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## **JA Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, 1807 - 2006**

### **Administrative History**

The archive of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation contains a wealth of information about Jewish life in Birmingham and about the Jewish community's involvement in the arts, social work, politics, business and many other aspects of life in the city from the early nineteenth century to the present day.

The community dates from at least the early eighteenth century. There are several Jewish names in rate books dating from 1730 and in 1780, the Birmingham historian William Hutton briefly described a synagogue, 'In the Synagogue, situated in the Froggery, they still preserve the faint resemblance of their ancient worship. Their whole appurtenances being no more than the drooping ensigns of poverty. The place is small, but tolerably filled where there appears less decorum than in the Christian churches.' (Levine, p. 2)

Fifty years later, the oldest surviving records in the archive show signs of greater prosperity. The Congregation had built a synagogue in Severn St, which was consecrated in 1809, employed a rabbi, Isaiah Phillips, and a butcher, and owned a cemetery. The first minutes in the collection, which date from 1826 (JA/1/A/1/1) record a special meeting of the Congregation's governing Committee of five men, held 'for the purpose of taking into consideration what charge should be made to Mr Michael for burying his child'.

The Committee was elected annually by the 'free members' of the Congregation. Free membership was restricted to those who paid more than a shilling a week in membership fees and who had lived in Birmingham for more than a year. During the nineteenth century, the Congregation's Laws were revised so that more people became eligible to sit on or elect the Committee, which was instead called Council. (See JA/1/A for more detailed information about the history of Council.)

An important milestone in the history of the community came in 1839, when David Barnett, a prominent businessman, campaigner for Jewish civil rights, and member of Council became the first Jew to be elected to the Birmingham Town Council. He was allowed to swear an oath of office omitting the words 'on the true faith of a Christian,' since... 'his religion strictly commanded Israelites that wherever they might be, they were duty bound to support the establishment of that country.' (Levine, p. 16)

David Barnett was among several members of the Congregation who founded the Birmingham Hebrew School (see JA/1/C). In 1840, the synagogue gave an annual grant and the use of the vestry in the Severn St synagogue for a school, which met there until 1843, when, with great celebration, a new building was opened in Lower Hurst St. At this time, the rabbi of the congregation, who was usually known as the Minister, was also the Secretary to the Congregation and Headmaster of the Hebrew School. Later, the posts were separated; in 1860, the Headmaster of the Hebrew School and Secretary to the Congregation was one post, and the Lecturer and the Minister was another. The Headmaster's post was split from the Secretary's post in 1904.

The school provided a focus for some of the Congregation's charitable work. The Hebrew Educational Aid Society (MS 2539) raised money to subsidise schoolbooks, clothing, and apprentice children to businesses in the city; this was one of several charitable organizations

set up during the nineteenth century. See Related Material for a list of these charities. By the early 1850s, Birmingham's Jewish population had increased to about 700 or 140 families, and the Synagogue Council was 'energetic and out for change'. (Newman) Synagogue finances were revised, but the attempts to develop a suitable system caused some controversy, since the level of membership payment determined whether members had the right to vote and where they sat in the synagogue. At first, a committee was set up to assess members and decide how much they should pay. This system proved very unpopular, and was probably one cause of the first brief division in the Congregation, which took place in 1853, when a group led by AT Louis and I Blankensee set up a separate synagogue in Wrottesley St. In 1856, the assessment system was replaced; seats in the synagogue were rated instead and members applied in writing for a seat at a price of their choice. The Wrottesley St Congregation returned in 1856 to the new Singers Hill Synagogue, built in an elaborate Italianate style by the young Birmingham architect Henry Yeoville Thomason, and described in the press at the time as 'a glory to the community and an ornament to the town' (see <http://www.singershill.com/architecture.htm>).

The first Annual Report of the Congregation dates from 1854. This shows that several sub-committees had been set up to take responsibility for various aspects of Jewish life. These were Council, the Finance Committee, the General Purposes Committee, the School Committee, and the Burial Board. Council minutes of the same period mention a Bread and Rice Committee and a Meat Committee, although these are not listed in the Annual Report. This structure has changed very little since then; today, the main synagogue committees are Council; the Finance and General Purposes Committee; the Foundation Managers' Committee and Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee, successors to the School Committee; and the Buildings Committee. There is more detailed information about the history of these committees at series level (see JA/1/A-P).

Birmingham's Jewish community had always been proud of its unity, and until the end of the nineteenth century, apart from the brief division in 1853, Singers Hill was the only synagogue in the town. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Jewish population was again increasing rapidly, as persecution in Russia brought a new generation to Birmingham; by 1900, the population had increased to around 3200. The newcomers found Singers Hill 'cold and unfriendly' referring to it as the 'englische shul' [synagogue] and wanted a building where they could worship in a different style. Around 1901, a group of about 90 people set up the Wrottesley St Beth Hamedrash (house of study), the ancestor of today's Central Synagogue on the Pershore Rd. Another Beth Hamedrash in Holloway Head was registered for religious worship in 1894 and became known as the New Synagogue (see JB). The governing Council of Singers Hill was clearly keen to retain its influence over the community, however; its archive contains several versions of agreements between Singers Hill and the Wrottesley St Beth Hamedrash, which require the Beth Hamedrash to apply annually to Singers Hill for the right to hold services, among other conditions (see JA/2/K/2/1).

The new synagogues reflected the class divisions within the community. Although the area between Hurst St and Holloway Head was known as the working-class Jewish area of the city, by this time, some of the more prosperous members of the Congregation had moved out to the fashionable areas of Edgbaston and Moseley. A member of the community interviewed for an oral history project in the 1980s recalled, 'There was east side Birmingham and West Side Birmingham, believe me there was! There was the 'Hagley Rd' set and the rest of Birmingham Jews. The Hagley Rd set had got 'it' and the rest were nobody. There wasn't any mixing, none.' ('Proper Jewish Lives', p. 21, JA/2/H/6)

Although the Congregations in the city worshipped separately, they worked closely together in what they called 'communal life'. The Birmingham Shechita Board, which oversaw the supply of kosher meat in the city, was set up in 1891, as a sub-committee of the Council of Singers Hill, but became, after some debate, a city-wide body in 1920 (see MS 2529). The Cemeteries Committee (JA/1/F) and the Chevra Kadisha Committee (JA/1/G), which were responsible for keeping the laws regarding death and funerals, included representatives from all the synagogues in the city. The Birmingham Jewish Welfare Board, which was set up in 1922, combined many of the nineteenth-century charities into a single organization.

Another aspect of communal life was the arts and social clubs. The first records of these societies survive from the late nineteenth century. Edward Lawrence Levy, a teacher, athlete, and amateur actor recalled 'I established the first Jewish Dramatic Club and the members of it made their debut at a Purim party'...this was on March 26 1872 and it ran a long and successful course for years.' ( E.L. Levy, 'Birmingham Jewry 1870 & 1929', p.26) Other clubs included the Jewish Arts Society (MS 2520), which was particularly noted for its Dramatic Section, the Jewish Literary Society, and by the mid-twentieth century, other youth organizations such as the Young Israel Society (MS 2523) and the Birmingham Jewish Youth Council (MS 2522).

The community expanded again in the 1930s, as Jews fled from Germany and Eastern Europe. This expansion, with the growth of Jewish arts societies and clubs, led to a need for more space in the synagogue and new facilities. Accordingly, a major fundraising project known as the Communal Scheme was set up, which raised over £25,000 to extend the synagogue, build a new hall for clubs and societies, and move the Hebrew School to a new site in St Luke's Rd. The scheme was completed in 1934.

In 1935, the Birmingham Liberal Jewish Synagogue was established. Its synagogue was in Sheepcote St, but it will move to a building in Bishopsgate St in 2006. Many members of the community served during the Second World War and there is a tablet in their honour at the entrance of Singers Hill. By the end of the War, the old Jewish area had disappeared, and the population was scattered more thinly across the city, reaching a maximum of 6300 in 1947.

Singers Hill celebrated its centenary in 1956 by adding stained glass windows to the synagogue, building a children's synagogue at the side of the main Singers Hill complex, and altering the Communal Hall. A centenary history was written by a local historian, Harry Levine (see JA/2/G/6).

From the 1950s, many Jews left Birmingham for the larger communities in London or Manchester, or emigrated to Israel, and the population began to decline from its peak of 6300 to around 2300 in 2001. New Jewish institutions grew up in the suburbs: the Solihull and District Congregation was established in 1962, worshipping at a synagogue on 3, Monastery Drive, Solihull; and the King David School moved to a new site in Moseley in 1966. Following the closure of the New Synagogue, a synagogue opened at the King David School. As the Jewish population aged, new facilities were provided to care for the elderly; the community opened Tudor Lodge, a residential home, in 1955, the Joy Silverstone House in 1972, and a Home for the Elderly in 1993.

The New Synagogue merged with Singers Hill on 1 January 1997 and in the mid-1990s Singers Hill and Central held talks about merger, although no decision was reached.

The community has given much attention to its history; prominent among its historians is Zoe Josephs, who published three volumes of community history called 'Birmingham Jewry'; 'Survivors', which collected stories of refugees from Nazi Germany; and many other books and articles. Her research notes are available in the archive (see MS 2524), with two other collections of personal papers belonging to Dorothy Gillman (MS 2525) and Constance Davis (MS 2526).

Despite the decline in population, Birmingham still sustains a vibrant Jewish life, with a variety of institutions, clubs, and charities serving the community, many with roots in the old charities and organizations established in the nineteenth century. The Congregation's history has been summarised in this way: 'There took place a gradual shift of emphasis from a tiny minority religious grouping, only interested in its own survival, to a more extrovert anglicised community happy to be part of the larger society surrounding it... The result is that Birmingham Jewry today is in many ways directly comparable to its predecessor of 1851 and is still basically organized in the same way. However, it also exhibits the peculiar tensions of our own time and in some ways these have been uneasily grafted upon the older institutions and ways of life.' (Newman)

### **Arrangement**

The archive deposited by Singers Hill Synagogue includes records created by the synagogue and records from the many clubs and societies organized by the Jewish community. Since the membership of these clubs and societies was drawn from the other synagogues in the city, not just from Singers Hill, their archives have been listed as separate collections. See Related Material for a list of these collections.

The arrangement of the Singers Hill synagogue archive aims to reflect the administrative structure of the synagogue. The papers are divided into two groups: minutes and other records created by the Council and its sub-committees, including the committee that managed the Hebrew School; and administrative records created by the Secretary and the other staff employed by the synagogue. The papers within these groups are arranged either chronologically or by record type, as indicated.

JA Birmingham Hebrew Congregation

JA/1 Records of Council and its Sub-Committees

JA/1/A Council

JA/1/B Finance, Seat, and General Purposes Committee

JA/1/C The Hebrew School, (later King David School) and its management committees

JA/1/D School Properties Committee

JA/1/E Buildings Committee

JA/1/F Cemeteries Committee

JA/1/G Chevra Kadisha

JA/1/H Synagogue Guild Committee

JA/1/J Channukah Committee

JA/1/K Cultural Committee

JA/1/L 125th Sub-Committee

JA/1/M Sefer Torah Committee

JA/1/N Managing Trustees' Meetings

JA/1/O Functions Committee

JA/1/P New Synagogue Merger Committee

JA/2 Records of the synagogue office  
JA/2/A Secretary's correspondence with Congregation staff and officers  
JA/2/B Secretary's correspondence with the synagogue membership and with external organizations  
JA/2/C Marriage registration  
JA/2/D Death and burial registration  
JA/2/E Records of synagogue services  
JA/2/F Photographs  
JA/2/G Publications produced by the Congregation  
JA/2/H Other published material  
JA/2/J Plans  
JA/2/K Deeds and agreements  
JA/2/L Financial records: General Fund  
JA/2/M Financial records: Cemetery Fund  
JA/2/N Miscellaneous

## Description

Papers of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, mainly relating to Singers Hill Synagogue and the Hebrew School/King David School. The archive includes minutes of the committees which governed the synagogue including Council, whose minutes date from the 1820s and are the oldest in the collection, the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Cemeteries Committee, the Chevra Kadisha or burial society, and other short-term committees.

School records include minutes of the School Committee and its successors, the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee and the Foundation Managers' Committee, log books, admission registers, and visitors' books, some dating from the 1860s. Correspondence about the school also appears in the Secretary's papers.

There is a large collection of correspondence belonging to the Secretary of the synagogue which includes material relating to synagogue administration including membership payments, seat allocation, staff pay and conditions, the upkeep of the Congregation's buildings and cemeteries, and events.

Marriage and death registration records include marriage registers dating from 1837 and death registers dating from 1871, burial certificates and cemetery plans. There are plans of the synagogue, the schools, and other buildings owned by the Congregation.

Ledgers, cashbooks, and other records of synagogue finances date from the 1930s. Files created by the Congregation's solicitors include records of investments, property deeds, and agreements with the other Jewish congregations in Birmingham.

Photographs in the collection date from the 1940s and are mainly of official dinners, services, and other events.

There is some published material: orders of service, annual reports, copies of the Congregation's Laws, and material published by other Jewish organizations.

Published: Zoe Josephs, 'Birmingham Jewry', vols I-III (Birmingham 1984);

Aubrey Newman, 'A Portrait of Birmingham Jewry in 1851'; available online at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/Community/Birmingham2.htm>;  
Harry Levine, 'History of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation' 1956 Birmingham City Archives JA/2/G/6;  
Arthur Chesses, 'History of Birmingham Jewry' available online at <http://www.brijnet.org/birmingham/history.html>;  
W.B. Stephens (ed), 'A History of the County of Warwick Volume VII: City of Birmingham' pp. 483-485 Other Religious Bodies: Judaism available online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

### **Related Material**

This is one of several collections deposited by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation. Most of the material deposited relates to Singers Hill Synagogue (JA), but there is also a small collection of records from the New Synagogue, Park Road (JB), which merged with Singers Hill in 1997. The archive also contains records of the Birmingham Jewish Arts Society (MS 2520), Birmingham Youth Council (MS 2522), Young Israel Council (MS 2523), Birmingham Shechita Board (MS 2529), Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid Society (MS 2539), and the personal papers of the historian Zoe Josephs (MS 2524). The personal papers of Dorothy Gillman (MS 2525) and Constance Davis (MS 2526) were also deposited by the Congregation.

The Honorary Archivist to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation has transcribed and indexed some of the records in the archive; this includes an index of burials in the Congregation's cemetery at Brandwood End, which is particularly useful for genealogy (see MS 2635).

