database.

The Woodland area of the cemetery is increasingly popular with members; as is Columbarium internments.

To eventually create a good sound barrier against the background noise from the M25, the additional planting of trees at the Woodland cemetery is continuing.

An exciting development is that a new building acting jointly as a venue for families to meet prior to funerals and new JJBS office.

There are three separate areas in the Woodland cemetery as explained in “The Woodland Cemetery Guidelines” - available on line and at the AGM.

For the first time, in line with JJBS principles of inclusivity, non-Jewish partners can be buried with their Jewish partners in a double-depth grave in the Woodland or Lawn section of the cemetery.

In an additional move to protect the public, the Home Office has introduced a new role of Medical Examiner. The current death certification system in England and Wales has not changed in over 50 years. This initiative will deliver a more comprehensive system of assurances for all deaths not referred to the Coroner in England and Wales. It tackles concerns about avoidable hospital deaths that working in partnership with families and carers identifying deaths due to problems in care.

The good news, for most of us, is that the average age of use of the cemetery is going up.

Dani Kornhauser – JJBS Governor  
MAY 2019

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### **The Woodland Cemetery Guidelines at The Western Cemetery – Cheshunt**

There are 3 defined areas for burial in the Woodland cemetery.

1 A 'lawn' area for couples of mixed faith with upright memorial stones. This can also be used by Jewish couples; as a compromise where one wants woodland and the other does not. We will also use this area where one member of a couple wants to be buried and the other wishes to be cremated and have their ashes interred with their partner. We have also set aside a couple of woodland areas for the same situation, but where one particularly wants Woodland as opposed to just ordinary burial.

2. A 'woodland garden' area where members of the Jewish Faith are buried surrounded by plants, shrubs and trees in a defined designated plot with name plaques remaining visible. We do not know how long it will take for stones to sink; we suspect about 30-40 years. However, it will be perfectly possible for families to restore stones. We have a replica of this area for mixed faith couples. Both areas require a premium per grave space (currently £1,600), but that is set if paid now - it will rise in the future. We have also set aside a small woodland area in both the mixed faith area and the purely Jewish area for the circumstance where one person in a couple wants Woodland burial and the other cremation. We strongly encourage members to take advantage of the Woodland buyout and we will take payments on a standing order.

3. A 'meadow' area where Jews are buried with very small name plaques flat in the ground that in time will be grown over completely and 'groups of graves' identified by small upright enumerated sign post; the whole area will be mown twice a year but the area around the graves will be mown regularly for safety. This also has a premium of £1,600 currently.

In the Jewish area, there is a choice between single and double-depth. Most people opt for double-depth and the single spaces are taken by single people. If requested adjacent graves are fine, but the premium is double that for a single double-depth space.

In both mixed-faith areas, the graves are only double-depth (apart from where a child dies; in which case their grave will be single depth with a double-depth reserved next to them for parents if requested).

In the 'woodland garden' area, the JJBS will plant up and maintain for three years grave spaces – cost is currently £120. The family can also plant up and maintain the graves using the allowed plant list for as long as they wish. Other than being mown, maintenance does not apply in the meadow or lawn area.

We do not differentiate on whether a couple is married or in a partnership, or is same sex – the only differentiation is where one partner is Jewish and the other is not.

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