

FUNERAL GUIDE

This leaflet has been prepared by Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community (PLJC) to explain our customary arrangements and to encourage our members to ensure their families have clear directions to follow when a loved one's life has ended. Everyone is strongly advised to make clear their wishes both in their wills and with their next of kin.

BEFORE THE FUNERAL

Instructions in a Will

It always helps the family if they know what kind of funeral arrangements are to be made, and it makes sense to include such instructions in your will or in an Expression of Wish form.

Organising a Funeral

The funeral is organised by funeral directors, appointed and paid for by the family. The choice of funeral directors lies with you and/or your family. If you do not know who to approach, the following have had some experience of Jewish funerals:

Anglia Co-operative Funerals - Stanground, Peterborough Road, Stanground, Peterborough PE2 8RB
Tel: 01733 426860

Smiths Funeral Directors, 75 High Street, Fletton, Peterborough PE2 8DT
Tel: 01733 347474

R J Scholes Funeral Service, 4 Horsegate, Deeping St James, Peterborough PE6 8EN
Tel: 01778 380659

Crowsons Funeral Directors, 48 Barnwell, Nr. Oundle, Peterborough PE8 5PS
Tel: 01832 272269

Representatives from PLJC can assist the family in organising the funeral and can arrange for a Rabbi or lay reader to lead the service. If a particular Rabbi has been requested, every effort will be made to meet this request. If not, PLJC will appoint a Rabbi or experienced lay reader.

Burial or Cremation

Liberal Judaism accepts both burials and cremations. If the deceased has set out clear instructions then these will be honoured.

Tahara

In Liberal Judaism there is no stipulation to have tahara, the ritual cleansing of the deceased which fulfills the verse from Ecclesiastes 5:14, "As we come forth, so we shall return." If tahara is required, PLJC will help you to make the arrangements. After the body is cleansed, it is dressed in shrouds (tachrichim). The shrouds are simple and plain and made of white cotton or linen. Some people prefer to be buried in their typical daily dress. Men are buried with a tallit over the shroud or suit. Women can be buried in a tallit if it is their wish or if it was their practice to wear one when praying. One of the fringes of the tallit is cut to show that it will no longer be used.

Cemetery

Peterborough has a reserved Jewish plot in Eastfield cemetery for interments. In Peterborough green burials can be arranged at Fletton cemetery. The funeral may also be conducted in other cemeteries and crematoria. A grave in any burial ground is consecrated as Jewish by the funeral service held there.

Partners

It is possible to be buried alongside a partner or close family member and their plot may be reserved. Non-Jewish partners who are Associate members of PLJC can be buried at Eastfield cemetery, regardless of who dies first.

Timing

It is traditional in Judaism for funerals to take place immediately after death. However, there is in fact no halachic requirement for this and these days there is often a gap of a few days to enable attendance by mourners who live some distance away.

Funerals cannot take place on Shabbat.

Paperwork Formalities

Before the funeral can take place, the family will need to obtain a 'green form' from the register office of the district in which the death took place and pass the form to the funeral directors, ideally with a copy of a death certificate which will also be issued by the registrar. Peterborough Register Office is supportive of different cultural practices and the urgency for the issue of the paperwork. Before you can see the registrar you will need to obtain the 'Medical Certificate of Cause of Death' from the doctor or the hospital.

Post-Mortems

If a post-mortem is required, the Coroners for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are now able to arrange a non-invasive post-mortem via CT scan. It will cost the family £300¹ and can be arranged by calling the Coroner's Office on 0345 045 1364. The family must explain it is required on religious grounds.

Costs

The cost of the grave, funeral directors' fees, tahara, charges made by the cemetery or crematorium and a later memorial stone are the responsibilities of the deceased's estate. Please refer to the table below for indicative fees. PLJC is a member of the JJBS Burial Scheme which allows all paid-up Full members to receive a payment towards their funeral expenses or to have a funeral at the JJBS cemetery in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire at no expense (apart from the cost of the officiating rabbi, the headstone and any outstanding age-related penalties). The benefits of the JJBS scheme also apply to fully paid-up PLJC Associate members who have opted to join the scheme. Please contact the PLJC Burial Group for more details.

All our paid-up Full members are entitled to the services of a Rabbi if they wish. Indicative fees are shown in the table below, which will cover: telephone advice concerning traditional and Liberal mourning practices; preparation for the funeral; conduct of the funeral service including the delivery of a eulogy. It may be possible to organise a home visit by the rabbi before the funeral. If a Rabbi leads prayers in the home on the same evening as the funeral a separate charge may apply.

¹ Cost correct at time of writing (March 2016)

All our members can contact any member of PLJC Burial Group for guidance and support. A lay reader can be provided to conduct the funeral service locally and/or lead prayers in the home on the evening of the funeral, or during the week following the funeral. The cost would be covered as part of their membership to PLJC.

Burial of Prayer Books

It is a Jewish custom to bury old, out-of-date prayerbooks often at the time of a funeral. Members should make their family aware if they are willing for this to happen so that the PLJC Burial Group can be notified and the necessary arrangements made.

