

SWHC

**SOUTHEND & WESTCLIFF
HEBREW CONGREGATION**

MEMBERS HANDBOOK



**SOUTHEND & WESTCLIFF
HEBREW CONGREGATION**
FINCHLEY ROAD
WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA
ESSEX SS0 8AD

OVERVIEW

This document is intended as a summary of membership benefits for Southend & Westcliff Hebrew Congregation.

In addition to containing information in respect of membership fees and what those fees cover, this document also provides details of the various activities and communications available to members, as well as a list of useful contacts.

Should you have any questions which are not covered by the information contained within this booklet, you can contact the Synagogue office at shuloffice@swhc.org.uk

Tel: 01702 344900

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1 - INTRODUCTION

A brief history

Our friendly, welcoming, and diverse community was established in 1906 and from humble beginnings in Westcliff the original Shul was located in Ceylon Road. Several years later we expanded to an additional site in Alexandra Road, Southend. Our current site, in Finchley Road, Westcliff was opened in 1968 and has served our community ever since.

Our Mission

Our mission is to support the Jewish faith by maintaining an Orthodox Synagogue in Westcliff-on-Sea, a district of the City of Southend-on-Sea, performing marriage and burial rites according to tradition, and educating members and their children on its beliefs and practices.

2 - MEMBERSHIP FEATURES

a - Religious Services

Our Synagogue provides a centre for our prayers, worship and for the activities associated with the Jewish faith. Services are held every Sabbath (Shabbat) Friday evening and Saturday mornings with additional services on High Holy days and Jewish festivals. There is a regular morning service (Shacharit) on Mondays and Thursdays.

- Friday Night services are usually held in the Beit Hamedrash, located on the first floor of the main Shul building. For times, please see the weekly newsletter.
- Shabbat morning service begins at 9:30am and is held in the main Shul followed by a Kiddush.
- Morning Minyans every Monday and Thursday
- A wide range of services for all High Holy Days and Festivals

b - Kiddushim

Kiddushim are organised by our Ladies Guild on Shabbat and High Holy Days. Sponsoring a kiddush is a wonderful way to celebrate a simcha or mark any meaningful life event. It brings the community together in joy and creates a warm, shared moment in honour of your occasion. Should you wish to sponsor a kiddush please contact the Ladies Guild Chairperson via the Shul office.

c- Mikveh

The Mikveh in Genesta Road is run by our local Chassidic Community. To book a visit please call the Westcliff Kehilla Mikveh Line

☎ 0333 006 4583

d - Mechitzah

There is a Mechitzah in the Shul for those ladies who find the stairs to the ladies gallery a challenge.

e - Eruv

There is an Eruv in Westcliff and surrounding areas including Southend Hospital. The map of the Eruv area is displayed on our SWHC Website

f - Southend Hospital Prayer Space

There is a prayer room at Southend Hospital. Kosher food for Jewish patients, families and staff is available and the space is regularly stocked up. Shabbat essentials are also provided

g - Cheder

Cheder classes teaching pupils up to Bar(Bat)mitzvah are led by our Rabbi. Please contact the Shul office for details and to register your child.

h - Kosher Shop

A kosher supermarket situated in the Talmud Torah building, adjacent to the main Synagogue, serves all the community's needs for meat, deli and baked goods, as well as a selection of pre-cooked items. The shop is open 6 days a week, Sunday to Friday. See our weekly newsletter for opening times.

i - Events and Social

At SWHC we have a regular programme of events and social clubs – a small number may be free of charge, but most are chargeable albeit at discounted rates for members.

Events include (but are not limited to):

- i. Social events and clubs
- ii. Fundraising events
- iii. Communal Seder
- iv. Public Menorah lightings throughout Chanukah
- v. Purim Party
- vi. Succah and events programme
- vii. Simchat Torah celebrations
- viii. Ladies Guild meetings and social programme
- ix. Choral Midnight Selichot Service
- x. Shalom Friendship (Monday) Club
- xi. Canasta Group
- xii. Pilates Group
- xiii. Care in the Community
 - a. Pop-In Social
 - b. Bereavement Group
- xiv. Rabbi's Learnings
 - a. Gemara Shiur
 - b. Ladies Discussion Group

j - Venue Hire

At Finchley Road Shul we have a large Banqueting suite with its own supervised kosher kitchen. We can cater for weddings, barmitzvahs and other simchas, as well as being a convenient location for meetings, social and charity functions. Should you wish to make a booking, please contact the Shul Office – shuloffice@swhc.org.uk

k - Communications

Our community website contains a lot of useful information, and also has a secure section for members – please take the time to visit the website and also to register so that you can access the Members' section: <https://swhc.org.uk>

In addition to the website, we produce a free quarterly magazine 'Community Voice', which contains articles and information about local and national events, simchas and mazel tovs. We also offer the opportunity for local businesses to advertise their services – please contact the Shul office for rates and print deadline information: shuloffice@swhc.org.uk.

A weekly newsletter containing information on religious services, sidras and candle lighting times is issued via email on a Thursday. Members often sponsor the newsletter for forthcoming family simchas. It is also possible to sponsor a leaf on the Tree of Life sited in our Shul Hall To ensure that you receive this information, please keep the Shul office informed of your up-to-date email address.

A weekly "round-up" email is circulated with information of all events, social activities .

