

Kingston Liberal Synagogue

Membership Pack
2016





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Kingston Liberal Synagogue

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020-8398-7400 office@klsonline.org

Minister: Rabbi Charley Baginsky (rabbi@klsonline.org/ 07738820660)

Chair: Steve Farrer (chair@klsonline.org)

We look forward to hearing from you soon

B'Shalom, Kingston Liberal Synagogue



Welcome

ברוכים הבאים

Shalom and welcome to Kingston Liberal Synagogue, our community. This information pack has been put together to welcome new or prospective members to our community, to give you an insight to Kingston Liberal Synagogue, and to guide you gently through the practicalities of joining us.

We feel that Kingston Liberal Synagogue is a vibrant, joyful community, actively celebrating Judaism in a progressive context, dedicated to meeting the spiritual, cultural, educational and social needs of our members. We hope that you will choose to join us.

We would like to share with you a brief history of the synagogue, an overview of our aims and a selection of our activities. We have also included up to date application forms and subscription rates and a current edition of Kingston News, our monthly magazine.

The History of Kingston Liberal Synagogue

KLS was formed back in April 1967 with just 50 families. Before we had our own synagogue, we met regularly for services at the Quaker meeting rooms in Kingston. In 1976 we finally moved to Rushett Road which has been our home now for over 30 years. In this time we have grown to a membership of around 400 people and our building is enjoying a major facelift including an extended sanctuary and brand new kitchen.

We rely on our members' energy and efforts to run the day-to-day life of the synagogue and to sit on our elected council and committees.

Liberal Judaism (for more information see page 26)

We are proud members of Liberal Judaism. This means that we enjoy a progressive, modern attitude to our Jewish lives; promoting inclusivity and outreach, placing social action as a high priority and striving to produce meaningful worship and education.



Our Rabbis

Our congregation is currently led by Rabbi Charley Baginsky. Charley takes most of our services, is principal of the religion school and also runs our extensive adult education programme. Charley has been involved in Liberal Judaism for 20 years and has latterly spent several years living in Israel. She has a degree in Theology from King's College London.

We are also proud to have as our Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Danny Rich, who was Kingston Liberal Synagogue's first full-time rabbi, from 1988 to 2004. Danny is now Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism



Our Council

Our synagogue council is made up of dedicated members of the synagogue and led by Steve Farrer. An elected council of synagogue members manage the synagogue's activities and are formally its trustees for conducting its business as a charity. The council meets regularly during the year to plan the development of KLS and to manage its general operation. This includes everything from detailed financial accounts to building plans, organising special events and ensuring that the fundamental objectives of the synagogue are maintained. It is composed of 6 to 16 members elected by the congregation at the synagogue's Annual General Meeting. The offices of Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are also elected at this meeting and other council members take responsibility for specific areas of operation, for example the religion school or facilities.

The council depends on the general membership to participate in the active running of the synagogue and it values the time and effort given so generously by volunteers in helping with areas such as security, religion school and stewarding of services. We also hope that some new members may seriously consider standing for council themselves.



Some of Our Activities

Spiritual

Regular services are held at the synagogue on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. We have special services every month which include a family service, a Chaverah supper service and a choral service where the singing is led by our volunteer choir. We also hold special services for festivals and High Holy Days, when we usually offer a choice of family-style or more formal services. We are often able to offer crèche facilities for the major festivals. In addition, we host a very popular communal Seder for Passover and organise special events for other festivals such as Purim and Chanukah. Services are intended to be inclusive and welcoming, with a mixture of Hebrew and English prayers and songs.

We offer rabbinical and pastoral support for major life cycle events such as the birth of a child, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, Kabbalat Torah, marriage and bereavement. The synagogue runs a funeral insurance scheme which offers a choice of burial or cremation and the availability of plots in our own local cemetery.

Educational

We have an active and vibrant Beiteinu, or religion school (Cheder) which is held at the synagogue on Shabbat mornings during term time. Pupils typically enrol at about age five and progress through a carefully planned curriculum of Hebrew and religious knowledge until age fifteen years. For the years prior to Beiteinu age we hold a weekly parent and child group for 0-5 year olds called Shabbatots. This group offers a range of activities from prayer to singing, art to play, all within a Jewish context as well as offering a chance for parents and children to socialise.

Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation is integrated into the religion school schedule. Many students continue their studies to GCSE Jewish Studies level and then progress to Kabbalat Torah (Confirmation). It is a credit to our religion school teachers that many young members return to the synagogue to teach and take leading roles in the Liberal Jewish Youth Movement (LJY Netzer) both nationally and internationally. We run a very successful and respected Evening Institute for adult education, meeting once a week. Courses vary and have covered the following subjects in the recent past: Hebrew, Jewish Practice, Jewish literature, history and culture including film studies. We also offer adult Hebrew classes and Torah study.



Cultural

Many cultural events are held in the synagogue, such as play readings, musical recitals, discussion groups, guest speakers and inter-denominational and inter-synagogue events. We have an active Doroteinu Group which meets once a month (typically on a weekday afternoon), and which also offers social events, trips and discussions.

There is a volunteer choir which meets regularly to rehearse and expand its repertoire under the guidance of our Director of Music. Music is varied, drawing upon modern cantorial and popular composers as well as the classics of the English and German choral traditions and youth favourites for the family services.

We have a well stocked library and Judaica Shop.

Social

Members of the synagogue organise social activities such as bridge groups, cycling group, matzo rambles, picnics and rounders, quiz evenings, social evenings and much more beside. If there are other activities you feel are missing, you will find encouragement and enthusiasm to make them happen.

This list is not intended to be exclusive but to give you a flavour of our communal life. The current edition of Kingston News is included with this pack to give you a snapshot of the activities of Kingston Liberal Synagogue.

Pastoral

Our Rabbi is more than happy to make pastoral visits, but we also have an excellent group known as 'Keeping in Touch'. KIT is there to help in any way it can with members who are ill, house-bound or have other difficulties. They make hospital and home visits, and also hold social events such as tea parties. They also make sure that good news, such as the arrival of new babies and grandchildren, is shared with the rest of the congregation.

Please feel free to join us for some services and/or activities and then, if you would like to join or to discuss joining, your next step would be to contact our membership secretary who will advise you about the application forms. This is usually followed by a short meeting with our rabbi or the chair of the synagogue council. Your application will then be formally presented to the next monthly meeting of the synagogue's council for approval.

If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us through the synagogue office: telephone 020 8398 7400 or email office@klsonline.org. Or look at our website www.klsonline.org.



Important Membership Information

What now follows is the specific membership application forms and subscription rates. Please do not feel that you have to fill them in immediately. We would like to reiterate that you are welcome to get to know us, our services and have a discussion with our Rabbi or members of council before you make a decision.

The Board of Deputies Levy and Eastern Europe Levy are voluntary and may be deducted if you wish. Those joining part way through the year pay pro rata. If you are paying higher rate of tax we encourage you to opt to pay the higher figure shown on the schedule - which still leaves you better off than the standard rate tax payer, after allowing for the tax recovery you will obtain. Item 1 includes a tax recovery form (Gift Aid) which we expect everyone paying standard or higher rate of tax to sign.

Membership provides full cover, via our insurance scheme, for normal burial and funeral expenses. We usually use our burial area in the Elmbridge cemetery at Long Ditton, just a few minutes from the synagogue. Membership also provides for the services of our Rabbi.

We have introduced the category of **Affiliate** for the non-Jewish spouse or partner of a member. We also have the category of **Friend** for non-Jewish people who wish to be closely associated with KLS.

We recommend that you buy our main prayer book for Sabbath services which is the Siddur Lev Chadash. Our High Holy Day prayer book is also available. Please contact the office for prices. The Siddur was the first to use gender -neutral language with regard to God and humans. It also contains 53 themes based on each of the weekly Torah portions, they include a wide range of sources ranging from Talmud to Midrash, from Khilal Gibran to Mahatma Gandhi.

If the cost of the burial scheme and/or Synagogue membership is likely to be a problem which might deter you from joining please feel free to contact our Chair, Steve Farrer (call the office for contact details) or Rabbi Charley Baginsky.

If you wish to discuss membership further, please contact the Rabbi or a synagogue council member; the office will be able to arrange this for you should you so wish.



Kingston Liberal Synagogue **Members' Funeral Insurance Scheme**

What is the scheme in a nutshell?

