THE ARK SYNAGOGUE BURIAL CREMATION AND FUNERAL EXPENSES SCHEME

(effective 1 January 2027)

The Ark Synagogue

These rules supersede all earlier versions and may be updated and reissued at any time by The Ark Synagogue Board.

1. Eligibility

Subject to payment of the appropriate annual subscription, Scheme benefits are available for all Full and Associate members. In the case of a membership that includes children, the benefits are also available for those children included in the membership who are under twenty-one.

2. Application

A written application must be made to join the Scheme. Some Full and Associate members are not members of the Scheme. If in doubt, please contact the Burial Team or the Subscriptions Team at the synagogue office.

3. Initial payment (entry fee)

A Full or Associate member joining the Scheme is required to pay an entry fee if:

- the member is aged over 70 at the date of joining the Scheme, or
- the member is aged over 50 at the date of joining the Scheme and a subscription subsidy has been approved.

4. Scheme benefits and arrangements

a) The Scheme benefits are available from the date on which the application for membership of the Synagogue is approved provided payment of the first subscription and any entry fee(s) due have been received, or in the case of an existing member who elects subsequently to join the Scheme, on the date of receipt of the relevant additional subscription and any entry fee due.

b) Burials, cremations and funerals are arranged by Liberal Judaism Burial and Cremation Scheme (LJBCS) for The Ark Synagogue and the Scheme benefits only apply if all arrangements are made through LJBCS and The Ark Synagogue using the LJBCS funeral director.

c) The Scheme provides a standard funeral and burial at the cemeteries (see paragraphs 5. and 6. below), or a standard funeral and cremation at the crematoria (see paragraph 7. below). A standard funeral includes:

i) an appropriate funeral director's vehicle

ii) the provision of a small temporary name plate

iii) the services of a member of the Clergy Team and Sexton

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We comply with our obligations to protect personal data. For further information www.arksynagogue.org/transparencynotice. The Ark Synagogue is a member of Progressive Judaism.

d) The Scheme provides the services of a rabbi or an appropriately qualified lay reader to lead one shiva service, and to officiate at an ashes interment or a headstone consecration. The rabbi will normally be a member of The Ark Synagogue Clergy Team but may, exceptionally, be a different rabbi. Additional shiva services may be agreed, subject to availability, at the discretion of The Ark Synagogue Clergy Team.

5. Cemeteries

The Scheme currently uses four cemeteries:

a) Edgwarebury Cemetery, Edgwarebury Lane, HA8 8QP ("Edgwarebury") – LJBCS section only
b) Western Cemetery, Bulls Cross Ride, Cheshunt EN7 5HT ("Cheshunt"), owned and operated by the Western Charitable Foundation
c) The JJBS Woodland Cemetery, including the Lawn section, Bulls Cross Ride, Cheshunt EN7 5PF, operated by the Joint Jewish Burial Society ("JJBS")
d) GreenAcres Chiltern Park, Potkiln Lane, Jordans, Chalfont St Peter, Beaconsfield HP9 2XB

LJBCS is unable to make a commitment that plots will be available at a particular cemetery in the future. Reservations cannot be made in advance except as set out below.

At all the above listed cemeteries, Ark Synagogue members can only be buried in the sections specifically allocated to LJBCS.

6. Cemetery specific rules

a) Edgwarebury Cemetery
    i) All burials, including those for single people, are in double-depth plots. Upon the death and burial of the first of a couple to die the upper part of the double-depth plot is automatically reserved for the surviving spouse or partner. In certain circumstances, and provided that an application is submitted and accepted before the second death, an arrangement can be made for a person other than a surviving spouse or partner to be buried in the upper part of the grave.
    ii) Mixed-faith couple burials are available provided one of the couple is Jewish.
    iii) Ashes can be interred in a new or an existing cremation plot. A surcharge will be payable.
b) Western Cemetery, Cheshunt
    i) All burials are in single depth plots.
    ii) Only Jewish people can be buried in this section.
    iii) Reservation of an adjacent plot is possible only following the burial of the first of a couple. A surcharge will be payable.

c) The JJBS Woodland Cemetery, including the Lawn section, Cheshunt
    i) All burials, including those for single people, are in double-depth plots. On the death and burial of the first of a couple to die the upper part of the plot is automatically reserved for the surviving spouse or partner. In certain circumstances, and provided that an application is submitted and accepted before the second death, an arrangement can be made for a person other than a surviving spouse or partner to be buried in the upper part of the grave.
    ii) “Woodland” burial is available. A surcharge will be payable.
    iii) Mixed-faith couple burials are available provided one of the couple is Jewish.
d) GreenAcres Chiltern, Beaconsfield
    i) All burials, including those for single people, are in double-depth woodland plots and will be subject to one or more surcharges. Upon the death and burial of the first of a couple to die the upper part of the double-depth plot is automatically reserved for the surviving spouse or partner. In certain circumstances, and provided that an application is submitted and accepted before the second death, an arrangement can be made for a person other than a surviving spouse or partner to be buried in the upper part of the grave.
    ii) Mixed-faith couple burials are available provided one of the couple is Jewish.
    iii) Ashes can be interred in a new or an existing cremation plot. A surcharge will be payable.

7. Cremations can be held at:
    a) Golders Green Crematorium, 62 Hoop Lane NW11 7NL
    b) GreenAcres Chiltern, Potkiln Lane, Jordans, Chalfont St Peter, Beaconsfield HP9 2XB
    c) Other crematoria may be used and may be subject to a surcharge

    Note that cremations on a Sunday or a Bank Holiday may be subject to a surcharge.

8. Surcharges and exclusions
    a) Surcharges may apply. A list of current surcharges is available on The Ark Synagogue website or on request to the synagogue office. Updates will be published on the synagogue's website — this will be the official means of notification of change to members — and also in Davar annually.
    b) The following are not paid for by the Scheme but may be arranged and paid for separately:
        i) Interment of ashes in a cemetery.
        ii) An inscribed memorial — to arrange a memorial contact LJBCS for a list of approved providers. Wording on memorials must comply with LJBCS guidelines and will be approved individually. Consecration ceremonies should be arranged with LJBCS and the synagogue's Clergy Team.
        iii) Repatriation of the deceased from outside the UK.

9. Requirement to pay subscription
    a) If any membership subscription is not paid within three months of the due date Scheme benefits are suspended for all members included in the subscription until payment has been received by The Ark Synagogue.
    b) Members are also reminded of the provisions of Article 8.7 of the synagogue's Articles of Association as follows:

        8.7 "If a member shall be six months or more in arrear in payment of his/her membership subscription and shall fail to discharge such arrears within two weeks after being given written notice requiring him/her to do so and setting out the provisions of this Article his/her membership shall forthwith cease."

    c) An Associate Member with an entitlement in the Scheme and whose Full Member spouse or partner has died will be able to continue membership of The Ark Synagogue and the Scheme on payment of the appropriate annual subscription.
    d) An Associate Member who ceases to be in a relationship with a Full Member shall automatically cease to be a member of the Scheme.

10. Refunds
    a) Payments made by or on behalf of a member towards the Scheme are not refundable in any circumstances.
    b) If a member leaves The Ark Synagogue and joins another synagogue that participates in the LJBCS, it may be possible to transfer their Scheme entitlements to the new synagogue or for the former member to remain a member of the Scheme on appropriate payments being made so long as membership of the other LJBCS synagogue is maintained.

Note: Questions concerning the Scheme rules should be addressed to The Ark Synagogue's Burial Team on 01923 537 226 or scheme@arksynagogue.org.