

Joint Jewish Burial Society

Report for Radlett Reform Synagogue AGM May 17th 2018

The Jewish Joint Burial Society provides funeral arrangements for approximately 17,500 members of 39 Liberal, Masorti, Reform, and independent synagogues.

Joining JJBS provides our members with the reassurance that their funerals will be funded and will be an important factor in encouraging new members to our join our communities.

JJBS is now in its 50th year. Governors meet quarterly to discuss membership applications; consider applications for grants; review committee reports on investments; expenditures; synagogue membership applications and other ongoing JJBS matters. During the past 20years there have been on average 200 burials/cremations per annum.

In October 2017, there was a community Succot Bulb planting event to plant 10,000 bulbs in the Woodland area.

In January 2018 Governors were asked for their response to Department for Health's proposal of 'presumed consent' relating to organ donation. In fact, an article in Jewish News July 2013, our Rabbi Paul Freedman had written a paper on Reform Judaism's view of this very personal decision. As part of the public consultation, I went to a very interesting community outreach meeting led by a minister from the Dept. of Health at Alyth Gardens [NWReform] with transplant surgeons, live donors and recipients.

Additional to the traditional cemetery, in 2013 JJBS opened its Woodland cemetery at the Western Cemetery, Cheshunt. It provides an opportunity to be buried in a natural environment surrounded by trees and with a small memorial stone rather than a large tombstone. Also have been created separate dedicated areas where couples can be buried together with their non-Jewish partners. This has proved to be extremely popular to members of JJBS and non-members alike.

There is also a raised columbarium for the interment of cremated ashes.

A separate area has been created for neo-natal burials.

On the site, JJBS has built a beautiful Ohel (prayer hall). This can be viewed, together with all other information relating to Jewish mourning rituals and funeral arrangements at our newly constructed and very informative website <https://www.jjbs.org.uk/>

Future plans include the construction of a meeting hall for relatives to meet the Rabbi before the funeral; also to gather after a funeral or stone setting for refreshments. Additionally, burial society staff will have an office and meeting room at their disposal for the proper efficient administration of the cemetery grounds and burials.

Dani Kornhauser – Governor JJBS.