KLS members pay an annual funeral insurance premium, additional to their basic membership subscription. In return, the insurance scheme covers the basic expenses of a funeral, i.e. the **undertaker's basic charges and the local authority's cemetery charges. Additionally, KLS offers ministerial services and other support to the member's family.**

Why does the scheme exist?

Many years ago, KLS achieved an agreement with the Elmbridge local authority that a section of the Long Ditton cemetery, in Rectory Lane - close to the synagogue, would be maintained as a Jewish cemetery and KLS members would be eligible for burial there as if they were Elmbridge residents. The availability of this local cemetery made it unattractive for KLS to participate in **Liberal Judaism's funeral scheme, which uses a cemetery in North London.**

Historically, KLS contracted with an external insurer to provide funeral insurance for members. When the external insurer announced a significant increase in annual premiums, KLS members agreed at a general meeting to maintain an independent private insurance scheme.

What benefits does the scheme provide?

The benefits of the scheme divide into (i) expenses covered, and (ii) provision of support and services.

(i) expenses covered:

The scheme pays for: doctor's fee for certification of death; the undertaker's basic funeral charge, including coffin and hearse; charges for cremation or interment; a burial plot – but only if at Long Ditton Cemetery.

(ii) support and services

The scheme designates an approved undertaker who is able to properly assist with a Jewish funeral. **The KLS Rabbi provides pastoral support and advice to the member and the member's family.** The Rabbi and the KLS administrator provide ongoing advice and assistance, primarily: liaising with the approved undertaker to ensure safe removal and good care of the body; liaising with the doctor and arranging of the death certificate; liaising with hospital, hospice, coroner, as appropriate; liaising with the crematorium or cemetery; arranging the funeral; being a point of contact for the family. KLS provides a service leader, if the family wishes: for funeral prayers, for burial, for Shiva prayers, for a later stone setting. The KLS building is available for prayers and may be used, without hire charge, for a reception if not already in use at that time.

What benefits does the scheme NOT provide?

Families may wish for funeral arrangements additional to what is listed above. The KLS scheme will try to accommodate these additional arrangements wherever possible but the additional cost must be paid for by the family. Examples could include: **mourners' cars; flowers; additional bearers;** extra mileage costs; additional costs incurred due to the funeral being outside the M25; a Rabbi other than the KLS minister; headstone; burial of cremation ashes; burial not at Elmbridge; adjacent burial plot for spouse (see Note C in the scheme regulations); catering costs and other expenses of a reception at KLS. Also, families will have some obligations, for example registering the death, where KLS can offer advice but cannot normally take on the obligation.



Kingston Liberal Synagogue **Members' Funeral Insurance Scheme**

Do I / we really need this scheme?

This question might not arise if the annual funeral insurance scheme premium were absorbed within the basic KLS membership subscription. Members would then benefit from the scheme without being immediately aware of its costs. However, it is precisely because the scheme offers substantial benefits that it must be separately costed in order to remain within UK legal guidelines for charities. In particular, it could breach those guidelines if Gift Aid was claimed on the cost of funeral provision. For these reasons, KLS Council has judged that it is necessary to separately identify the costs of the funeral insurance scheme.

The main costs of funeral provision are undertaker's charges and local authority charges. These have risen rapidly in recent years and may rise further. Protecting one's family from these costs seems like a good idea. Commercial funeral insurance schemes are available but are much more expensive than the KLS scheme.

In terms of value-for-money, a member who paid the current funeral scheme premium annually **for 40 years would have paid in total an amount that just about covers the undertaker's charges.** The scheme, of course, offers far more than this.

Nevertheless, a KLS member who already has a life insurance scheme in place might feel that the scheme is not worthwhile for them personally. There are two counter-arguments. Firstly, although the scheme is costed separately, it is a normal part of KLS membership and it is this membership that provides the support and services listed above. The second argument is that by agreeing – as a KLS General Meeting did, that we should have a funeral insurance scheme we are, as a community, jointly engaged in one of the most important Mitzvot – providing for the needs of the deceased and bereaved.

Is the scheme available to non-members?