Other collections held by Birmingham City Archives which may be of interest include Birmingham and District War Refugees Fund (MS 652), which includes minute books, registration forms, and correspondence, and may include information about Jewish refugees; records of Henry Yeoville Thomason (MS 1460), which include architectural drawings of Singers Hill Synagogue; personal papers of CB Lander (1904-1989), including family papers about naturalization, Jewish friends, and Jewish affairs and history (MS 1515); microfilms of minutes of the Birmingham Hebrew Philanthropic Society, the Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid and Clothing Society, the Ladies Benevolent Board, and the Board of Guardians (MS 1678); and papers of Dr Carl Chinn (MS 1902), which contain some material about the Jewish community in Birmingham, including several autobiographies. Birmingham Central Library Local Studies and History holds material about the Jewish community including a set of Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Yearbooks, 1913-1971; an Order of Service held to celebrate the opening of the Birmingham Hebrew School at St Luke's Rd, Edgbaston, May 1, 1932.

Access: Partially closed. Records containing personal information about adults are closed for 80 years; those relating to children are closed for 100 years as required by the Data Protection Act. Records relating to the Congregation's recent administrative affairs are closed for 30 years; financial records are closed for 50 years. Please see individual catalogue entries for specific closure periods. If a closure period is not listed, the records are open.

Copyright: With depositor unless otherwise indicated.

Condition: Records are in good condition unless otherwise indicated.

### **JA/1 Records of Council and its sub-committees, 1826 - 2000**

This section of the catalogue brings together all the records created by Council and its sub-

committees, with the exception of the Shechita Board, which supervised the butchers who supplied kosher meat to the Congregation. Although the Board was originally a sub-committee of Council, it became a separate organization in 1920, and has therefore been listed as MS 2529.

### **JA/1/A Council, 1826 - 1978**

Council is the governing body of the Congregation.

According to the 1963 Laws of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation (JA/2/G/8), Council is composed of 21 elected members. Seven are elected annually; vacancies are created by the retirement of the seven longest-serving members of Council, who may offer themselves for re-election. Council elects from its members the President, Vice-President, and the Chairman of Council. It also elects the Chairmen of the various sub-committees of Council: the Chevra Kadisha (burial society), the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Choir Committee, the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee, the Cemeteries Committee, the Buildings Committee, the School Properties Committee, and the representatives of the Congregation on the Birmingham Shechita Board, which oversees the supply of kosher meat. For more information about the history and remit of these committees, see JA/1/B-P and Birmingham Shechita Board (MS 2529).

The Council has the power to make laws, appoint the Minister, clerical staff, and a Secretary and Assistant Secretary according to the provisions of the Marriage Act, and appoint Auditors and the Trustees of the Congregation's property and investments.

### **The history of Council**

The earliest minutes in the collection show that in the 1820s the Congregation was governed by a President and Vice-President, plus a group of usually five men, known as 'the Committee'. The Committee was elected annually by the 'free members' at one of the half-yearly general meetings. The Committee often included the outgoing President and Vice-President. It met quarterly to check the Congregation's accounts and also held special meetings when required; this might be to agree burial or marriage fees, grant poor relief, or settle disputes between members of the Congregation or staff.

'Free members', who paid over a certain amount in membership fees, had the right to vote and sit on Council. The amount of membership fees paid also determined where a member could sit in the synagogue. In 1851, it was decided that 'the present system could cause inequalities and bad feeling between rich and poor members, did not produce a steady income, and 'was totally subversive of that decorum which should pervade the house of G-D', and several attempts were made to revise it.

A Special Finance Committee was appointed in 1851 to devise a new system. Three Committees of members were appointed to make the assessments, and the Secretary then issued a circular advising them of their decision. A collector was engaged to extract the money. There was a right of appeal. The assessment systems proved very unpopular and were probably one reason why some of the congregation decided to leave Singers Hill for a separate synagogue in Wrottesley St in 1853. A letter sent to the Chief Rabbi at the time complained of the 'supremacy of money' and that 'poor Jews worshipped almost on sufferance' (see JA/2/N/3).

From the 1850s, General Meetings include both seatholders and free members.

On 26 April 1853, the rules regarding membership payments and the election of Council were changed and the following resolutions were agreed:

'that any person residing in town for 12 months and who has paid an assessment of less than 1 shilling per week may become a Free Member, subject to the Ballot or being proposed and



seconded in Writing one month previous to the Annual Meeting by 2 free members not in Arrears and on payment of 3 Guineas;

Any person who has resided in the Town for 3 years and paid an assessment of not less than one shilling per week during the whole of that period is entitled to become a free member subject to an open vote for his admission without the payment of any fee, on applying for same, one month previous to the Annual General Meeting;

The Government of the Congregation is vested in a Council of 14 free members whose assessment at the time of their appointment may not be less than 1/6 per week.'

In 1856, the system was changed again. Minutes of a meeting held on 13 April 1856 passed new Laws which called 'the present system of assessment...unequal and unjust' and ordered that it be repealed from the date of occupancy of the New Synagogue (Singers Hill). Instead, seats in the synagogue were classified and rated: the most expensive gentlemen's seats cost 6/- per week and the cheapest 6d per week, while ladies' seats cost between 2/- and 6/-.

Members were given a copy of the seat plans and asked to fill in a form applying for seats. A ballot was then held to determine who should sit where. On 23 April 1867, numbers on Council were increased to 20.

## Description

Names, some dates, and many words relating to Jewish customs are in Hebrew in the early volumes of this series. There are references to employment of staff (in 5589 Israel Levy was given a month's notice and in 5592 Mr Chapman was engaged as Minister), to taxing kosher meat, to altering the Laws and the election of new sub-committees, including the appointment of a Poor Relief Board in 1853 and a Cemetery Committee and Bread and Rice Committee in 1867. By 1854, a General Committee, a Finance Committee, a School Committee, and a Relief Committee are meeting.

### JA/1/A/1 Minutes of Council, 1826 - 1978

The minutes are mostly in English, but names, some dates, and words relating to Jewish customs are in Hebrew. Rough copies of part of this series are catalogued as JA/1/A/4. See MS 1768 for microfilm copies of minutes from 1826-1883 and 1894-1912.

JA/1/A/1/1      Minute book      1826 - 1841

Enclosed, booklet entitled 'Laws of the New Beth Chaim, in conjunction with the Beth Hamedrash, Holloway Head, Birmingham', listing laws relating to a burial society, undated.

Microfilm copy catalogued as MS 1768.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/A/1/2      Minute book      1841 - 1859

There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.

Microfilm copy catalogued as MS 1768.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/A/1/3	<u>Minute book</u> There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.  Microfilm copy catalogued as MS 1768.  Extent: 1 Volume	1859 - 1872
JA/1/A/1/4	<u>Minute book</u> There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.  Microfilm copy catalogued as MS 1768.  Condition: Poor. Extent: 1 Volume	1872 - 1880
JA/1/A/1/5	<u>Minute book</u>  A microfilm copy of part of this volume is catalogued as MS 1768.  Extent: 1 Volume	1880 - 1890
JA/1/A/1/6	<u>Minute book</u> There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.  Microfilm copy catalogued as MS 1768.  Extent: 1 Volume	1890 - 1899
JA/1/A/1/7	<u>Minute book</u> There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.  Microfilm copy catalogued as MS 1768.  Extent: 1 Volume	1899 - 1904
JA/1/A/1/8	<u>Minute book</u> There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.  Microfilm copy catalogued as MS 1768.  Extent: 1 Volume	1904 - 1912
JA/1/A/1/9	<u>Minute book</u> There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.  Extent: 1 Volume	1912 - 1924
JA/1/A/1/10	<u>Minute book</u> There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.	1925 - 1943

Access: Closed until 01/01/2024. Condition: Poor.  
Extent: 1 Volume

- JA/1/A/1/11 Minute book 1943 - 1953  
There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2034.  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/A/1/12 Minute book 1953 - 1969  
There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2050.  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/A/1/13 Minute book 1969 - 1978  
There is a subject index at the beginning of the volume.  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2059.  
Extent: 1 Volume

**JA/1/A/2 Attendance Registers for meetings of Council, 1874 - 1966**

Years 1896-1906 are missing.

- JA/1/A/2/1 Attendance Register 1874 - 1895  
Condition: Poor.  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/A/2/2 Attendance Register 1907 - 1945  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/A/2/3 Attendance Register 1945 - 1966  
Extent: 1 Volume

**JA/1/A/3 Attendance Registers for sub-committees of Council, 1909 - 1970**

Includes meetings of the Buildings Committee, Finance Committee, and other meetings.

- JA/1/A/3/1 Attendance Register 1909 - 1970  
Extent: 1 Volume

**JA/1/A/4 Draft minutes of Council, 1855 - 1924**

This series is the rough copy of Council minutes. The fair copy is catalogued as JA/1/A/1. There are gaps in this series for the years 1861-1864 and 1875-1875.

- JA/1/A/4/1 Minute book 1855 - 1861  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/A/4/2 Minute book 1865 - 1870

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/A/4/3 Minute book 1871 - 1874

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/A/4/4 Minute book 1877 - 1892

Condition: Poor.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/A/4/5 Minute book 1891 - 1894

Condition: Poor.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/A/4/6 Minute book 1894 - 1900

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/A/4/7 Minute book 1901 - 1924

Condition: Poor.

Extent: 1 Volume

### **JA/1/B Finance, Seat, and General Purposes Committee, 1861 - 1989**

The Finance, Seat and General Purposes Committee consists of the past members of the Executive, if members of the Council, the elected Life Members, and not more than eight other members of Council. The 1963 Laws of the Congregation list the functions of the Finance, Seat, and General Purposes Committee as follows:

- to supervise and regulate all accounts and books belonging to the Congregation;
- to receive applications for membership and to allot seats in the Synagogue, and supervise and manage all matters relating to these seats and the payment of membership dues;
- to fix the scale of fees for Marriages, the charges for interment in the burial grounds of the Congregation, the fee payable to Watchers under the Chevra Kadisha Law, and the scale of capitation fees payable to the Chief Rabbi's Fund.

The Committee's duties have not changed a great deal since the late nineteenth century; the duties listed in a meeting held on 13 November 1881 are very similar to the 1963 Laws:

The Finance, Audit, and General Purposes Committee shall consist of 6 members of the Council and the honorary and immediate past officers, the Treasurer to act as Chairman. The Committee shall meet monthly to audit the accounts of the Treasurer and Collector, and such other accounts as may be presented. They shall also receive applications for and allot seats in the Synagogue. They shall provide name plates for such seats, the cost to be charged to the occupant, and no other plates to be used. They shall also decide on any charge that may become necessary to be made for interment in the Burial Grounds of the congregation. They shall have discretionary power to enforce payment of all arrears at such time and under such circumstances as they shall deem proper.

The Finance Committee and the General Purposes Committee are mentioned in the Congregation's first Annual Report of 1854, when they were operating as separate committees. They were combined some time in the early twentieth century.

### **JA/1/B/1 Minutes of the Finance, Seat, and General Purposes Committee, 1861 - 1989**

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, with occasional minutes of the Seat Committee and the Audit Sub-Committee. Subjects discussed at meetings include inspection of the annual accounts, paying bills, dealing with applications for seat rent and arrears of seat rent, and setting staff salaries.

JA/1/B/1/1	<p><u>Minute book</u>          At this point, the Finance Committee and the General Purposes Committee are separate. The volume also includes minutes of the Bread and Rice Committee, the Committee for Revising and Printing the Laws, the Choir Committee, and the Meat Committee.          Enclosed in minutes of 18 October 1874, four letters concerning seat rental, 1875.</p> <p>Extent: 1 Volume</p>	1861 - 1881
JA/1/B/1/2	<p><u>Minute book</u>          The Congregation's accounts for March-August 1898 are enclosed in the minutes of a meeting held on 24 October 1898.</p> <p>Extent: 1 Volume</p>	1861 - 1899
JA/1/B/1/3	<p><u>Minute book</u></p> <p>Extent: 1 Volume</p>	1899 - 1904
JA/1/B/1/4	<p><u>Minute book</u></p> <p>Extent: 1 Volume</p>	1904 - 1926
JA/1/B/1/5	<p><u>Minute book</u>          Access: Closed until 01/01/2080.          Extent: 1 Volume</p>	1926 - 1989
JA/1/B/1/6	<p><u>Minute book</u>          Access: Closed until 01/01/2080.          Extent: 1 Volume</p>	1989 - 1999

**JA/1/C The Hebrew School (later King David School) and its management Committees, 1860 – 1991**

According to a speech made during the Banquet celebrating the opening of the Hebrew School, the school came into existence when several members of the Congregation, including the businessman David Barnett 'were led to reflect on the forlorn and neglected condition of the children of our faith, whom they had noticed idling about the streets of this busy town.' (Levine, p. 39). They decided to donate ten pounds each to establish a school, and called a special meeting which included prominent members of the Synagogue. At this meeting, held in November 1840, the synagogue agreed to give £25 a year to the school and granted the use of the vestry of the synagogue, then in Severn St, for 5 years.

By November 1841, there were over 70 pupils at the school, the boys being taught from nine until twelve and from two until five o'clock daily, except on Wednesday afternoons, when the girls were taught Hebrew.

In August 1843, land for a new school was purchased in Lower Hurst St, and the foundation stone of the school was laid by Sir Moses Montefiore. This event was widely reported in the press and celebrated at a dinner which was attended by many prominent people in the town, including Wesleyan, Unitarian, and Roman Catholic clergy.

According to its Laws, which were published in 1844, the school was established 'for the study of the Hebrew language and literature, of the classics, mathematics, French, English, writing, arithmetic, and all the usual subjects embraced under the head of a commercial education.' Boys had to be over five years of age to attend; girls, who were only given religious instruction for two half days per week, attended from the age of six. There were three masters: the headmaster, who had to be Jewish, with a knowledge of both Hebrew and secular subjects; the second master, who had to be able 'to impart a sound classical and English commercial education' and the third master, who was required to teach the junior classes the 'rudiments of Hebrew and English'. The headmaster was paid £180 a year and the second master £80 a year. The staffing was the same in the 1850s: In the 1850s, 'The teaching was on the so-called 'simultaneous system', i.e. the Headmaster taught the Upper class, the other master the second class, while both jointly supervised the third class; although the rules allowed for a third master one was not apparently appointed.' (Newman)

The school was funded by subscription; subscribers included the Synagogue, NM Rothschild and Sons, and over 70 individuals from all over England. Some of the children paid fees; in 1840, the school charged 1/- a week for boys and 6d for girls, but children could also be admitted free by application to the School Committee.