AT THE FUNERAL

There is a standard, fairly short funeral service provided by Liberal Judaism. It is not traditional to have music or flowers at Jewish funerals, but that is not fixed and you should feel free to ask for whatever is going to make the funeral feel right for you and the other mourners. The Rabbi (or other persons leading the service) will be happy to help you decide the form of service.

AFTER THE FUNERAL

Prayers/Shiva

If requested, a service can be held at the home of the bereaved or a family member on the evening of the day of the funeral or on any day(s) during the week following the funeral. It is unusual for members of our community to hold a formal shiva for the full seven days, but that can be arranged if requested.

Stone Setting or Memorial

Some ten months later when the ground has settled, a memorial stone is erected and a service of consecration held. The Rabbi, or the London-based stonemasons, can assist with traditional Hebrew wording to add to the English inscription. The following stonemasons are commonly used by the Jewish community in London:

A Elfes Ltd	www.memorialgroup.co.uk	Tel: 01708 682790
Gary Green	www.garygreenmemorials.co.uk	Tel: 020 8381 1525
Memorial Master	www.memorialmasters.co.uk	Tel: 0800 018 7275

Remembrance

If family members wish, remembrance prayers can be read at the Shabbat service before each *yahrzeit* (annual anniversary of the death) and also during Yom Kippur at the *Yizkor* service. Please contact the Membership Support Co-ordinator to add a name to the *yahrzeit* and *yizkor* lists. The Membership Support Co-ordinator can also assist in calculating future *yahrzeit* dates according to the Hebrew calendar.

Some people have made a bequest to the community in memory of loved ones.

Contact Details

To discuss in confidence any aspect of this guide or to organise a funeral, please contact any of the PLJC Burial Group listed on the contact sheet below.

Indicative Costs ²

Rabbi to attend and conduct funeral N.B. No charge will be made for a Lay Leader to officiate	£480 + travel expenses
Burial at Eastfield Cemetery with 50 year exclusion rights	£880 exc. interment
Burial at Eastfield Cemetery with 75 year exclusion rights	£1320 exc. interment
Green Burial at Fletton Cemetery with 50 year exclusion rights	£803 exc. interment
Green Burial at Ketton Cemetery	£800 inc. interment
Interment Fee	£738
Funeral Director's Fees	£1100 - 1655
Solid Wood Coffin (oak, pine, willow, etc) with canvas insert	£600 - 700+
Chipboard / Veneer Coffin	£250
Cremation - 30 minute funeral 9.30-10.30am	£628
Cremation - 30 minute funeral 10.30am onwards	£745
Cremation - 45 minute funeral 9.30-10.30am	£739
Cremation - 45 minute funeral 10.30am onwards	£856
Cremation Doctor's Fee	£164
Non-invasive Post Mortem	£300
Tahara in Peterborough	£360

For burials outside of Peterborough

Fee to remove from place of death and hold at Peterborough chapel of rest for collection	£100 - £150
Transport elsewhere in UK	£1 per mile + £50
Tahara in London	£200

² Correct for 2015

Contact List

PLJC Burial Group	[REDACTED]
PLJC Burial Group	[REDACTED]
PLJC Burial Group	[REDACTED]
PLJC Burial Group / Membership Support Coordinator	[REDACTED]
Jewish Joint Burial Society (JJBS) Mon to Thu 9.00am - 4.30pm, Fri 9.00am - 2.00pm Sun 9.00am - 12 noon	020 8989 5252
Liberal Judaism, Montagu Centre	020 7580 1663
Peterborough City Hospital Bereavement Office	01733 673543
Hinchingbrooke Hospital Bereavement Office	01480 847494
Coroner's Office for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	0345 045 1364 or coroners@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Coroner's Office for Northamptonshire	03000 111 222
Peterborough Register Office	01733 864646
Northamptonshire Register Offices (Oundle, Kettering, Corby, Northampton, etc)	0300 126 1000
Cambridgeshire Register Offices (Huntingdon, Cambridge, Wisbech, Ely and March)	0345 045 1363
Lincolnshire Register Offices (Stamford, Bourne, Grantham, Spalding, Boston, Lincoln, etc)	01522 782244
Peterborough City Council Bereavement Services (responsible for Crematorium & Cemeteries)	01733 262639 or crematorium@peterborough.gov.uk
Anglia Co-operative Funerals - Stanground	01733 426860
Smiths Funeral Directors - Fletton	01733 347474
R J Scholes Funeral Service - Deeping St James	01778 380659
R J Scholes Funeral Service - Stamford	01780 763092
R J Scholes Funeral Service - Bourne	01778 394687
Crowsons Funeral Directors - Barnwell	01832 272269
A Elfes Ltd - www.memorialgroup.co.uk	01708 682790
Gary Green - www.garygreenmemorials.co.uk	020 8381 1525
Memorial Masters - www.memorialmasters.co.uk	0800 018 7275