



# The Bristol and West Progressive Jewish Congregation

## FUNERAL GUIDE

This leaflet has been prepared to explain our customary arrangements to our members and to encourage them 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 in both their Wills and with their next of kin.

**The Bristol and West Progressive  
Jewish Congregation**  
43 – 47 Bannerman Road  
Bristol BS5 0RR  
[www.bwpjc.org](http://www.bwpjc.org)

### 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.

#### Organising a funeral

The funeral is organised by a Funeral Director, appointed and paid for by the family, in liaison with our Rabbi. Funeral Directors are listed in the Yellow Pages, or our Rabbi can assist the family by recommending one. The Rabbi and Funeral Director will then liaise to arrange a convenient date and time. The Rabbi will organise the Service, working together with the family to reconcile Jewish tradition and teaching and the Congregational *minhag* with all of the families needs, compose the Eulogy and comfort the bereaved. Bristol and West Progressive Jewish Congregation can organise burials and cremations.

#### Cemeteries

The Synagogue conducts funerals in several cemeteries in the region. There are a few designated spaces in North Bristol at Canford\* and many more in South Bristol at Bedminster Down\* and there is also the new Woodlands in beautiful Gloucestershire countryside. We can also conduct funerals in other cemeteries anywhere in the region. It is possible to buy a plot before your death.

*\* Includes a Crematorium*

#### Partners

A grave in any burial ground is consecrated as Jewish by the funeral service held there. Subject to available space, all Partners whether Jewish or not can be buried either together or as near as possible to each other. It is important to make this clear before your death.

#### Timing

It is traditional in Judaism for funerals to take place immediately after death. There is no requirement for this and it has become customary for there to be a gap of a few days, and that may make it much easier for the arrangements to be made, and for mourners to attend who live some distance away.

## **Costs**

Fortunately burial plots are considerably less expensive than in the South East but the costs can mount up, so it is wise to make some provision in advance. Buying a plot is one option. In addition there are Funeral Director's fees, charges made by the Cemetery or Crematorium and later a Memorial Stone. All our paid-up members will receive the full services of the Rabbi without additional charge. This will include leading the funeral service, delivering a eulogy, home visits and prayers on the same evening at home. For non-members, the costs are approximately the equivalent of two years' membership fees in the appropriate category and a quotation can be provided on request. As well as the synagogue charge, our rabbi has a professional fee, the amount of which is reviewed from time to time by the Rabbinic Conference.

## **AT THE FUNERAL**

### **Service**

There is a standard, fairly short funeral service provided by Liberal Judaism. It is not traditional to have music at Jewish funerals, but again 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 whoever else is leading the service) will be happy to help you decide the form of service.

You can ask the person leading the service or someone else to give a eulogy and suggest the kind of things that the family would like remembered in this.

## **AFTER THE FUNERAL**

### **Prayers/Shiva**

If requested a service can be held at the home of the bereaved in the evening of the day of the funeral. It is unusual for members of our community to hold a formal *shiva* for 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 can assist with traditional Hebrew wording to add to the English inscription.

### **Remembrance Prayers**

These can be read if family members wish in the Synagogue on the Shabbat before each annual anniversary (*yahrzeit*) and also during Yom Kippur (*yizkor*). It is up to members whether they would prefer this linked to the Jewish or secular calendar date. Please ensure that the Chair of the Rites & Practices Committee knows what you want so that you can attend and recite the *kaddish* Memorial Prayer. Both the secular and the corresponding Jewish date will be shown in *Alonim*, the Synagogue magazine.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

**For further information** please refer to the Synagogue website from which emails can be sent to different members of the Synagogue [www.bwpjc.org](http://www.bwpjc.org)

**To organise a funeral:** Rabbi F.R. Berry on 0117 958 6326, [berryuk@freeuk.com](mailto:berryuk@freeuk.com)  
NB If the Rabbi is unavailable there are members of the Synagogue with considerable experience to deputise for him, email [bwpjc@bwpjc.org](mailto:bwpjc@bwpjc.org).