The School Committee had thirteen members, six of whom retired annually in rotation. The Committee elected a President, Treasurer, and Secretary, and every subscriber paying two guineas was eligible for election. It dealt with all aspects of the school's management including financial affairs, the employment of staff, admissions, disciplinary action, organizing the annual examinations and prize giving, maintenance and repair of the school buildings.

In 1848, management of the school was transferred to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and the school was managed by a committee made up of six elected subscribers and the Synagogue Council.

In 1853, a branch school was set up to give instruction to girls and junior boys. Girls, who had been taught only Hebrew before this, were now able to learn reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, geography, grammar, history, and needlework.

Although the school had a good reputation in the 1840s, by the 1850s, it had deteriorated. In the 1860s, it was revived, following the appointment of new staff, the building of a new school room in 1863, and the introduction of a new Code of Laws in 1859.

The new Laws stated that the school was to be managed by a Committee of 24: twelve elected by the Synagogue Council and twelve by the Birmingham Hebrew Educational Aid Society (see MS 2539 and MS 1678) Every week, 3 members of the committee would visit the

school and enter comments in the Visitors' Books, which date from 1860.

A new school structure was set up, which divided the school into three: the Upper School for fee-paying boys; the Lower School for free boys or boys who paid 3d per week; and a third school for girls which ran on the same terms as the boys. From this time, girls were separated from boys. The Upper School took boys from the free school if they showed 'good conduct and progress in studies'. The Hebrew Educational Aid Society paid their fees. Free places at the school were advertised on the door of the synagogue and the children and their parents had to appear before the School Committee, who would vote on each candidate.

In the 1840s, the school attracted children from all social classes in the city, but by the 1860s it was seen as a charity school for the poor. Wealthier Jewish families sent their children to non-Jewish schools such as King Edward's School and provided religious education at home.

In 1867, the school was put under government inspection and received a grant. From this time, it was regularly inspected. Summaries of the Inspector's Reports appear in the school Log Books, which survive from 1867 onwards. Fees were altered so that the pupils paid weekly amounts varying from a penny to six pence a week, according to the means of the parents. During this time, an extra boys' class was set up, the schools were opened for another half day per week and average attendance increased from 130 to 206.

The character of the school did not change until the end of the Second World War. It was still looked upon as a charity school for the poor. The School Treat was a popular tradition at the school which began in 1897 and is frequently mentioned in Log Books and minutes. In the summer, the school went on an outing to Sutton Park, while in the winter, the Director of the Alexandra Theatre invited them to a special matinee of the Christmas pantomime.

In 1903, following the Balfour Education Act of 1902, the School Committee's attendance book shows that the Committee was replaced by two committees: the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee (see JA/1/C/2) and the Foundation Managers' Committee (see JA/1/C/5). The Foundation Managers are appointed by Council, with the Chief Minister as an ex-officio member. The number of managers is determined by the Education Act currently in force. The Congregation still elects Foundation Managers of the King David School.

Until 1904, the Headmaster of the school was also the Secretary to the Congregation.

A School Properties Committee, responsible for maintenance of the school buildings, was set up in 1953 and lasted until 1973, when the Buildings Committee took over its work (see JA/1/E).

### School buildings

From 1840-1843, the school was held in the vestry of Severn St synagogue. The first school building was in Lower Hurst St. Its foundation stone was laid by Sir Moses Montefiore in 1843 and was celebrated with an official dinner. In 1856, the school moved to a building next to the new Singers Hill Synagogue. Another building, the New Infant School, was built in 1899 at the corner of Blucher St and Gough St, using money left to the Congregation by Albert Bremer. It opened on 7 September 1901. 'The 'big' school attached to the Synagogue consisted, on the ground floor, of a large hall divided into three classrooms by flimsy curtains (Birmingham Jewry vol II, p. 141)

In the 1930s, as part of the Communal Scheme rebuilding project, the Congregation's offices and school buildings were remodelled. A new school was built on a site at St Luke's Road, opening on 1 May 1932. The old school building next to the Synagogue, which became known as 'the Communal Hall', was used as an assembly hall and as offices for the Congregation. The Communal Hall was later renamed the Joseph Cohen Hall.

In 1966, the school moved to a new building in Moseley and was renamed the King David School.

The King David School web site address is <http://www.kingdavid.bham.sch.uk/>

Information from Zoe Josephs, 'Birmingham Jewry. Volume II', published Birmingham (1984), pp. 129-141.

### Arrangement

This part of the catalogue brings together records created by the school administration during the running of the school.

Correspondence about purchase of the school site, deeds relating to the school, and other correspondence about the school created by the Secretary, President, and other officers of the Congregation is listed with the Secretary's correspondence (see JA/2/A/1).

References to the school appear in the Council minutes from 1840 onwards (see JA/1/A/1).

### JA/1/C/1 Minutes of the School Committee, 20 August 1868 - 15 March 1903

There are no surviving minutes for the period March 1875- August 1882.

JA/1/C/1/1	<p><u>Minute book</u> Subjects discussed in the meetings include receiving applications for admission to the school, which include lists of names, ages, and fees paid by pupils, and whether the pupils are admitted; recruitment of Pupil Teachers and other staff; receiving the reports of the Headmaster and Headmistress, which are not attached to the minutes; arranging examinations and prize distribution; appointing visitors to the school.</p> <p>Extent: 1 Volume</p>	20 August 1868 - 3 February 1875
JA/1/C/1/2	<p><u>Minute book</u> The meetings include discussions about recruitment and dismissal of teachers and teachers' salaries; organizing and awarding school prizes; reports from the Headmaster and external inspectors; employment of Pupil Teachers; arranging the School Treat; numbers of children taking and passing exams; attendance figures; maintenance of school buildings; and charities who make clothes for the schoolchildren.</p>	17 September 1882 - 15 March 1903



Extent: 1 Volume

**JA/1/C/2 Minutes of the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee, 1915 – 1955**

The Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee (or Hebrew and Religious Instruction Board) consists of 10 members elected annually by Council, but not necessarily from its own body, with the Chief Minister and Assistant Minister as ex-officio members. According to the 1963 Laws of the Congregation, the Committee is responsible for providing religious instruction to children in schools throughout the City and for organizing barmitzvah and batmitzvah, children's services, teacher training, Chanukah Service, and prize distribution.

The Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee and the Foundation Managers Committee replaced the School Committee in 1903.

The Committee's accounts appear in the Congregation Yearbooks. An attendance book, which includes meetings of the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee and the Foundation Managers' Committee, has been listed as JA/1/C/7.

Draft minutes of the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee, which contain some earlier minutes dating from 1905-1910, have been listed as JA/1/C/6.

JA/1/C/2/1	<p><u>Minute book</u>          The first meeting in the volume refers to minutes of a previous meeting held on 27 June 1915, which have not survived.          The minutes include reports written by the Chief Minister to the Congregation following his annual inspections of religious teaching.          Access: Closed until 01/01/2056.          Extent: 1 Volume</p>	1915 - 1955
JA/1/C/2/2	<p><u>Minute book</u>          Access: Closed until 01/01/2089.          Extent: 1 Volume</p>	1955 - 1988
JA/1/C/3	<p><u>Headmaster's Monthly Reports</u>          Bound volume of printed forms recording information about school attendance and pupil numbers, including the number of pupils who have left the school (name, address, standard, age, and reason for leaving), number of scholars receiving lessons in cookery and manual instruction, and reports on the staff, the state of studies, comments made by the Managers who have visited the school during the month, and other remarks. Not all the categories are consistently filled in.          Access: Closed until 01/01/2028.          Extent: 1 Volume</p>	31 December 1895 - 04 March 1927
JA/1/C/4	<p><u>Headmaster's reports</u></p>	14 May 1905 -

Exercise book of reports given by the Headmaster of the Hebrew School to an unnamed Committee of the Council of the Hebrew Congregation, probably the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee. 19 September 1920

The book includes statistics and reports about attendance and teaching in the Hebrew School, including staff illness and absences, examining children in Hebrew, progress made by the Pupil Teachers, numbers of children attending the synagogue and attending classes on Sundays, notes of comments made by visitors to the school and scholarships won by pupils, and descriptions of the annual school excursion.

Enclosed with the report for 11 February 1906: letter from Moses Berlyn, Secretary, Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee to Lawrence J Libgott, Headmaster, Hebrew School, asking him to include information about the progress of the pupil teachers preparing for the Hebrew Examination at the Jews College, London and figures for attendance of schoolchildren at the Synagogue on Sabbaths in his reports, 12 February 1906;

Enclosed with the report for 9 December 1906: lists of numbers on the roll at the Infant Department, 1905-1909;

Enclosed with report for 23 June 1912, note of numbers attending Sabbath and Sunday classes, 1919

Enclosed with report for 17 February 1918: note of numbers attending Sabbath and Sunday classes, 1916; blank form to be sent to parents after a child is absent from school for them to note the reason for absence, undated; blank form to be sent to parents after a child has been absent from school on a Sunday, undated.

Enclosed with report for 7 September 1919: note of numbers attending Sabbath and Sunday classes, 1919.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2021.

Extent: 1 Volume

### **JA/1/C/5 Foundation Managers' Committee, 1903 – 1991**

Minutes of the Foundation Managers' Committee including discussions about recruitment and payment of school staff; maintaining school buildings; discipline and the use of corporal punishment; school prizes and organizing the annual School Treat.

JA/1/C/5/1

#### Minute book

1903 - 1944

From 1923, typed copies of the School Inspector's reports are attached to the minutes.

There are several loose documents enclosed with the minutes:

p 47, Report of Council 1860, which notes that the separation of the boys' school from the girls' school is planned to take place on 1 May 1860.

p 397, correspondence between the Congregation and the

City of Birmingham Education Office concerning numbers of staff at the Hebrew School: the Education Office has ruled that there are too many staff and orders the school to dismiss one of the teachers; the Congregation disagrees and explains why staff numbers should stay the same, 2 November 1923 - 29 November 1923

p 400, Letter from P Innes, Chief Education Officer to Dr A Cohen concerning the retirement and replacement of teachers, 7 December 1923

p 412, Letter from PHB Inglis, Secretary, Board of Education, enclosing a report about the Hebrew School, 25 November 1926

p 422, Letter from FE Cotton to Dr A Cohen concerning the dismissal of the Hebrew School's caretaker, 17 March 1927

p 505, Letter to Dr A Cohen from the Education Officer, Joint Emergency Committee for Jewish Religious Education in Great Britain, enclosing a document entitled 'Memorandum on the Problem of Jewish Non-provided Schools', 9 February 1943.

JA/1/C/6 includes rough minutes of the Foundation Managers' Committee, which duplicate the fair copy minutes.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2025.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/C/5/2

Minute book

1945 - 1991

Access: Closed until 01/01/2092.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/C/6

Draft minutes of the Foundation Managers' Committee and the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee

28 June 1905 -  
29 November  
1910

Bound volume of draft minutes of the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Board and the Foundation Managers' Committee. The minutes of the Foundation Managers' Committee in this volume are duplicated in the fair copy minutes of the Foundation Managers' Committee, which are catalogued as JA/1/C/5. There are also minutes of occasional meetings of the Ladies and Helpers' Dinner Fund, which raises money for school dinners.

Enclosed with the minutes of 27 November 1906, letter from Gertrude Dale to Moses Berlyn apologising that she is unable to distribute the school prizes; with the minutes of 20 January 1907, letter from Lawrence J Libgott to GJ Emanuel requesting leave of absence and asking that the extra money he is paid for teaching the Pupil Teachers date from September 1905, not December 1906, 1907; with minutes of 27 April 1907, letter from W. Taylor to Moses Berlyn giving news of his wife's health following an injury and asking Mr and Mrs Berlyn to call on her, 27 May

1907.

The draft minutes of the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Board begin on 30 July 1905 and end on 9 October 1910.

These are not duplicated in the fair copy minutes, which begin in 1915 and are catalogued as JA/1/C/2.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2011. Condition: Fair.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/C/7

School Committee attendance book

08 November

The book lists the dates of meetings and the signatures of the Committee members attending. Until 1903, it refers to meetings of the School Committee. From May 1903, it records attendance at two committees: the Hebrew and Religious Instruction Committee and the Foundation Managers' Committee.

1896 - 02

March 1949

Extent: 1 Volume

**JA/1/C/8 Visitors' Books, 1860 - 1941**

JA/1/C/8/1

Visitors' Book

16 December

Many of the visits were made by members of the School Committee. The book lists the date of the visit, the name of the visitor, and occasionally a sentence or paragraph written by the visitor about the school.

1860 - 24

April 1877

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/C/8/2

Visitors' Book

28 August 1901

The book lists the name of the visitor and the date of the visit.

- 03

December

Access: Closed until 01/01/2042.

1941

Extent: 1 Volume

**JA/1/C/9 School Log Books, 1867 – 1927**

An extract from the Revised Code of Regulations printed at the front of the Log Book states that 'The Principal Teacher must daily make in the Log Book the briefest entry which will suffice to specify either ordinary progress, or whatever other fact concerning the School or its Teachers, such as the dates of withdrawals, commencements of duty, cautions, illness, &c, may be required to be referred to at a future time, or may otherwise deserve to be recorded.'

The Log Books are kept by the Headmaster of the Hebrew School.

Information noted in the log book includes comments about attendance levels, and if attendance is low, the reason why; notes about the progress of the Pupil Teachers, their punctuality, and any absences; comments on lessons; notes of punishments and the reasons for punishments; notes recording visits made to the school by the School Foundation Managers; notes about examinations and prizegiving, including names of prizewinners; lists of teachers' names and the standard they teach.

The book also includes lists of pupil names and copies of School Inspectors' Reports.

- JA/1/C/9/1 Log Book 03 June 1867 -  
02 April 1886  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/C/9/2 Log Book 04 April 1886 -  
13 April 1927  
Enclosed, p 122 Agenda for a Meeting of the Birmingham Certified Class Teachers' Association, 25 June 1904; p 181 copy of Adjudicator's Notes judging a performance given by the Hebrew School at the Midland Competition Festival Society, 1922; letter to Moses Berlyn from the Committee of Council of Education forwarding him his Certificate, 1868; enveloped addressed to Moses Berlyn, undated.  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2028.  
Extent: 1 Volume

### **JA/1/C/10 Admission Registers: Infants, 1867 - 1931**

- JA/1/C/10/1 Admission Register 1867 - 1876  
The register is printed in columns: a page for information about enrolment and a page for withdrawal. The admissions page lists: admission number, name, date of admission, age, residence, occupation of parent, schools attended before, under what standard last examined, and in what class at enrolment. The withdrawal page lists: in what class at withdrawal, time in school, date, age, and reason for leaving.  
Not all the columns are filled in.  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/C/10/2 Admission Register 1910 - 1931  
The register lists admission number, date of admission, date of re-admission, child's name in full, date of birth, address, whether exempt from Religious Instruction, measles, name of parent or guardian, name of last school, attendances made in this school, date of last attendance, and cause of leaving. Not all the columns are filled in. There is an index of names and admission numbers at the front of the volume, listed alphabetically by family name.  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2032.  
Extent: 1 Volume

### **JA/1/C/11 Admission Registers: Girls, 1906 – 1978**

The registers list the admission number, date of admission, date of birth, address, whether exempt from religious instruction, name of parent or guardian, the last school attended, the date of last attendance, and the cause of leaving. Not all of the columns are filled in. There is an index of names and admission numbers, listed alphabetically by family name, at the beginning of each volume.

