

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Hale & District Hebrew Congregation who pay annual burial fees, are automatically part of our independent burial scheme, entitling them to rest eventually (at the age of 120, we hope) in the Hale Beit Olam (cemetery) in Dunham Massey. The magnificent Ohel (prayer hall) on this site was built in 1997 and consecrated by the then Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks.

Our Chevra Kadisha operates only for the needs of a deceased member of the community who is registered on the Community Burial Scheme. We are not able to be involved if the deceased is being cared for by another community even if they happen to be related to one of our members. Of course, pastoral support for members who have suffered a family bereavement will be provided by the Rabbi and our wider community..

In Hale, we are fortunate to have a Chevra Kadisha group that attends to all the necessary arrangements on our behalf, taking into account all religious and legal requirements.

If you are a member of our community Burial Scheme, it is important that you understand all of the Hale Shule policies regarding burial and its associated costs. Please read the information provided and contact the Shule Office if you have any questions.

Members of our community who are not part of our Burial Scheme are encouraged to ensure that they have alternative arrangements in place, and to advise the Shule Office accordingly.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHABBAT

Please understand that it is not appropriate to break any of the laws of Shabbat in order to inform the Chevra Kadisha of a death. The ability of the Chevra Kadisha to provide immediate assistance is contingent upon what they are able to do within the spirit of Shabbat. With this in mind, please let us know what has happened and where you are and we will try to arrange assistance as quickly as possible. It is not appropriate nor necessary for the family to do anything else at this time. If someone dies at home or in hospital over Shabbat, it is preferable for a Jewish person to remain with the body – if possible until the Chevra Kadisha can be contacted.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

If a member of the Burial Scheme passes away, a member of their family should contact the Rabbi or the Chevra Kadisha coordinators, Linda & Barry Price, as soon as possible. (See contact information).

The Chevra Kadisha will make all necessary arrangements from this point onwards, up to and including the levaya. During this difficult time, the family will be kept updated as frequently as possible.

According to Jewish law, a levaya must take place as soon as possible. This is our religious duty, so the Chevra Kadisha will do everything possible to ensure there is no unnecessary delay. Special arrangements to delay the levaya may be made when waiting for a direct mourner to travel to attend.

In circumstances where the cause of death is unclear, the local Coroner may request an investigation. Because we respect the sanctity of the body, Jewish law does not permit an invasive post mortem if this is avoidable. Instead we can usually request a non-invasive body scan, which will normally confirm the “cause of death” to satisfy all legal requirements ahead of burial. In such cases, our Rabbi will liaise with the Chevra Kadisha and all other relevant parties, such as doctors, the coroner and the police. A body scan will then be arranged by the Chevra Kadisha. (See additional comment below in the Financial section.)

In the event that a member passes away while out of town, the Chevra Kadisha will assist with all necessary arrangements for transportation or repatriation ahead of the levaya. This will often incur additional costs which are not included in your Burial Fund coverage, and must therefore be reimbursed by the family. (See additional comment below in the Financial section.)

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Hale Shule Executive & Council determine the annual cost for members to pay to the Burial Fund. This is calculated and updated in accordance with all known costs that may be incurred and expectation of planned increases in costs. The Burial Fund is not a Burial Society or an undertaker's business.

Only Members of the Shule can have burial rights, and Shule membership is conditional on having an agreed payment plan for Shule membership and burial fees, which is adhered to. Failure to ensure you have a payment plan in place and that payments are up to date, will unfortunately cause your burial rights to lapse.

Your Burial Fund contributions are paid in to a separate bank account from which all community burial costs are paid.

Trafford MBC charges our community a fee for every burial. This fee may vary depending on the day and time of the levaya. We are provided with their new schedule of charges on an annual basis and set your required contributions according to actuarial calculations. Trafford MBC will also add a surcharge if the last known address of the deceased is outside the Trafford area (details of the postcode areas that are covered can be obtained from the Shule Office). Your Burial Fund contributions do not include this surcharge, which will be passed on to the family or estate for payment.

Should a member no longer wish to contribute to the Hale Shule Burial Fund, any fees paid previously are non-transferable. Additionally, your Burial Fund contributions do not provide for the possible costs of a coroner's scan, or for transportation or repatriation of the deceased, so these costs must be paid by the family or estate.



THE OHEL & BEIT OLAM

Our Ohel (prayer hall) and Beit Olam (cemetery) grounds are maintained by the community. This is an additional expense which is covered by your Burial Fund contributions.

SHIVA (MOURNING)

Our Rabbi will advise the family on preparation for the traditional Shiva mourning period. There will be plenty of time to ask questions to help the family to ensure that the Shiva is observed correctly, giving people a chance to pay their respects to the deceased. The Shule Office will arrange for suitable chairs and prayer books to be delivered to the Shiva house.

UNVEILING OF A HEADSTONE (STONE SETTING)

It is important to liaise with the Shule Office in order to set a date for an Unveiling, which is also sometimes known as a Stone Setting, particularly if you wish the Rabbi to attend and speak at the ceremony.



MATZEVOT

It is customary in the UK to place a matzeva (headstone) on the grave approximately one year after the burial. The cost of buying, installing, maintaining and insuring the matzeva is not included in your Burial Fund contributions. These arrangements and the associated costs must be met by the family or estate of the deceased.

There are agreed policies dictating the type and size of the headstone, as well as the style of lettering and the inscription which are appropriate for a matzeva in our cemetery. The Shule Office will advise on the procedure for ordering the matzeva from an approved supplier and the policy guidelines. They can also provide you with details regarding an annual insurance policy and maintenance provision.

Maintenance plans and insurance policies are available from recommended suppliers (see contact details) and we encourage families to take advantage of these discounted policies to ensure that all the matzevot in our Beit Olam are kept in good condition, to maintain the dignity of our cemetery.

IN CONCLUSION

Hale & District Hebrew Congregation Chevra Kadisha members are proud to perform this vital communal mitzvah of taking care of the deceased. Please consider joining us in this true act of chesed (kindness) and finding out more about what we do.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding Burial Fund contributions or the work carried out by the Chevra Kadisha, please contact the Shule Office and your enquiry will be directed accordingly.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Beit Olam (Burial Ground):

Whitehouse Lane, Dunham Massey,
Altrincham WA14 5RH

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| Shule Office | General Enquiries (office hours) | 0161 980 8846 |
| Barry Price | Chevra Kadisha | 07860 462 007 |
| Linda Price | Chevra Kadisha | 07967 731 321 |
| Kennedy Memorials | Matzevot and General Maintenance | 0161 723 3427 |
| Bridge Insurance | Annual Headstone Insurance Policies | 0161 236 6969 |

HALE SHULE BURIAL INFORMATION