The scheme is only available to KLS members, their spouses / civil partners if affiliated, and their dependent children. Members who leave KLS also leave the scheme. Because it is an insurance scheme, premiums are not repayable; a portion of any lump sum paid by member who are aged 55 or above when joining may be repaid. (See paragraph 2 of the scheme regulations.)

Who is in charge of the scheme?

The scheme is managed by KLS Council. Questions regarding the scheme can be addressed, directly or via the KLS office, to the council's Honorary Secretary.

What are the scheme's formal regulations?

The scheme's formal regulations are determined by KLS council and amended by council from time to time. The current formal regulations are shown below.

Dated: 28-Nov-12



Kingston Liberal Synagogue **Members' Funeral Insurance Scheme**

Prepared by Council and ratified by AGM, April 2008

Amended since by Council – see Note B

Dated: 28-Nov-12

1) All paid-up **KLS members and affiliates and members' children under the age of 16 years** are covered by the Scheme. Persons aged 55 years or above on first becoming members of KLS may elect, at the time of beginning membership, to not participate in the scheme but it is otherwise normally a condition of membership.

2) Members and affiliates pay an annual fee to benefit from the Scheme. Those who are aged 55 years or above on joining KLS and who elect to participate in the scheme are required to additionally pay a lump sum to enter the scheme. This lump sum is currently set at £75 per year for each year of age in excess of 54 years, viz:

age	amount	age	amount	age	Amount
55	£75	58	£300	65	£825
56	£150	59	£375	70	£1200
57	£225	60	£450	75	£1575
				etc	@£75 per year

3) In addition to the services of the current KLS minister, the Scheme provides:

- A) EITHER the cost of a plot in the KLS local cemetery and all burial arrangements OR the cost of a weekday standard cremation, and
- B) The cost of a basic funeral in any location bounded by the M25¹, to include: provision of a hearse, removal of the body as necessary, last rites and costs of sexton and gratuities.

4) Members not in the Scheme will, unless they wish otherwise, be provided with the services of the current minister of KLS. They may also elect to have all arrangements made through KLS, but must provide for the cost of these.

NOTES

- A) *For a couple sharing household membership, the lump sum entry fees, if relevant, will be assessed separately for each individual.*
- B) *(Ratified by AGM, 2008) The terms of the Scheme may be varied at any time by the Council of KLS.*
- C) *Normally, burial is in depth with the spouse. If this is not acceptable, the cemetery authorities may agree to reserve a neighbouring plot on payment, in advance, of their designated fee.*

¹Or adjacent as KLS council may determine, currently limited to Bullsmore Lane Cemetery



KLS Subscriptions for 2016

A) For members who have signed a Gift Aid Certificate:

	Single Members	Married Couple/ Household
Higher Rate Taxpayers	£537	£1,019
Other Members	£409	£779

B) For members who have not signed a Gift Aid Certificate:

Members who have chosen to not sign a Gift Aid Form although paying tax (e.g. those that pay from charitable funds) are asked to pay at a level which equates their contribution to that of others, viz:

	Single Members	Married Couple/ Household
Higher Rate Taxpayers	£662	£1,256
Other tax-paying Members	£503	£956

Notes:

- i) The above figures include funeral/burial/cremation insurance of £72 per couple, £36 per adult person.
- ii) All figures include Board of Deputies Levy at £13 for single and £21 for household and East Europe Levy at £5 for single and £10 for household. Members are encouraged to pay these levies, but either can be omitted.

C) Former Student member under 30: A sliding scale between student and full rate will operate.

D) Student: The student rate for 2016 will be £61 per year.

E) Affiliate Rate For Non-Jewish Spouse Or Partner Of A Member: The Affiliate rate is the difference between the single rate and the household rate. If a member is already paying household rate, the affiliate rate is zero.

F) Friend Rate: **The Friends' rate for 2016 will be £192 per year.**



Membership Application Forms



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Council of Kingston Liberal Synagogue

I/We (name/s) _____ (Mr,Mrs,Miss,Ms,Other)

Of (address):

Postcode: _____

Email address(es): _____

Home Tel No: _____

Mobile Tel. Nos.: _____

Date(s) of birth:

Occupation(s)

being Jewish, wish to join Kingston Liberal Synagogue and agree to pay the annual subscription of the congregation and herewith attach the sum of £.....(or standing order), being the first payment of the **Single/Couple/Household/Student Rate** (please delete as appropriate) paid at the **Standard Tax /Higher Rate Tax/Agreed contribution** in respect of the subscription for the period from to December 31st of 2016.