- JA/1/C/11/1 Admission Register 1906 - 1932  
Loose, enclosed is a slip of paper certifying that a child is unable to attend school, 1933  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2033. Condition: Poor.  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/C/11/2 Admission Register 1932 - 1964  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2065.  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/C/11/3 Admission Register 1965 - 1978  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2079.  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/C/12 Admission Registers: Mixed 1897 - 1906  
The register is printed in columns under three headings: admission, progress, and withdrawal. Within the admission section, there are columns for recording admission number, date of admission, date of re-admission, child's name in full, date of birth, name of parent or guardian, address, whether exempt from Religious Instruction, name of school, highest standard there presented, stages of specifics there presented. The progress section has columns for recording years in which presented in this school at this standard, and years in which presented in specific subjects. The withdrawal section records the date of last attendance and the cause of leaving. Not all the columns are filled in.  
There is an index of names and admission numbers arranged alphabetically by family name at the front of the volume.  
  
Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/1/C/13 Admission Registers: Boys 1906 - 1932  
The register is printed in columns: a page for information about admission and a page for withdrawal. The admissions page lists: admission number, name, date of admission, age, residence, occupation of parent, schools attended before, under what standard last examined, and in what class at enrolment. The withdrawal page lists: in what class at withdrawal, time in school, date, age, and reason for leaving.  
There is an alphabetical index of names and admission numbers at the front of the volume.  
Not all the columns are filled in.  
Access: Closed until 01/01/1933.  
Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/C/14	<u>Register of class names</u> Register listing names of boys and girls in standard classes 1-6 and the names of the teachers.  Extent: 1 Volume	1878 - 1879
JA/1/C/15	<u>Account book</u> Account book recording receipts and payments. Enclosed: letter to Lawrence J. Libgott, Headmaster of the Hebrew Schools from David Davis, Lord Mayor of Birmingham, thanking him for visiting the school, 11 November 1921; and two notices of meetings of the Foundation Managers of the Hebrew School, 1951.  Extent: 1 Volume	1876 - 1887
JA/1/C/16	<u>Register of inspections of lessons</u> Register labelled 'Model and Criticism Lessons' recording inspections of lessons at the Hebrew School. It lists the date, the name of the teacher giving the lesson, the subject of the lesson, the standard of class, the Head Teacher's opinion of the Notes prepared, the Head Teacher's opinion of the Lesson given, whether the lesson was criticised, and by whom. The inspections are carried out by the Headmaster, L.J. Libgott.  Extent: 1 Volume	1909 - 1925
JA/1/C/17	<u>Certificate recording Birmingham Hebrew School's commemoration of Chaim Weizmann's 75th birthday</u> Certificate recording that the children of the Birmingham Hebrew School have joined in the 75th birthday tribute to Dr Chaim Weizmann by planting a garden of one hundred trees in memory of Miss Elsie Davis in the Birmingham Plantation of the Weizmann Forest. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 Document	1949
JA/1/C/18	<u>Certificate of aided status</u> Certificate issued by the Ministry of Education to the Hebrew school, making it an aided school. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 Document	04 May 1950
JA/1/C/19	<u>Certificate authorising the transfer of the Hebrew School to a new site on Alcester Rd, Moseley.</u> Certificate issued by the Ministry of Education. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 Document	17 November 1964

### **JA/1/D School Properties Committee, 1953 – 1972**

According to the 1953 Yearbook (JA/2/G/2), the School Properties Committee, which had previously been appointed by the Council for a provisional period, became an official Committee of the Congregation on 14 June 1953. The Committee, which is elected annually, consists of the Chairman of the Foundation Managers, the Chairman of the Buildings Committee, one Foundation Manager, to be nominated by the Foundation Managers, and four members of the Council. Its minutes show that it met roughly twice a year. In 1973, it was amalgamated with the Buildings Committee.

According to the Laws of the Congregation, the Committee's duties are 'to keep all .. buildings and properties in good order, repair and condition, [and] to fix the terms and conditions on which the rooms in such buildings shall be used or let'. (JA/2/G/8)

Earlier minutes of the School Properties Committee are filed with the minutes of the Buildings Committee JA/1/E/1/3.

JA/1/D/1	<u>Minutes of the School Properties Committee</u> Bound volume of minutes of the School Properties Committee. Some of the alterations and repairs discussed in the meetings include: repairs to the lower playground wall; plans for erecting a stage in the main hall; repairing coping stones; decorating the Art Class Room; fixing safety netting at the top of the staircase to the roof playground; repairing a defective chimney stack. Access: Closed until 01/01/2053. Condition: Poor. Extent: 1 Volume	September 1953 - February 1972
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### **JA/1/E Buildings Committee, 1932 – 1950**

The Buildings Committee consists of 7 members of Council, elected annually. It is responsible for the maintenance of all buildings belonging to the Congregation, apart from the school buildings, which, between 1953 and 1973, was the responsibility of the School Properties Committee (see JA/1/D). The Committee was set up in May 1932 and its first Chairman was JW Levy. The Committee's Report in the 1932 Yearbook (JA/2/G/2) defines its duties as 'the full control, management, and upkeep of the Congregational Buildings, properties and effects, and all arrangements connected with the lettings of the rooms in the new Congregational Schools in St Luke's Road and the buildings in Blucher St and Ellis St to the various Communal Societies and Institutions.'

### **JA/1/E/1 Minutes of the Buildings Committee, 1932 – 1999**

The minutes include discussions about arranging repairs to buildings owned by the Congregation, including houses provided by the Congregation for its staff, inspecting the buildings, setting fees and dealing with applications for use of the school hall and other buildings. Societies using the building include the Jewish Arts Society and the Jewish Social and Dramatic Club.

JA/1/E/1/1	<u>Minute book</u> There are several letters enclosed in the minutes: with the	1932 - 1946
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minutes of 9 February 1936, minutes of a meeting held to discuss altering the synagogue; with 28 February 1937, report by Harry Weedon, Architect re alterations to the synagogue, 26 February 1937; with 3 February 1946, copy of letter from Herbert Manzoni, City Engineer and Surveyor, Birmingham Public Works Department concerning air raid damage to the Birmingham Hebrew Schools, 30 January 1946.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2027.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/E/1/2

Minute book

1946 - 1950

There are several documents enclosed in the minutes: with minutes of 28 March 1946, copy of letter from P Innes to Dr A Cohen re War Damage repairs and adding a kitchen to the St Luke's Rd school building; with minutes of 19 May 1947, 'Report on progress made since our attendance at a meeting of the Building Committee on March 24 1947'; with minutes of 7 July 1947, 'Progress Report - Proposed repair of Jewish synagogue, Singers Hill, Birmingham'.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2031.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/1/E/1/3

Minute book

1950 - 1999

Includes minutes of meetings of the Lettings sub-committee, the School Properties Committee, and the Communal Hall Committee.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2080. Condition: Poor.

Extent: 1 Volume

**JA/1/F Cemeteries Committee, 1937 – 1958**

According to the Laws of the Congregation, 'the Cemeteries Committee consists of not more than ten members, to be elected annually by the Council, together with one representative from each Synagogue having burial rights for its members in the Congregation Cemeteries. The Committee shall annually elect its Chairman from its own body, but such Chairman must be a member of the Council of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation.'

The Committee is funded by 'the Cemetery Fund', which receives fees paid for reserved grave spaces, purchase of grave spaces, conducting funerals, setting tombstones, and upkeep of Cemeteries. For records of the Cemetery Fund, see JA/2/M.

The Committee has powers to set fees for the rate of contribution of members to the Cemetery Fund; charges for funerals; reservation of a grave space; erecting and setting stone monuments; and the upkeep of graves and tombstones.

According to the 1928 Yearbook, the Committee was set up in April 1928. Before this date, cemeteries, burial charges, and funeral arrangements are often mentioned in Council minutes (JA/1/A/1) and in the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (JA/1/B/1/1).

## The Cemeteries

The Victoria County History notes that ground for a Jewish cemetery was acquired in Granville St in 1766.

In June 1823, the Congregation acquired a piece of land in Betholom Row, between Bath Row and Islington Row, which was used until 1881. This cemetery still survives, although a recent survey of Jewish built heritage reports that it is currently inaccessible and that the adjacent site is earmarked for development. (see <http://www.jewish-heritage-uk.org/siterisk/riskbg.htm>) The original Jews' burial ground disappeared in 1845 with the building of the railway and New Street Station. The bodies from this cemetery were reinterred in the Jewish section of the cemetery at Witton. (see [www.bham.de/cemeteries.html](http://www.bham.de/cemeteries.html)).

In 1869, the Congregation bought land in the municipal cemetery at Witton, which was consecrated in 1871. A Bet Chayim [House of Eternity] in the north-east corner of Birmingham city cemetery was consecrated in the same year. An additional 4 acres of land were purchased at Warren Lane, Witton, in 1907. A Bet Chayim there was consecrated in 1937. Witton cemetery is variously named in the records as Witton New Cemetery, the Hebrew Cemetery, Perry Common, Erdington, or Warren Road.

The New Synagogue bought 2 acres of land in the Birmingham Municipal cemetery at Brandwood End, Woodthorpe Road, Kings Heath, in 1919. This was taken over by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation when the New Synagogue amalgamated with the Congregation in 1997.

Witton and Brandwood End are both still used by the Congregation.

See also Death Registration (JA/2/D) and Chevra Kadisha (JA/1/G) and W.B. Stephens (ed), 'A History of the County of Warwick Volume VII: City of Birmingham' pp. 483-485, available online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>.

## **Description**

The Committee meets every 3-4 months. The meetings discuss the management of the Congregation's cemeteries including planning the layout of the graves, recommending charges for funerals to the Finance Committee, deciding how much to pay cemetery staff, organizing a rota to inspect the cemeteries, looking after the prayer houses in the cemeteries, and making agreements with other Congregations in the city about use of the cemeteries.

JA/1/F/1	<u>Minutes of the Cemeteries Committee</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2039. Extent: 1 Volume	1937 - 1958
JA/1/F/2	<u>Minutes of the Cemeteries Committee</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2081. Extent: 1 Volume	1991 - 2000

### **JA/1/G Chevra Kadisha, 1913 – 1981**

The Chevra Kadisha, or Holy Brotherhood, is responsible for Jewish laws concerning funerals and burial.

According to the 1963 Laws of the Congregation, the Chevra Kadisha is made up of 14 members of the Congregation, the Executive, and 8 members of the Central Synagogue. Although the minutes of the Chevra Kadisha begin in 1913, cemeteries, burial charges, and funeral arrangements are often mentioned in Council minutes before this date (JA/1/A/1). A Burial Board is mentioned in the Congregation's first Annual Report in 1854 and a few of its minutes are in the same volume as the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (JA/1/B/1/1). The Burial Board was still in existence in 1881; minutes of a meeting the Finance and General Purposes Committee held to revise the Congregation's Laws on 14 November 1881 say that the Burial Board should consist of 24 members of the Congregation.

### **JA/1/G/1 Minutes of the Chevra Kadisha Committee, 1913 – 1981**

The Chevra Kadisha Committee meets annually. Its minutes are usually very brief, including discussions about the conduct of funerals, with occasional reports of problems that have occurred during funerals, and buying equipment to be used during Taharot, the ritual purification of a body before burial. In February 1915, the Committee decided to include English prayers in funeral services. In 1918, it was suggested that the Beth Hamedrash, Wrottesley St be approached to be represented on the Chevra Kadisha.

Finding watchers, particularly female watchers, is a perennial problem for the Committee, and this issue frequently appears in the minutes.

Payment of Chevra Kadisha staff and watchers is another issue that is frequently discussed. The printed Laws of the Chevra Kadisha are enclosed with the minutes of 2 July 1944 and are annotated with changes to the Laws made in 1944. These changes also appear in the minutes.

In 1945, the meeting debated whether to invite ladies onto the Chevra Kadisha. It was suggested that they form a separate committee and send an executive to meetings of the Chevra Kadisha. The issue does not appear again, suggesting that the Committee was never set up.

JA/1/G/1/1	<u>Minute book</u> Enclosed in minutes of 18 June 1916, letter to Rev Fink from Thomas Furber apologising for the late delivery of an order of coffins, which is due to 'scarcity of labour and other causes'. Access: Closed until 01/01/2034. Extent: 1 Volume	1913 - 1954
JA/1/G/1/2	<u>Minute book</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2062. Extent: 1 Volume	1953 - 1981

### **JA/1/H Synagogue Guild Committee, 1950 – 1964**

The Synagogue Guild was set up in 1950. It began life as an independent committee, but later became a sub-Committee of the Council of the Hebrew Congregation, which gave it a small grant. From 1950, there are reports about the Guild's activities in the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Yearbooks (JA/2/G/2).

The aims of the Guild are discussed in its early meetings. It aimed to 'embrace all those who are vitally concerned with the preservation of a stronger Jewish life in the community and will seek every means open to it to enrich the content of our religious and communal activities', 'to bring more people into the sphere of the Synagogue' and 'to create a greater interest in the Synagogue and open the way for members of the community to take a broader interest in Jewish Religion and Way of Life'. At first, membership of the Guild was restricted to members of Singers Hill, but it was later extended to include any Jews, including those who did not attend synagogue.

The Guild was run by an elected Committee and several sub-Committees, responsible for the Constitution, the programme of events, catering, and publicity.

The first programme of activities organized by the Guild was a series of monthly meetings, which included Succoth Celebrations; a Chanukah Ball; a Purim Concert; a Jewish Film Show; and a Shavuoth Open Air Service. A monthly study and discussion group and a Saturday afternoon service were also organized. Subjects of lectures and seminars covered Jewish history, religion, and ethics, including: 'God: what is he and how does he act?', 'The Jewish Teaching on the Messiah', 'The Torah: is it divine or man-made?', 'Some Ideas on Life After Death', 'Movements in Jewish history', and 'Excerpts from Jewish literature'.