Notifications of bereavements (Levayahs and Shivahs) are circulated on an ad hoc basis due to the need for this information to be communicated in a timely manner.

l - Board of Management

The Board consists of four executives. Chairman, Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, supported by up to eight trustees, plus two Wardens. All are honorary positions. Executive and Wardens roles are three-year terms. Other trustees must seek re-election after two years. The AGM is usually held in May.

A full list of the current incumbents including staff, hours of work and their roles, can be found on our website: www.swhc.org.uk

3 - YOUR MEMBERSHIP

SWHC offers full family, full single, country, associate and youth memberships.

a - Membership Levels

- **Full:** Open to those who opt to join our burial society.
 - **Country:** For those living more than 15 miles outside of the city boundary and wish to remain in the burial society
 - **Associate:** For those wishing to maintain their affiliation without the benefits of the burial society. Of benefit to those whose burial membership has been retained at another Synagogue or society.
 - **Youth:** Children living at home with parents or guardian or in full time education are covered at the same membership level without charge
- Upon age 21 not in full time education, all individuals must subscribe in their own right.*

Membership subscription is based on family or single rates.
Contact the Shul Office for current prices

b - Paying for your Membership

Membership subscriptions are due in full annually on 1st June. For convenience, we operate an optional easy payment instalment plan for quarterly or monthly payments. Members are sent requests for payment of membership fees from the Honorary Treasurer, with the relevant forms and details of how to pay.

Membership and burial fees fall due in full on 1st June each year. Our easy payment plan simply spreads the cost, but it does not change the date on which the fees become payable.

c - Over Age Membership (Late Joiners)

Those who wish to enrol into full membership including burial rights, are charged an entry fee on a sliding scale based on age. Price on application to the Shul Office.

d - Difficulty Paying for your Membership

Paying your fees on time and in full ensures that your membership is valid. Full consideration will be given to reduce or defer a member's subscription fee in cases where financial hardship can be proved. If you wish to discuss your circumstances, contact the Shul office in the first instance and arrangements will be made for you to meet with the Treasurer in full confidence to discuss the matter.

4 - STOCK ROAD CEMETERY AND BURIAL FUND

The community has for many years had its own cemetery at Stock Road in Southend. The first burial was in 1962. Membership of the burial society is open to full or country members. Burial fees are an optional addition to Synagogue membership subscriptions. SWHC has an agreement with the United Synagogue to transfer-in burial fees less a charge for administration from them. Regrettably there are no transfer arrangements with any other affiliations.

The community has its own Burial Society (Chevra Kadishah) and the men and women work on a voluntary basis. In addition to their duties at the Beth Olam, the Chevra Kadishah also assist in arrangements for Shivah wherever necessary. If you would like to find out more about joining our Chevra Kadishah volunteers, please contact the Shul Office.

a - Burial Scheme

The Stock Road cemetery is segregated into various blocks. In the event of a death, the Shul office will determine which plot will be allocated, which is usually in strict order. Should members wish to reserve a desired plot, for example in a preferred block or next to a deceased loved one, there is an option for burial fund members to reserve a plot of their choice. A one-off fee is payable at time of reservation. Reservation costs range from £250 to £600 dependent on location selected. Prices at time of printing are subject to ongoing review. A cemetery plan is available in the Shul office and online for any member who wishes to explore this option.

b - Non-Member Burial

Facilities exist for non-member and associate member burials upon application to the Shul office. Our staff will be able to offer information on plot allocation and fees. Fees are charged at commercial rates for this service.

You may wish to enquire about transferring your membership from the United Synagogue to SWHC.

Stock Road Orthodox Jewish Cemetery Southend



5 - USEFUL INFORMATION

Administration

Shul Office	shuloffice@swhc.org.uk
Chairman	chairman@swhc.org.uk
Vice Chairman	vicechairman@swhc.org.uk
Secretary	secretary@swhc.org.uk
Treasurer	treasurer@swhc.org.uk
Rabbi	rabbi@swhc.org.uk
Office Telephone	01702 344900
Registered Address	Finchley Rd., Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 8AD
Cemetery	Stock Road, Southend-on-Sea

Social Media

Shul Website	www.swhc.org.uk
Facebook Groups	Southend & Westcliff Hebrew Congregation
	Jewish Southend

Kosher Shop

Blu�berry Kosher Shop Run by the Charedi community	Located in Talmud Torah building adjacent to the synagogue site 01702 419111 ~ 07812 085781
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Charitable and Benevolent Organisations

Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 477 0808 www.citizensadvice-southend.org.uk
City of Southend Jewish Community Support. - Financial help for the Southend Jewish Community	01702 965518 info@cosjcs.org.uk www.cosjcs.org.uk
Jewish Care	0208 922 2222 www.jewishcare.org
JAMI – The Mental Health Service for the Jewish Community	020 8458 2223 www.jamiuk.org
Work Avenue – employment options/guidance/advice for the Jewish Community	020 8371 3280 www.theworkavenue.org.uk
Paperweight Trust – guidance on legal, financial and welfare issues for the Jewish Community	0330 174 4300 www.paperweight.org.uk
Haven Community Hub - Hosting a number of Age Concern services for the elderly but also open to all members of the community, irrespective of age or ability	Under the auspices of Age Concern 138-140 Hamlet Ct Rd, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 7LW www.ageconcernsouthend.co.uk/the-haven-community-hub 01702 345373



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