Signature/s.....



Would you help us please by answering the following questions:

How did you hear of us? _____

What specifically attracted you?

The full names and dates of birth of my/our family (under 16 years of age) are as follows:

.....

<p>PRAYER BOOKS PURCHASED</p> <p>Please insert number required:</p> <p>Siddur Lev Chadash (£26 each)</p> <p>Machzor Ruach Chadashah (£22 each)</p>	<p>Preference (<u>not</u> binding) for:</p> <p>BurialCremation</p> <p>If continuing membership of another Funeral/ Burial Scheme, please give details:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Please return this form to the Synagogue Office or Rabbi

Seen by:		Status:		Date accepted:	
55+ on joining		Payment Method			
Gift Aid offered		Gift Aid completed			
Copy to		Subs		Finance	



Important Information for Affiliate Members

An Affiliate will be entitled to:

High Holyday Tickets at no charge

Full Pastoral Care

Funeral and Burial/ Cremation Insurance cover at no extra charge, providing they are under 55 on joining (for those over 55 and under 70, please contact the office)

Full use of all KLS facilities at the same charge (if any) as is applicable to members

Membership of all non-religious committees of the Synagogue.

An Affiliate will not be entitled to:

Vote at General Meetings

Serve on Council

Serve on committees which are mainly concerned with religious matters.



APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

To the Council of Kingston Liberal Synagogue

I (name) _____ (Mr,Mrs,Miss,Ms,Other)

Of (address)

Post Code: _____

Email address: _____

Home /Mobile Tel. No.: _____

Date of birth: _____

Occupation

being married to, or a partner of,a member of Kingston Liberal Synagogue, agree to pay the agreed annual subscription for an Affiliate and herewith attach the sum of £....., being the first payment/standing order in respect of the subscription for the period from to December 31st of 2016.

DateSignature

Please return this form to the Synagogue Office or Rabbi

For Office Use Only



Important Information for Friends

A Friend will be entitled to:

High Holyday Tickets at no charge

Full use of all KLS facilities at the same charge (if any) as is applicable to members

Membership of all non-religious committees of the Synagogue.

A Friend will **not** be entitled to:

Vote at General Meetings

Serve on Council

Serve on committees which are mainly concerned with religious matters.

Burial facilities



APPLICATION TO BECOME A FRIEND

To the Council of Kingston Liberal Synagogue

I/we (Names).....(Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, other)

of (address)

.....

.....

Tel No. Email

Date/s of Birth

Occupation

being, non-Jewish, wish to support Kingston Liberal Synagogue by becoming a FRIEND and agree to pay the relevant annual subscription and herewith attach the sum of £....., being the first payment/ standing order in respect of the subscription for the period from to December 31st 2016.

DateSignature

Would you help us please by answering the following questions:

How did you hear of us?

What specifically attracted you?

PRAYER BOOKS PURCHASED

Daily/Shabbat Siddur (£22 each)

HH Siddur (£19 each).....

Seen by:

Status:

Date accepted by Council

Covenant form:

Offered:

Completed:

Please return this form to the Synagogue Office or Rabbi

Gift Aid Form



GIFT AID DECLARATION TO KINGSTON LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE (“KLS”)

Please treat all Donations and Annual Subscription payments I have made to KLS in the past 4 years and all such payments I make hereafter as Gift Aid Donations:

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Address:

Postcode: _____

Note: Please remember to notify KLS, if:

1. You change your name or home address
2. Want to cancel this declaration
3. In any tax year, you no longer pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donations/annual subscriptions (currently 25p for every £1 you give).

Standing Order Form



STANDING ORDER 2016

THIS IS NOT A DIRECT DEBIT AND NEEDS TO BE PROCESSED EVERY YEAR

Name of Your Bank.....

Address of Branch

.....

Branch Sort Code

Your Account No.....

Debit my Account in accordance with the following and pay to the Account of:

Kingston Liberal Synagogue (00013775),
CAF Bank Ltd., Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA (40-52-40)

Quote reference:
(Insert Surname)

On next line insert one-seventh of total:

The sum of £ (figures).....(words)

on the 1st day of May, June, July, August, September, October and No-
vember 2016 or as soon thereafter as possible.
(Last payment date is 1st November 2016).