The events organized by the Guild were generally well attended in the 1950s, but by 1964, the minutes of the last meeting in the minute book show that there was concern that the Guild was becoming too dependent on a few stalwarts and their friends, and was not reaching the wider community as had been originally intended. The Committee no longer exists.

JA/1/H/1	<u>Minutes of the Synagogue Guild Committee</u> Subjects discussed at the meetings include the election of officers and organizing discussion meetings, lectures, seminars, and dinners. The minutes include copies of the Guild's annual programme of events and menus for Purim Seudah, 1959-1961. Access: Closed until 01/01/2045. Condition: Poor. Extent: 1 Volume	04 May 1950 - 17 December 1964
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### **JA/1/J Channukah Committee, 1952 - 1981**

The Channukah Committee meets annually in mid-November to organize the Channukah Party, Service, and Prize Distribution. Members listed include the ministers of the Congregation, members of Council, and the wives of members of Council.

JA/1/J/1	<u>Minutes of the Channukah Committee</u> The minutes record discussions about ordering and making food for the annual Channukah party; inviting	17 November 1952 - 18 December
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various groups, including the Brownies and the Jewish Lads' Brigade; and arranging where children sit and at what time they should be collected from the synagogue. The first meeting of the committee refers to a previous meeting held on 5 November 1951, whose minutes have not been deposited.  
 Access: Closed until 01/01/2048.  
 Extent: 1 File

1967

### **JA/1/K Cultural Committee, 1972 – 1982**

The Cultural Committee is made up of between 10 and 15 members and is chaired by the Rev Gold. Its first minutes say that 'the Committee was set up as a sub-committee of the Council in order to try and implement the many ideas put forward by Rev. Gold when he addressed the Council following his visit to Israel'. The minutes do not give any more information about the Committee's remit, but the activities discussed in the meetings: organizing events, inviting speakers to give talks in the synagogue, setting up Adult Education classes, arranging a Book Fayre, and other events which might interest the youth of the synagogue, suggest that the Committee aimed to attract more people to the synagogue and encourage artistic activity and social life, particularly among younger members.

JA/1/K/1	<u>Minutes of the Cultural Committee</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2063. Extent: 1 File	12 April 1972 - 14 October 1982
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### **JA/1/L 125th Sub-committee, 1981**

The 125th Anniversary Sub-Committee was made up of 9 members of the Congregation, chaired by Mr. G. Abrahams.

JA/1/L/1	<u>Minutes of the 125th Sub-Committee</u>  Minutes of a meeting held to discuss how to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the synagogue in September 1981. The celebrations include arranging a dinner, producing a brochure, and organizing an appeal. Access: Closed until 01/01/2062. Extent: 1 File	25 February 1981
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### **JA/1/M Sefer Torah Committee, 1996 - 1998**

The Sefer Torah Committee was a group of about ten people including the Rabbi and the Administrator of Singers Hill, which was set up to commission a new Torah scroll and organize a Ceremony of Commencement and a Ceremony of Completion.

JA/1/M/1	<u>Minutes of the Sefer Torah Committee</u> Minutes of the Sefer Torah Committee, with related papers including a leaflet advertising the project; letters from members of the Congregation, offering to give money towards a Sedrah or column in memory of a relative; correspondence commissioning a scribe to write the scroll and an embroiderer to make the cover, including sketches	1996 - 1998
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of possible designs; designs for certificates given to people who have contributed towards the appeal; minutes and correspondence re planning the Ceremony of Completion, which was held on 15 March 1998, with drafts of the order of service.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2079.

Extent: 1 File

### **JA/1/N Managing Trustees' Meetings, 1981 - 1998**

JA/1/N/1	<u>Minutes</u> Minutes of Trustees' meetings, mainly discussing legal matters relating to the Congregation's property and investments. Access: Closed until 01/01/2079. Extent: 1 Volume	1981 - 1998
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### **JA/1/O Functions Committee, 1996 - 1997**

Information about the Functions Committee has to be gleaned from the minutes of some of its meetings, which are incomplete. Meetings, which are chaired by Rabbi Leonard Tann, include up to 13 people. The Committee is responsible for organizing events and for raising money to fund them. The events are often held jointly with the Central Synagogue. Events include the Chanukah Party, trips to the theatre, and musical evenings.

JA/1/O/1	<u>Minutes of the Functions Committee</u> Minutes of meetings of the Functions Committee discussing fundraising for and organizing social events. Access: Closed until 01/01/2078. Extent: 1 Volume	May 1996 - September 1997
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### **JA/1/P New Synagogue Merger Committee, 1996**

The New Synagogue merged with the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation on 1 January 1997. See JB for records of the New Synagogue.

JA/1/P/1	<u>Minutes</u> Minutes of a committee of representatives from Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and the New Synagogue discussing arrangements relating to the merger of the two congregations, including sale of the New Synagogue building, pension and financial arrangements, and building a new synagogue at the King David School. Access: Closed until 01/01/2077. Extent: 1 File	May 1996 - November 1996
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### **JA/2 Records of the synagogue office**

#### **Administrative History**

The Secretary of the synagogue is the main administrator of the Congregation, responsible for keeping accounts, taking minutes of meetings of the Society, corresponding with members,

and collecting membership payments. The Secretary was renamed the Administrator in 1990. The Secretary of the Congregation also registers marriages and deaths for the Jewish community in Birmingham.

**JA/2/A Secretary's correspondence with Congregation staff and officers, 1932 - 1993**

**JA/2/A/1 Correspondence about the Hebrew School, later King David School, 1932 - 1991**

Correspondence created by the Secretary and President of the Hebrew Congregation and solicitors to the Congregation about the school and its buildings, including legal agreements for purchase of land for school buildings and leasing buildings. For records created by the school and its management committees, see JA/1/C.

JA/2/A/1/1      Correspondence      1932 - 1977

Order of Service on the occasion of the opening of the new building of the Hebrew School, St Luke's Road, 1 May 1932

Speech by the President of the Hebrew Congregation thanking the teachers of the Hebrew School, 6 July 1966 and speech given at the school annual prize distribution, 15 December 1965

programmes for school prize distribution, 1966 and 1977 invitation to the King David School Open Day, 17 July 1968

Correspondence between the Foundation Managers of the Hebrew Congregation and the Birmingham City Council Education Department, and Holland, W. Hobbs and Partners, Architects and Surveyors re planning and building the King David School, arrangements for laying the foundation stone and the Chief Rabbi's visit, [1960-1966]

Extent: 1 File

**JA/2/A/1/2 Correspondence and other papers concerning the King David School, 1957 - 1980**

JA/2/A/1/2/1      Correspondence      1980

Correspondence between Ronnie Singer [Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] and the City of Birmingham Education Department concerning alterations to the fire escape at the King David School, 1980.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/A/1/2/2      Correspondence concerning the recruitment of a Hebrew teacher at the King David School      1957 - 1965

Correspondence between Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, mainly Harry Gompertz, President and Chairman of the Foundation Managers, King David School, and the Friends of the Zionist Federation Educational Trust, concerning the appointment of a

teacher from Israel to teach Hebrew at the King David School paid for by the Trust, including correspondence between the Congregation and Birmingham City Council Education Department, asking permission for the Congregation to appoint the teacher.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2046.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/A/1/2/3 Correspondence between Ronnie Singer and Birmingham Education Authority concerning the King David School [1974-1975]

Correspondence between Ronnie Singer, [Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] and the City of Birmingham Education Department concerning the management of the King David School, including correspondence about letting the school buildings, admission of children under the age of five years, grants for repairs to and maintenance of the buildings, and invitations to the School Open Day. The file also contains some job application forms, which have been withdrawn from the files and closed.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2056.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/A/1/2/4 Correspondence concerning building a nursery classroom and extension at the King David School 1972

Correspondence between Ronnie Singer, Secretary to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Noel Hastilow, Holland, Hobbiss and Partners, and the City of Birmingham Education Department concerning plans for building an extra classroom and nursery class at the King David School. Includes a letter from Jill Knight MP to Lionel Albury, supporting the scheme, 1972 and a photograph of the King David School.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/A/1/2/5 Correspondence re building an extension to the King David School 1973 - 1975

Correspondence between the City of Birmingham Education Authority and Ronnie Singer, Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, and Holland, Hobbis, and Partners, 1973-1975. Letters to Ronnie Singer from Joseph Cohen concerning a bridging loan, 1974.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/A/1/2/6 Correspondence concerning building an extension to the King David School, with architect's plans 1974 - 1975

Correspondence between Ronnie Singers and Holland, Hobbis and Partners concerning tenders for and costs of



an extension to the King David School building, including 3 plans of the extension, 1974-1975.

Extent: 1 File, 1 Plan

- JA/2/A/1/3 Correspondence concerning health and safety at King David School 1960 - 1991  
 Copy of health and safety statement for King David School, n.d.; Builder's quote for repairs to King David School, 1991; list of responsibilities for maintenance of Special Aided School, produced by the Local Education Authority, stating which parts of the building the Governors or the Local Education Authority have responsibility for, 1990; supply of forms for applying for maintenance contributions from the Local Education Authority, 1960s?, correspondence concerning Mr Hyman Gollom, 1986.
- Extent: 1 File
- JA/2/A/1/4 Correspondence between the Congregation and Birmingham City Council concerning the lease of St Luke's Road and properties on Sandford Rd. 1966 - 1968  
 Correspondence between the Secretary and President of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Cowens Solicitors, and Jack Cotton Surveyors and Valuers concerning the lease of St Luke's School and repairs to and purchase of freehold of property on Sandford Rd, 1966-1968.
- Extent: 1 File
- JA/2/A/1/5 Plans for a new religious studies building at the King David School 1997  
 Envelope of plans and other documents including an agreement between the King David School Governors and Hobson Building Contractors, architect's plans, bill of quantities, and project plan, 1997. A note on the envelope which contains the plans says that the plans were rejected.
- Extent: 1 File
- JA/2/A/1/6 'Proposed Synagogue and Religious Studies Building at the King David School Moseley' May 1998  
 Proposal by Hawkins McGowan Architects  
 Copyright: Unknown.  
 Extent: 1 Printed document
- JA/2/A/2 Correspondence about Rev Wolf Lewi's pension 1940 - 1985  
 Correspondence between Wolf Lewi [Cantor, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] and various officials of the Congregation including Jack Cotton and Bertram

Silverston, concerning Rev Lewi's pension, 1940; Agreement for service between the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and Wolf Lewi, 1946, with drafts, 1933-1946; extracts from minutes of Finance Committee meetings about sickness insurance and superannuation, 1960-1962; Letter to Wolf Lewi from Ivan Shortt [President, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation], Jack Cotton [Vice-President, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] and Joseph Cohen [Chairman of Council], giving him the right to purchase the house given to him by the Congregation, 1947; letter to Wolf Lewi from Gerald Blumenthal [Treasurer, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] giving him an increase in salary and informing him about his pension rights, 1962; Correspondence between Ronnie Singer [Secretary to the Congregation] and Hogg, Robinson, and Capel-Cure (Life and Pensions Ltd) regarding Rev Lewi's pension, 1964-1965; correspondence between David Lewi and Geoffrey Maurice regarding Mrs Lewi's pension, 1985. Access: Closed until 01/01/2066. Extent: 1 File

JA/2/A/3

Correspondence about the Jewish War Memorial in Birmingham

1945 - 1948

File of correspondence belonging to Stanley Solomons [Reverend, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] and Ivan Shortt [President, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation], collecting information about men from Birmingham's Jewish community killed in action during the Second World War. It includes letters from relatives and friends of casualties, giving information about them (such as full name, rank, and date of death), or asking for changes to the information on the Memorial; an issue of the Birmingham Jewish Recorder, June 1946, which includes a letter from Stanley Solomons, asking for casualties' names; postcard forms sent by the Congregation to be filled in by relatives and friends of members of the Congregation who served or were killed in the War, 1945; lists of names inscribed on the Memorial, undated; correspondence between Stanley Solomons and Rabbi Israel Brodie [Senior Chaplain to HM Forces] re compiling a list of Jewish casualties from records held at Woburn House, 1946.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/A/4

Correspondence about buying land for a car park

1957 - 1972

Correspondence between Jack Cotton, Birmingham City Council Public Works Department, and Ronnie Singer [Secretary to the Congregation], and Holland, Hobbis, and Partners re widening Blucher St and buying land next to

the synagogue for a car park, with plans showing landscaping of the car park.

Extent: 1 File

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| JA/2/A/5 | <u>Correspondence concerning the Congregation's pension scheme</u><br>Access: Closed until 01/01/2090  | 1960 - 1980s |
| JA/2/A/6 | <u>Correspondence about encroachments on Witton cemetery</u><br>Correspondence between Ronnie Singer [Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] and Derek Cotton [Joseph Cohen and Cowan Solicitors] and Jack Cotton and Partners, Auctioneers and Surveyors, concerning encroachments by people who own gardens beside Witton Cemetery onto land owned by the Congregation; and correspondence concerning a proposal to sell some of the land, 1961-1977. Includes plans of Warren Rd and Witton Cemetery.<br>Access: Closed until 01/01/2058.<br>Extent: 1 File | 1961 - 1977  |
| JA/2/A/7 | <u>Correspondence about Rev Stanley Brickman's life insurance policy</u><br>Correspondence between Roland Diamond, President of the Congregation, Ronnie Singer, Secretary of the Congregation and Hogg Robinson Solicitors and Scottish Widows concerning payments of proceeds of Rev Brickman's life insurance policy.<br>Access: Closed until 01/01/2074.<br>Extent: 1 File   | 1971 - 1993  |
| JA/2/A/8 | <u>Correspondence about Rev Stanley Brickman's house</u><br>Draft deed and booklet relating to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Retirement Benefits Scheme.<br>Correspondence between Roland Diamond, President of the Congregation and Ronnie Singer, Secretary to the Congregation with solicitors and mortgage companies concerning arrangements to help Stanley Brickman buy a house in Birmingham.<br>Access: Closed until 01/01/2064.<br>Extent: 1 File  | 1983         |
| JA/2/A/9 | <u>Correspondence about dry rot in the Synagogue roof</u><br>Correspondence between R Temple Cox Architects and various members of the Congregation including Roland Diamond, President, and Maurice Putsnam re treating an outbreak of dry rot in the synagogue roof.   | 1982 - 1988  |

Extent: 1 Box

- JA/2/A/10      Correspondence about Hyman Gollom, Headmaster of the King David School      1980s  
 Press cuttings relating to the suspension of Hyman Gollom, Headmaster of the Hebrew School, 1986-1987. Correspondence relating to this issue has been closed. Access: Partially closed until 01/01/2070. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 File

**JA/2/B Secretary's correspondence with the synagogue membership and with external organizations, 1947 – 1997**

Some of the series are incomplete. The files have been arranged into series, where possible, and arranged in date order.

Files of correspondence between the synagogue secretary and the membership, mainly concerning membership payments, but also including correspondence about yarzeit payments (payments for prayers to be said on the anniversary of a death), funerals, job applications, and many other issues relating to the membership of the synagogue. The files are arranged alphabetically by member's name. Some series files are solely concerned with membership administration; some are a mixture of correspondence with the membership and correspondence with a range of other organizations connected with the synagogue, such as their insurance company, bank, auditors, other synagogues in Birmingham, and with the Chief Rabbi.

**JA/2/B/1 Membership records, 1947 - 1990**

- JA/2/B/1/1      Membership application forms      [1960 - 1989]  
 Access: Closed until 01/01/2070.
- JA/2/B/1/2      Records of membership payments      1947 - 1992  
 /2 Page from a ledger listing payments made by a member of the synagogue between approximately 1947 and 1952.
- JA/2/B/1/2/1      List of members and membership payments      1992  
 Database printout listing membership payments made in 1992, arranged alphabetically by member's surname. Access: Closed until 01/01/2073. Extent: 1 File
- JA/2/B/1/2/2      Page from a ledger listing membership payments      [1947 - 1952]  
 Access: Closed until 01/01/2033. Condition: Fair. Extent: 1 Item
- JA/2/B/1/3      Covenant forms      1985 - 1990  
 Access: Closed until 01/01/2071

JA/2/B/1/4 Postcard printed with a plan of seat numbers in the men's section of the synagogue n.d. [twentieth century]  
 Postcard sent to members of the synagogue to tell them their seat number.

Extent: 4 Postcards

**JA/2/B/2 Correspondence files 1987-1988 (A-G),1987 - 1988**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2069.

**JA/2/B/3 Membership accounts files 1988-1993 (A-R),1988 - 1993**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2074.

**JA/2/B/4 Correspondence files 1988 (A-G),1988**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2069.

**JA/2/B/5 Correspondence files 1989-1991 (A-Z),1989 - 1991**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2072.

**JA/2/B/6 Correspondence files 1990s (A-Z),1990s**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2080.

**JA/2/B/7 Secretary's correspondence with the Chief Rabbi, the Board of Deputies, the Buildings Committee, and Barclays Bank,1991 - 1993**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2074.

**JA/2/B/8 Correspondence files 1991-1993 (S-Z),1991 - 1993**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2074.

**JA/2/B/9 Membership files (A-Z),1993 - 1995**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2076.

**JA/2/B/10 Correspondence with insurance companies, with Hogg Robinson, and with the Treasurer of the King David School,1993 - 1995**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2076.

**JA/2/B/11 Correspondence files 1993-1995 (A-C),1993 - 1995**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2076.

**JA/2/B/12 Correspondence files 1991-1997 (A-Z),[1991 - 1997]**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2078.

JA/2/B/13 Letters about erecting a headstone on the grave of a Czechoslovakian soldier buried in the Congregation's cemetery April - August 1953

Correspondence between S Goldberg, Secretary to the Congregation, and a relative of a soldier buried in the Congregation's cemetery.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2034.

Extent: 1 File

**JA/2/C Marriage registration, 1837 - 2002**

**JA/2/C/1 Marriage registers, 1837 - 2002**

JA/2/C/1/1	<u>Marriage register</u> Condition: Unusable. Extent: 1 Volume	1837 - 1859
JA/2/C/1/2	<u>Marriage register</u>  JA/2/C/5/1 is a photocopy of this register.  Extent: 1 Volume	March 1853 - August 1854
JA/2/C/1/3	<u>Marriage register</u>  JA/2/C/5/2 is a photocopy of this register.  Extent: 1 Volume	February 1860 - May 1873
JA/2/C/1/4	<u>Marriage register</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	June 1873 - February 1885
JA/2/C/1/5	<u>Marriage register</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	March 1885 - March 1895
JA/2/C/1/6	<u>Marriage register</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	April 1895 - February 1899
JA/2/C/1/7	<u>Marriage register</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	March 1899 - September 1902
JA/2/C/1/8	<u>Marriage register</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	September 1902 - June 1906
JA/2/C/1/9	<u>Marriage register</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	June 1906 - March 1910
JA/2/C/1/10	<u>Marriage register</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	March 1910 - December 1913

JA/2/C/1/11	<u>Marriage register</u> Extent: 1 Volume	January 1914 - March 1918
JA/2/C/1/12	<u>Marriage register</u> Extent: 1 Volume	April 1918 - July 1921
JA/2/C/1/13	<u>Marriage register</u> Extent: 1 Volume	August 1921 - August 1925
JA/2/C/1/14	<u>Marriage register</u> Extent: 1 Volume	August 1925 - August 1930
JA/2/C/1/15	<u>Marriage register</u> Extent: 1 Volume	August 1930 - May 1940
JA/2/C/1/16	<u>Marriage register</u> Extent: 1 Volume	May 1940 - August 1949
JA/2/C/1/17	<u>Marriage register</u> Extent: 1 Volume	August 1949 - November 1964
JA/2/C/1/18	<u>Marriage register</u> On loan to depositor.  Extent: 1 Volume	1964 - 2002
JA/2/C/2	<u>Book of notes about membership payments and marriages</u> Notebook labelled 'Applications for permission to marry'. Most of the book is unused. The first few pages contain a list of names and figures, probably information about membership payments; the rest is a list of marriages performed between July 1880 and November 1881. The list records the names and birthplaces of the bride and groom, the date of the marriage, and whether the marriage took place in the synagogue or at home. Some of the marriage entries are signed by J Phillips. Condition: Fair. Extent: 1 Volume	1880 - 1881

**JA/2/C/3 Books of forms entitled 'Particulars required when applying for an Authorisation of Marriage', 1939 - 1954**

Book of carbon copy forms that record the following information: 'date of wedding; country in which bridegroom was born; country in which bride was born; has the bridegroom been

married before; is he a widower, or divorced, what evidence exists to this effect; are the bride and bridegroom related; English name of the bridegroom in full; Hebrew name of bridegroom; address of bridegroom; is the bridegroom's mother a Jewess; English name of bride; Hebrew name of bride; address of bride; is her father living; is the bride's mother a Jewess; Hebrew names of two brothers of the bride in order of their seniority; will they attend the wedding; synagogue in connection with which the wedding is to be solemnised; place of solemnisation and hour; name of celebrant; signature and address of official applicant'.

JA/2/C/3/1	<u>Book of application forms</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2069. Extent: 1 Volume	1939 - 1948
JA/2/C/3/2	<u>Book of application forms</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2075. Extent: 1 Volume	1948 - 1954
JA/2/C/4	<u>Book of forms used to apply for the Chief Rabbi's permission to marry</u> The form records the following information: 'full names of the bride and bridegroom in Hebrew and English; address; age; country of birth; whether married before; whether mother is a Jewess; whether bridegroom has brothers; witnesses to the application for this authorization; date and place of the marriage; and synagogue responsible for the solemnization'. Access: Closed until 01/01/2090. Extent: 1 File	1940s - 1960s

#### **JA/2/C/5 Copies of marriage registers, 1837 - 1873**

JA/2/C/5/1	<u>Copy of marriage register</u> Photocopy of marriage register, made 11 January 1996.  Extent: 1 Volume	1837 - 1859
JA/2/C/5/2	<u>Copy of marriage register</u> Photocopy of marriage register made 11 January 1996.  Extent: 1 Volume	1860 - 1873

#### **JA/2/D Death and burial registration, 1866 - 2003**

See also JA/1/F for minutes of the Cemeteries Committee and JA/1/G for minutes of the Chevra Kadisha.

#### **JA/2/D/1 Death certificates, 1866 - 2003**

The death certificates have been listed in their original order. There are two series: one, which begins in 1866 and ends in 2003, contains death certificates only; the other, which begins in 1945 and ends in 2003, is a mixture of death certificates issued by the Registrar and burial orders issued by the Congregation's Secretary.



The death certificates have been transcribed and indexed by the Honorary Archivist to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation (see MS 2635).

**JA/2/D/1/1 Death certificates,1866 - 2003**

Death certificates for members of the Congregation issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths and sent to the Secretary of the Congregation.  
Years 1936-1941 and 1955-1966 are missing.

**JA/2/D/1/2 Death certificates and burial orders for burials in Brandwood End Cemetery,1945 - 2003**

Death certificates for members of the Congregation issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths and sent to the Secretary of the Congregation. There are no certificates for the year 1951.

**JA/2/D/2 Records of Witton Cemetery, Perry Common,1871 - c. 2002**

Registers and site plans relating to Witton Cemetery.

JA/2/D/2/1	<u>Register of Deaths for burials at Witton cemetery</u> Lists English name, Hebrew name, vulgar date of death, Hebrew date of death, and grave number. Condition: Poor. Extent: 1 Volume	February 1871 - October 1888
JA/2/D/2/2	<u>Register of Interments in Witton Cemetery</u> Register of Interments listing date of death, date of burial, name, whether adult or child, age, sex, late residence and place of death, and grave number, arranged alphabetically by family name.  Copy catalogued as JA/2/D/2/3.  Extent: 1 Volume	c. 1871 - c.1964
JA/2/D/2/3	<u>Register of Interments in Witton Cemetery</u> Register of Interments listing date of death, date of burial, name, whether adult or child, age, sex, late residence and place of death, and grave number, arranged alphabetically by family name.  Copy catalogued as JA/2/D/2/2.  Extent: 1 Volume	c. 1871 - c.1964
JA/2/D/2/4	<u>Register of Interments in Witton cemetery</u> Labelled 'Birmingham Jewish Cemetery, Erdington Register of Interments (Corner of College Rd and Warren Rd)'. Lists date of death, date of burial, name, whether adult or child, age, sex, late residence, place of death, and grave number, arranged alphabetically by family name.	c. 1938 - c. 2002

Extent: 1 Volume

- JA/2/D/2/5 Alphabetical index of graves in Witton Cemetery n.d. [early to mid twentieth century]  
 Records name, address, and grave number. The volume also notes cancelled grave reservations.  
 Enclosed, letter to Samuel Goldberg from Blanche Abrahams, n.d.; correspondence between the Secretary and members of the Congregation concerning reserved grave spaces, 1950s-1960s; list of possible empty and possible reserved grave spaces, list of services at Singers Hill Synagogue held in the week commencing 20 April 1986.

Extent: 1 Volume

- JA/2/D/2/6 Volume labelled 'Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Warren Rd Cemetery Reserved Grave Spaces' n.d. [twentieth century]  
 Volume, arranged alphabetically by family name, listing names, addresses, and grave numbers, n.d.  
 Enclosed, correspondence between the Secretary and members of the Congregation regarding reserved grave spaces at Witton Cemetery, 1960s-1980s.

Extent: 1 Volume

- JA/2/D/2/7 Grave plan of Witton Cemetery 1871  
 Unsigned plan showing grave numbers of adults' and children's graves.  
 Condition: Poor.  
 Extent: 1 Plan

- JA/2/D/2/8 Plan entitled 'Hebrew Cemetery, Perry Common, Birmingham' January 1938  
 Creator of material: Essex and Goodman Architects and Surveyors.  
 Site plan of Witton New Cemetery. Signed by Essex and Goodman Architects and Surveyors, 21 Waterloo Street, B2.  
 Condition: Fair.  
 Extent: 1 Plan

- JA/2/D/2/9 Plan entitled 'Hebrew Cemetery, Perry Common, Birmingham' June 1939  
 Creator of material: Essex and Goodman Architects and Surveyors.  
 Site plan of the Hebrew Cemetery, Perry Common, also known as Witton New Cemetery, signed by Essex and Goodman Architects and Surveyors, 21 Waterloo Street, B2.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/D/2/10 Plan entitled 'Hebrew Cemetery, Perry Common, Birmingham' June 1939

Creator of material: Essex and Goodman Architects and Surveyors.

Site plan of the Hebrew Cemetery, Perry Common, also known as Witton New Cemetery, signed by Essex and Goodman Architects and Surveyors, 21 Waterloo Street, B2.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/D/2/11 Plan entitled 'Layout of the Graves in the North West Portion of the Hebrew Cemetery, Perry Common, Birmingham' December 1947

Creator of material: Essex, Goodman, and Suggit Chartered Architects and Surveyors.

Plan of the New Cemetery, Witton, signed by Essex, Goodman, and Suggit Chartered Architects and Surveyors.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/D/2/12 Plan entitled 'Layout of the Graves in the North West Portion of the Hebrew Cemetery, Perry Common, Birmingham' December 1947

Creator of material: Essex, Goodman, and Suggit Chartered Architects and Surveyors.

Plan of the New Cemetery, Witton, signed by Essex, Goodman, and Suggit Chartered Architects and Surveyors.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/D/2/13 'Plan of Warren Road (Witton) Extension' 10 January 1952

Creator of material: Jack Cotton and Partners, Surveyors and Valuers.

Plan of land next to Witton Cemetery, signed by Jack Cotton and Partners, Surveyors and Valuers, Cavendish House, Waterloo St, Birmingham.

Condition: Fair.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/D/2/14 Plan entitled 'Survey of the Jewish Cemetery, Warren Road' 01 September 1978

Creator of material: Holland W Hobbs and Partners, Architects and Surveyors.

Plan showing grave numbers and reserved grave spaces.

Condition: Poor.

Extent: 1 Plan

- JA/2/D/2/15 Plan entitled 'Proposed Extension to Jewish Cemetery Warren Lane' 10 May 1984  
Creator of material: John Hall Brindley.
- Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/D/2/16 Plan entitled 'Survey of land for proposed extension to Jewish Cemetery' 12 December 1983  
Creator of material: John Hall Brindley.
- Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/D/2/17 Photocopy of a plan of Witton Cemetery 20th century
- Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/D/2/18 Burial orders 1964 - 2001  
Burial orders issued by the Secretary of the Congregation to the Congregation's sexton, instructing him to dig a grave in Witton cemetery. The certificates record the grave number, the name, age, and address of the deceased, and the date of burial.
- JA/2/D/2/19 Books of 'New Cemetery Permits' September 1978 - March 1986  
The forms list the date, the name of the deceased, the grave number, and the name of the stonemason.
- Extent: 1 Box

### **JA/2/D/3 Records of Brandwood End Cemetery, 1931 – 2001**

The New Synagogue bought 2 acres of land in the Birmingham Municipal cemetery at Brandwood End, Woodthorpe Road, Kings Heath in 1919. Management of the cemetery was taken over by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation when the New Synagogue merged with the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation in 1997.