Signature

Date

Name of Your Account (CAPITALS)

Your address (CAPITALS)

.....

.....



WE WOULD REALLY LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!



The community feels that it would really like to know a little bit more about its members in order to help them get the most out of the Synagogue and for the Synagogue to get the most out of its members. Therefore, if you would just take a few minutes to fill out the following questionnaire we would really appreciate it.

Name:

Male

Female

Age Group

Under 21

Occupation:

Leisure Activities?

Would you be interested in any of the following? If yes then please circle.

Adult Education

Israel Orientated Activities

Amateur Dramatics

Play Readings

Bridge Club

Rambles

Council of Christians and Jews

Social Activities

Cycling Club

Theatre Outings

Discussion Group

Parent and Toddler Group



Could you help in any of the following ways? If yes then please circle.

Auditing/ Accounts

Reading in services — English only, Hebrew only, either

Board of Deputies

Leading Services—Friday only, Saturday only, either

Catering

Religion School—teaching, administration

Singing: Choir or Individually or another capacity (perhaps teaching? workshops?)

Shabbatots (group for parents and under 5s)

DIY (care for the synagogue building or grounds)

Social Activities

Fundraising

Liberal Judaism

Israel Committee

Synagogue Magazine

Library

Welfare—transport, contacting members, visiting members

Kitchen Cleaning Rota

Youth Club

Synagogue Office Cover

School Visits

Progressive Judaism in Europe

Security Co-ordination

Note: All able bodied members are expected to join the Kiddush and Security Rotas.

Please let us know if you have any other comments and suggestions:



Data Protection Statement

Information about you provided in your application form will be stored on our computer files. This data will be available to the rabbi and council members of KLS, and to selected staff where appropriate. It may be made available to other members of KLS on application and only for specific purposes approved by Council (eg security or communication).

Your personal data will be used primarily to enable effective communication with you and for planning purposes to enable the rabbi and officers to enhance the activities and provisions KLS offers to its members. Your information will not be released to any third parties.

By completing this application form, it is deemed that you accept these terms for the sharing of information. Please contact the office if any of your information needs to be updated.

Photographs

From time to time we publish photographs in promotional/informative material (internet website, Kingston News, RS Newsletter) produced by the synagogue. It will be assumed that you would approve publication of such photographs of you and/or your family unless you inform us otherwise.



Liberal Judaism was founded in 1902 with the gathering of approximately 300 people in the banqueting suite of the Great Central Hotel in London. Liberal Judaism had revolutionary beginnings and has sustained that sense of pioneering spirit through the last hundred years, ensuring that we are still a movement of living Judaism. Initially, it was a mixed choir, men and women sitting together, Hebrew and English liturgy and a harmonium. Today it is full equality for men and women in both ideology and practice, the welcoming of all Jews and their families, inspirational liturgy and a modern, vibrant Judaism that embraces both tradition and modernity.

From humble beginnings we have grown to a movement that contains over thirty congregations, a strong body of rabbis, an established institution for both rabbinic and lay educational training, a thriving youth movement and a professional administration. However, in the words of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, it still retains at its heart a combination of “respect for our Jewish heritage with positive acceptance of modern knowledge and due regard for the realities of the world in which we live.” This means that there is always an emphasis on ethical conduct above ritual observance, an affirmation of each individual’s freedom to act responsibly in accordance with the dictates of informed religious conscience, a pride in combining our Jewish heritage with full participation in the civic life of this country and an awareness of our duty not only to the Jewish people and to the State of Israel but also to the entire human family.

It is because of this that Liberal Judaism is the growing edge of Judaism. It values education and reverence of the past but acknowledges that it must always be ready to be innovative, breathing life into tradition so it can also become the future.

We have included an Affirmations booklet which explains a little more about the specific beliefs of Liberal Judaism, for example the 22 items which we share with Orthodoxy; and 20 where we differ., as well as the new Liberal Judaism publication, ‘Compelling Commitments—A New Approach to Living as a Liberal Jew.’ by Rabbi Elizabeth Tikva Sarah.