- JA/2/D/3/1 Alphabetical index of graves in Brandwood End cemetery c. 2003  
Alphabetical index of graves in Brandwood End cemetery recording the date of death, grave number, name, address, and age.
- Extent: 1 Volume
- JA/2/D/3/2 List of graves in Brandwood End Cemetery 1947 - 1961  
List of graves in Brandwood End Cemetery, arranged by grave number, recording the date of death, name, and age of deceased, and sometimes the address.  
Enclosed, a typed note of the procedures to be followed

after a death and a list of names and phone numbers of Chevra Kadisha committee members [closed] and a letter from Wheatleys undertakers reminding the Congregation that they do not carry out funerals on Sunday afternoons, 1970 and a letter requesting burial at Brandwood End cemetery, 2001 [closed]; two licences for the removal of bodies from the cemetery, 1959 and 1966.

Access: Partially closed until 01/01/2082.

Extent: 1 Volume

- |            |  |                          |
|------------|--|--------------------------|
| JA/2/D/3/3 | <u>Alphabetical index of graves in Brandwood End cemetery</u><br>Lists family name, initial, and grave number.                                       | n.d.[twentieth century]  |
|            | Extent: 1 Volume   |                          |
| JA/2/D/4   | <u>Carbon copy book of grave reservations</u><br>Lists names and addresses of people who have reserved a grave space in the Congregation's cemetery. | c. 1987                  |
|            | Extent: 1 Booklet  |                          |
| JA/2/D/5   | <u>Diagrams of coffin hoist</u><br>Unsigned diagram of a coffin hoist for use by the burial society, the Chevra Kadisha.                             | n.d. [twentieth century] |
|            | Extent: 5 Plan   |                          |
| JA/2/D/6   | <u>Registers of Yarzeits</u><br>Register listing dates of death of Congregation members' relatives, arranged by the months of the Jewish year.       | Twentieth century        |
|            | Extent: 2 Files Access: Closed until 01/01/2081.   |                          |

### **JA/2/E Records of synagogue services, 1866 - 2006**

- |          |   |               |
|----------|---|---------------|
| JA/2/E/1 | <u>Bar Mitzvah register</u><br>Register of bar mitzvahs held in Birmingham which lists the date of the bar mitzvah, the name and often the address of the boy and sometimes the portion of the Law he read. | [1947 - 1995] |
|          | Access: Closed until 01/01/2096.  |               |
|          | Extent: 1 Volume  |               |

### **JA/2/E/2 Registers of aliyahs, 1970 – 1995**

Registers listing dates of synagogue services and names of people called to read the Law in the synagogue on those dates

/1 1970-1974 (closed until 01/01/2055)

/2 1974-1979 (close until 01/01/2060)

/3 1979-1982 (close until 01/01/2063)

/4 1982-1984 (close until 01/01/2065)

/5 1987-1988 (close until 01/01/2069)

/6 1988-1993 (close until 01/01/2074)

/7 1993-1995 (close until 01/01/2076)

**JA/2/E/3 Orders of service,1856 - 2006**

JA/2/E/3/1	<u>Order of service performed at the consecration of Singers Hill Synagogue</u> Condition: Fair. Extent: 1 Booklet	1856
JA/2/E/3/2	<u>Order of Service at the Celebration of the Jubilee of Singers Hill Synagogue</u>  Extent: 1 Booklet	21 October 1906
JA/2/E/3/3	<u>Order of service at the Dedication of the Memorial to the Jews of Birmingham who fell in the War</u> 4 copies.  Extent: 4 Printed documents	02 May 1948
JA/2/E/3/4	<u>Order of Service of Thanksgiving to commemorate the Centenary of Singers Hill Synagogue</u> 2 copies.  Extent: 2 Printed documents	14 October 1956
JA/2/E/3/5	<u>'Order of Service on the Occasion of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the King David School'</u>  Extent: 1 Booklet	30 August 1964
JA/2/E/3/6	<u>'Order of Service on the Occasion of the Opening of the King David School'</u>  Extent: 1 Booklet	05 June 1966
JA/2/E/3/7	<u>Records of the 150th anniversary civic service</u> Invitation to the civic service at Singers Hill Synagogue, 14 January 2006; booklet giving information about the history of the synagogue and the service, 14 January 2006.  Extent: 2 Documents	2006
JA/2/E/4	<u>'Midnight Selichoth Service for the Birmingham Orthodox Community'</u> Prayer book and file of proofs.	2001

Extent: 2 Documents

- JA/2/E/5 Prayer book for Rosh Hashonoh and Yom Kippur Children's Services n.d.[twentieth century]  
Condition: Fair.  
Extent: 1 Book

### **JA/2/F Photographs, 1948-1982**

Most of the photographs are labelled on the back with a code made up of a number and a letter. The photographs have been grouped together according to these codes and arranged in date order. Undated photographs are listed at the end of the sequence.

- JA/2/F/1 Album of photographs of the Chief Rabbi's visit to Singers Hill 29 October 1948 - 01 November 1948  
Photographs of Dr Israel Brodie, the Chief Rabbi, visiting Singers Hill Synagogue and the Hebrew School.  
Copyright: Unknown.  
Extent: 1 Album
- JA/2/F/2 Photographs of an official dinner, 1949 22 November 1949  
Photograph of a large group of people in evening dress standing talking in a hall; two photographs of the same group seated at the beginning of an official dinner.  
Copyright: Victor Thompson.  
Extent: 3 Photographs
- JA/2/F/3 Photographs of an official dinner, 1953 1953  
Photographs of a large group of people in evening dress; photographs of the same group sitting at an formal dinner.  
Copyright: Victor Thompson.  
Extent: 4 Photographs
- JA/2/F/4 Photograph of silver object made to commemorate the centenary of Singers Hill Synagogue 1956  
Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.  
Extent: 1 Photograph
- JA/2/F/5 Album of photographs and orders of service commemorating the centenary of Singers Hill 1956  
The album includes the programme for the Centenary Banquet, 1956; programme for a service of Thanksgiving held at the synagogue, 1956; photograph of Rev. Reuben S Brookes, Rev Dr Chaim Pearl, The Chief Rabbi Rev Dr Israel Brodie, Mr EP Hollander, Mr Julius Brooks, Mr Philip Bloom, and Mr Joseph Cohen in formal dress at the synagogue. There are also two photographs of the Chief Rabbi, Philip Bloom and others in evening dress, possibly taken at the Centenary Banquet.  
Copyright: Unknown.

Extent: 1 Album

- |           |   |                    |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| JA/2/F/6  | <p><u>Album of photographs taken to commemorate the opening of the Abraham Cohen study at the home of the Chief Minister of the Congregation</u></p> <p>The album is labelled 'Photographs taken at the Opening of the Study and Unveiling of the Commemorative Plaque by Mr and Mrs Sidney Simon at the home of the Chief Minister of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Saturday 15 April 1961'.<br/>Copyright: Unknown.<br/>Extent: 1 Album</p>   | 1961               |
| JA/2/F/7  | <p><u>Photograph of the signing of the building contract for King David School</u></p> <p>Copyright: Simon Livingstone.<br/>Extent: 1 Photograph</p>  | n.d. [early 1960s] |
| JA/2/F/8  | <p><u>Photographs of laying the foundation stone of King David School</u></p> <p>/1-/2 Two identical photographs showing Dr Israel Brodie, the Chief Rabbi, Harry Gompertz and S.P. Abrams at a ceremony held to celebrate laying the foundation stone of the King David School, with three other men in the background, 30 August 1964;<br/>/3 Photograph labelled 'Laying the foundation Stone of King David junior school Moseley. Gompertz, Chief Rabbi (Dr I. Brodie), S.P. Abrams', 30 August 1964;<br/>/4 Photograph of three people in evening dress at the end of an official dinner: a man (possibly S.P. Abrams) standing, with a man and woman sitting on either side of him, n.d.<br/>Copyright: Simon Livingstone Photographer.<br/>Extent: 4 Photographs</p> | 1964               |
| JA/2/F/9  | <p><u>Photograph of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham outside Singers Hill</u></p> <p>Photograph labelled 'Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress Mr Roland, and Mrs Diamond', showing the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress getting out of a car at the front of Singers Hill Synagogue being greeted by Mr and Mrs Roland Diamond.<br/>Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.<br/>Extent: 1 Photograph</p>   | 11 March 1978      |
| JA/2/F/10 | <p><u>Book of proofs of photographs taken during the Chief Rabbi's visit to Birmingham</u></p> <p>The album includes pictures of the King David School, suggesting that the visit happened sometime in the late 1960s or early 1970s; photos of the Chief Rabbi speaking,</p>   | n.d. [after 1966]  |



with members of the Congregation, preaching in Singers Hill, and with senior members of the Congregation.

Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.

Extent: 1 Album

JA/2/F/11	<u>Mounted photographs of the Chief Rabbi's visit to Birmingham</u>	n.d.[1970s]
	Photographs include pictures of the Chief Rabbi, Dr Israel Brodie, with senior members of the Singers Hill Congregation, speaking at Singers Hill synagogue. Copyright: Simon Livingstone. Extent: 7 Photographs	
JA/2/F/12	<u>Photographs</u>	December 1982
	Photograph of a small boy shaking hands with a man in a bowler hat, and a third man looking on. Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios. Extent: 1 Photograph	
JA/2/F/13	<u>Photograph of a building, possibly the Hebrew School on Hurst St</u>	n.d. [twentieth century]
	Photograph of a brick building, labelled on the back: '1st Hebrew School 1843 124-130 Hurst St Birmingham', with letter to S.P. Abrams from Simon Livingstone [photographer], undated. The letter reads 'Herewith enclosed photograph as requested. I should like to mention that on talking to the occupiers of these premises they inform me that these have never been the old Hebrew School but the building next door which was recently demolished.' Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios. Extent: 1 Photograph	
JA/2/F/14	<u>Undated photographs</u> Undated photographs.	n.d. [mid-late twentieth century]
	Extent: 8 Photographs	
JA/2/F/14/1	<u>Photograph of the Chief Rabbi's visit to Singers Hill Synagogue</u>	n.d. [twentieth century]
	Photograph of a group of four: the Chief Rabbi, probably Mr Philip Bloom, with two unnamed women, probably taken in the street near Singers Hill Synagogue, n.d. Copyright: Simon Livingstone Photographer. Extent: 1 Photograph	
JA/2/F/14/2	<u>Photograph of the Lord Mayor's official visit to Singers Hill Synagogue</u>	n.d. [twentieth century]
	Photograph of the President of Singers Hill Synagogue, Philip Bloom, wearing top hat and tails, shaking hands with	

the Lord Mayor, Dr Louis Glass, with the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Joy Glass, and Mrs Philip Bloom outside the front entrance of Singers Hill Synagogue, n.d.

Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.

Extent: 1 Photograph

- |             |   |                          |
|-------------|---|--------------------------|
| JA/2/F/14/3 | <p><u>Photograph of children at a Purim party</u><br/>/3 Photograph of a group of children in fancy dress, dancing to music played on an accordion, labelled 'Purim Party', n.d.<br/>Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.<br/>Extent: 1 Photograph</p>                                   | n.d. [twentieth century] |
| JA/2/F/14/4 | <p><u>Photograph of Harry Gompertz presenting a pair of candlesticks to Arnold and Rae Bloom</u><br/>Photograph labelled 'Presentation of Candlesticks. Arnold and Rae Bloom. Mr Gompertz', n.d.<br/>Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.<br/>Extent: 1 Photograph</p>                   | n.d. [twentieth century] |
| JA/2/F/14/5 | <p><u>Photograph of a group of five men in evening dress</u><br/>Copyright: Birmingham Post and Mail.<br/>Extent: 1 Photograph</p>  | n.d. [twentieth century] |
| JA/2/F/14/6 | <p><u>Photograph of a congregation sitting listening to a rabbi speak</u><br/>Labelled 'Solihull'.<br/>Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.<br/>Extent: 1 Photograph</p>   | n.d. [twentieth century] |
| JA/2/F/14/7 | <p><u>Photograph of a tea party in the Joseph Cohen Hall, Singers Hill Synagogue</u><br/>Photograph of a group of approximately 70 people sitting at tables in the Joseph Cohen Hall, listening to a man speaking.<br/>Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.<br/>Extent: 1 Photograph</p> | n.d. [twentieth century] |
| JA/2/F/14/8 | <p><u>Photograph of an official dinner</u><br/>Photograph of approximately two hundred people in evening dress at the beginning of a formal dinner.<br/>Copyright: CNA Photo Service. Caters News Agency Ltd.<br/>Extent: 1 Photograph</p>  | n.d. [twentieth century] |
| JA/2/F/15   | <p><u>Two photographs of the Mayoress of Birmingham visiting Singers Hill Synagogue</u><br/>Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.<br/>Extent: 2 Photographs</p>   | n.d. [twentieth century] |
| JA/2/F/16   | <p><u>Photographs of the Lord Mayor of Birmingham visiting</u></p>  | n.d. [twentieth century] |

Singers Hill Synagogue

century]

/1 Labelled 'Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress with Harry Gompertz', n.d.

/2-/3 Two identical photographs of a group of three men in conversation, labelled 'David Zissman, Harry Gompertz', n.d.

Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.

Extent: 3 Photographs

JA/2/F/17

Groups of people photographed during an event at Singers Hill

n.d. [twentieth century]

/1 David Zissman sitting at a table listening to another man give a speech, n.d.

/2-/3 Two identical photographs of a group of twelve men and women, including Philip Bloom, David Zissman, and Harry Gompertz, n.d.

/4 Photograph of Harry Gompertz with another man inside Singers Hill synagogue, n.d.

/5-/6 Two identical photographs of a group of five men in conversation, including Philip Bloom, David Zissman, and Harry Gompertz, n.d.

Copyright: Simon Livingstone Studios.

Extent: 6 Photographs

JA/2/F/18

Photograph of Torah scrolls in the Ark at Singers Hill Synagogue

2006?

Copyright: Unknown.

Extent: 1 Photograph

**JA/2/G Publications produced by the Congregation, 1842 – 2006**

Arranged in chronological order

See JA/2/E for material relating to services.

JA/2/G/1

Annual Reports and Accounts

1842 - 1857

Folder of early reports and accounts:

Report of Council', 1857/5617: including reports on the financial state of the Congregation, the progress of the schools, the encroachment by the Corporation on burial ground in Granville St., the Bread Fund, the organization of Benevolent Visiting Society, and appeal for money to cover debts following building of new synagogue, with annual accounts

Burial laws, undated [mid-late nineteenth century]

Annual accounts of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Passover 5615-Passover 5616/1856

Report of Council and annual Account, Passover 5615/1855

Report of Council, and annual account Passover 5616/1856 The Council feel peculiar pleasure in

congratulating the community on the amalgamation of the two Congregations, effected on the 8th July last  
 Report of Council and annual account, Passover 5614/1854 'The Council in presenting this their first Report feel much pleasure in being able to congratulate the Members on the generally prosperous state of the affairs of the Community over which they have the honour to preside during the last nine months...One of the earliest duties of the Council was the revision of the Laws of the Congregation. This task they have carefully accomplished.'  
 Annual Accounts, October to April, 5613  
 Annual Accounts, April 5601 to October 5602  
 Annual Accounts, April 5602 to October 5603  
 Annual Accounts, April 5604- Oct 5605  
 Annual Accounts, May 5605 - October 5606/1845  
 Annual Accounts, October-April 5608/1848  
 Annual Accounts, April 5611-October 5612  
 Annual Accounts, October - April 5612  
 Accounts April-October 5613  
 Condition: Fair.  
 Extent: 1 File

JA/2/G/2

Annual Reports and Yearbooks

1923 - 1980

Annual Reports include the Annual Report and Accounts of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, as well as reports from the other synagogues in the city, and from charities, welfare organizations, and clubs associated with the synagogue. Reports survive for the following years:

1923  
 1926  
 1928  
 1929  
 1932-1934  
 1936 (two copies)  
 1942  
 1945  
 1946 (two copies)  
 1947 (two copies)  
 1948  
 1949-1951 (two copies per year)  
 1953-1960 (two copies per year)  
 1961 (3 copies)  
 1964  
 1967  
 1970  
 1971  
 1972 (two copies)  
 1980 (two copies)

Extent: 1 Box

- JA/2/G/3      Menu for Farewell Dinner in honour of Dr A. Cohen      05 November  
1949  
Extent: 1 Printed document
- JA/2/G/4      Menu for Centenary Banquet      14 October  
The Centenary Banquet was held in the Grosvenor  
1956  
Rooms, Grand Hotel, Birmingham.  
Extent: 1 Printed document
- JA/2/G/5      Centenary Celebrations Souvenir Brochure      1956  
Brochure produced to commemorate the centenary of  
Singers Hill Synagogue, including descriptions of plans to  
alter the synagogue, build a new children's synagogue,  
make improvements to the Communal Hall, and add  
stained glass windows.  
Extent: 1 Booklet
- JA/2/G/6      'History of Birmingham Hebrew Congregation 1856-1956'      1956  
Creator of material: Harry Levine.  
Book by Harry Levine entitled 'History of the Birmingham  
Hebrew Congregation 1856-1956' written for the centenary  
of the synagogue in 1956, 133 pp. The text includes lists of  
illustrations, but not the illustrations themselves. A shorter  
version of this book (40 pages) is listed in the University of  
London catalogue; a note on the title page says that the  
Rev Dr Abraham Cohen compiled the summary.  
Extent: 1 Book
- JA/2/G/7      'Scale of Fees for Marriages'      01 April 1958  
List of fees charged for marriages at Singers Hill.  
Extent: 1 Printed document
- JA/2/G/8      Laws of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation      1963  
Extent: 3 Booklets
- JA/2/G/9      'Twenty-five years on from the Centenary of 1956: a Short      1981  
History of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation'  
4 copies  
Extent: 1 Booklet

**JA/2/G/10 Newsletters, 2002 – 2005**

Newsletters edited by Stanley Busby for Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, giving news from

Singers Hill and from Moseley synagogue, including a diary of events. Downloaded from the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation web site (www.singershill.com).

- /1 May 2002
- /2 September 2002
- /3 December 2002
- /4 April 2003
- /5 September 2003
- /6 April 2004
- /7 April 2005

JA/2/G/11      'Jewish Religious Pamphlets: Life, Death, and Bereavement'      n.d [twentieth century]  
 Pamphlet by Reverend Sidney Gold and Reverend Reuben S Brookes, published by Birmingham Hebrew Congregation.

Extent: 2 Booklets

JA/2/G/12      Booklet entitled 'The Stained Glass Windows of Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham'      n.d. [1963]  
 Booklet about the stained glass windows added to Singers Hill Synagogue between 1956 and 1963 including reproductions of the windows and interpretations of their messages and meanings. Published by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation.

Extent: 1 Booklet

### **JA/2/H Other published material, 1843 - 1996**

JA/2/H/1      Journal of the Rabbinical Council of the Provinces, vol 1 no 1      1988  
 Copyright: Office of the Chief Rabbi.  
 Extent: 1 Booklet

JA/2/H/2      Grace after Meals, bar mitzvah, and marriage booklets      1960 – 1997  
 Various booklets, some produced to commemorate Bar Mitzvahs or marriages.

JA/2/H/3      'Three Centuries of Anglo-Jewry'      1956  
 Brief history of Anglo-Jewry since resettlement in 1656 produced by the Council for the Tercentenary of the Resettlement of the Jews in the British Isles.  
 Copyright: Unknown.  
 Extent: 1 Booklet

JA/2/H/4      Brochure advertising the Encyclopedia Judaica      1971  
 Illustrated booklet advertising the newly-published Encyclopedia Judaica, including sample entries and letters

of support from prominent Jewish people.  
 Copyright: Encyclopedia Judaica.  
 Extent: 1 Booklet

JA/2/H/5	<u>Part of an issue of 'The Jewish Chronicle'</u> Copyright: Jewish Chronicle. Extent: 1 Newspaper	14 September 1990
JA/2/H/6	<u>'Proper Jewish Lives'</u> Booklet of interviews with members of the Jewish community produced by the Stirchley Local History Project. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 Book	1983
JA/2/H/7	<u>Photocopies of published documents</u> Late twentieth-century copies of documents relating to Birmingham Jewish history published in various books and journals.  Extent: 11 Printed documents	1843 - 1956
JA/2/H/7/1	<u>Photocopy of Singers Hill Centenary Service programme</u> Twentieth-century copy of 1956 document. Includes names of the people who carried the Torah scrolls.  Extent: 1 Document	14 October 1956
JA/2/H/7/2	<u>Photocopy of a drawing labelled 'The Jews Synagogue'</u> Twentieth-century copy of 1843 document. Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 Document	1843
JA/2/H/7/3	<u>Photocopy of a short article about the history of Birmingham Jewry</u> Copyright: Unknown. Extent: 1 Document	late twentieth century?
JA/2/H/7/4	<u>Photocopy of the cover of the order of service for the Jubilee of Singers Hill Synagogue</u>  Extent: 1 Printed document	1906
JA/2/H/7/5	<u>Photocopy of a postcard advertising the Singers Hill Synagogue 140th Anniversary Luncheon</u>  Extent: 1 Printed document	1996
JA/2/H/7/6	<u>Photocopy of the cover of the order of service performed at the consecration of Singers Hill</u>	1856

Extent: 1 Document

- |             |  |                      |
|-------------|--|----------------------|
| JA/2/H/7/7  | <p><u>Photocopy of a typed transcript of a letter describing the consecration of Singers Hill Synagogue</u></p> <p>Photocopy of a transcript of a letter from SM Cohen to his granddaughter, Sarah Van Noorden, with a caption suggesting that the transcript was published in the Jewish press.</p> <p>Twentieth-century photocopy.<br/>Copyright: Unknown.<br/>Extent: 1 Document</p>  | 26 September<br>1856 |
| JA/2/H/7/8  | <p><u>Photocopy of a drawing of the Chief Rabbi's visit to Singers Hill in 1869</u></p> <p>The drawing was originally published in the Illustrated Birmingham News and was probably reproduced in a book about Jewish history. It shows the Chief Rabbi and other clergy conducting a service in Singers Hill synagogue.</p> <p>Copyright: Unknown.<br/>Extent: 1 Document</p>   | 1869                 |
| JA/2/H/7/9  | <p><u>Photocopy of a group of photographs of the ministers, officers, and lay leaders of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, originally published in the Jewish Chronicle</u></p> <p>Twentieth-century photocopy.</p> <p>The photographs are of: Mr L.J. Libgott, Headmaster of the Schools; Mr Moses Berlyn, Secretary and Headmaster of the Schools, 1865-1904; Mr A.M. Blanckensee, President of the Educational Society; Mr Edward Davis, Ex-President; Mr Aaron Cotton, Ex-President; Mr Jacob Phillips, Ex-President; Mr David Hollander, President 1906, Mr I.L Jacobs, Treasurer 1906; Mr John Phillips JP, Ex-President, The Rev J Fink, First Reader, the Rev G.J. Emanuel, B.A, Minister since 1864; the Rev B. Woolf, Second Reader; Mr Lionel Spiers, Chairman of the School Foundation Managers; Mr S.M. Levi, Ex-President; Mr B.H. Joseph, Ex-President; Mr Samuel Gordon, Ex-President, Mr Henry Davis, Ex-President.</p> <p>Copyright: Unknown.<br/>Extent: 1 Printed document</p> | 1906                 |
| JA/2/H/7/10 | <p><u>Photocopy of part of the first Annual Report of Council</u></p> <p>Twentieth-century photocopy</p> <p>Extent: 1 Document</p>   | 1860                 |
| JA/2/H/7/11 | <p><u>Photocopy of an article about the history of the synagogue in Severn St</u></p> <p>Twentieth-century photocopy of an article written in 1871</p>   | 1871                 |



entitled 'Athol Lodge, Masonic Hall, Severn Street, Birmingham (The Old Jewish Synagogue)'. The article includes a reproduction of two brass plates discovered in 1871 during alterations to the building: one, in Hebrew, with a translation, commemorates the building of the synagogue and records the names of the 'five principal men'; the other commemorates the rebuilding of the synagogue in 5587 and gives the names of the Wardens.

Copyright: Unknown.

Extent: 1 Document

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|-----------|---|----------------------|
| JA/2/H/8  | <p><u>'Order of Service at the Installation of Dr Immanuel Jakobovits as Chief Rabbi'</u><br/>         Creator of material: Office of the Chief Rabbi.<br/>         Order of Service at the Installation of Dr Jakobovits as Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth of Nations and Induction into Office by The Former Chief Rabbi the Very Rev. Dr. Israel Brodie.<br/>         Copyright: Unknown.<br/>         Extent: 1 Booklet</p> | 11 April 1967        |
| JA/2/H/9  | <p><u>'Order of Service on the occasion of the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Park Road New Home'</u><br/><br/>         Extent: 1 Booklet</p>  | 12 September<br>1971 |
| JA/2/H/10 | <p><u>Souvenir Brochure commemorating the Silver Jubilee Dinner of the Sunderland Yeshiva</u><br/>         Copyright: Unknown.<br/>         Extent: 1 Booklet</p>   | 24 October<br>1971   |
| JA/2/H/11 | <p><u>'Order of Service on the occasion of the opening of the Joy Silverstone House'</u><br/><br/>         Extent: 1 Booklet</p>  | 09 October<br>1972   |
| JA/2/H/12 | <p><u>'Order of Service at the Dedication of the Sifrei Torah in Solihull Synagogue'</u><br/>         Copyright: Solihull and District Hebrew Congregation.<br/>         Extent: 1 Booklet</p>  | 27 September<br>1971 |

### **JA/2/H/13 Birmingham Jewish Recorder, 1968 – 1998**

'Established in 1935, the Birmingham Jewish Recorder is the medium of communal communications. It is published monthly and features reports on communal events, details of communal societies and includes articles about Israel and of general interest. Most Recorders are delivered by hand on the first of every month and a number are posted to overseas readers and those living outside the Birmingham/Solihull area. It has an estimated readership

of over 1500.

Among The Recorder's regular features are a 'Youth Scene' page; an education page compiled by the local Jewish school, King David; 'Rovings', which includes vignettes of particular local interest; Israel news compiled by the Israel Information Centre; a Bridge page; a Crossword and of course, editorials and special feature articles.

The Recorder is not affiliated to any of the local synagogues and attempts at all times to present a true and impartial picture of the many interests and activities within the community. It has always been a strong supporter of Israel and offers a truthful presentation of communal life as highlighted through the pages of its monthly issues. At its annual general meeting, the Tudor Baron Trophy is presented to a writer who has contributed an article of particular interest and literary standard and the Joseph Cohen Trophy is presented to a writer who has contributed a series of articles during the year.' (from <http://www.brijnet.org/birmingham/communaldetails.html#Anchor-35882>)

Issues of the Jewish Recorder:

1968 March, August, December

1970 August-December

1971 January-October, December

1972-1974

1975 January-October, December

1976-1982

1983 January-September, November-December

1984 January-December

1985 January-October, December

1986-1996

1997 February

1998 February, April-June, August-October, December

### **JA/2/J Plans, 1871 - 1971**

Arranged in two sub-series: plans of the synagogue and plans of the Communal Hall and schools. Plans of the cemeteries have been listed with other cemetery records (JA/2/D).

### **JA/2/J/1 Plans of Singers Hill Synagogue, 1911 - 1960s**

Arranged in chronological order

JA/2/J/1/1	<u>Ground plan of Singers Hill Synagogue</u> 'Ground plan showing Possible alteration of Side Seats and Proposed Alteration to Ground Floor', signature illegible, 3 Newhall St Birmingham. Shows central rows of seats facing combined Ark and Bimah.	13 April 1911
	Extent: 1 Plan	
JA/2/J/1/2	<u>'Proposed Alterations. The Synagogue, Singers Hill Birmingham'</u> Ground and first floor plan of Singers Hill Synagogue, signed Harry W Weedon ARIBA, Architect & Surveyor, Phoenix Chambers, 84 Colmore Row, Birmingham.	26 October 1936
	Extent: 1 Plan	

- JA/2/J/1/3 Plan of the gallery extension at the west end of Singers Hill Synagogue 02 November 1936  
 Entitled 'Alternative Plan of Gallery', signed by Harry W Weedon ARIBA, Architect and Surveyor, Phoenix Chambers, 84 Colmore Row, Birmingham.  
 Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/1/4 Sketch of alterations to the Almemar and Choir Gallery, Singers Hill Synagogue 03 November 1936  
 Entitled 'Proposed Alterations, The Synagogue, Singers Hill Birmingham. 1/2 inch sketch detail showing Almemar and Choir Gallery'. Signed by Harry W Weedon ARIBA, Architect and Surveyor, Phoenix Chambers, 84 Colmore Row, Birmingham.  
 Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/1/5 Plan entitled 'The Synagogue, Singers Hill, Birmingham. Revised layout of gallery seating' 03 June 1937  
 Signed by Harry W Weedon, ARIBA, Architect and Surveyor, Phoenix Chambers, 84 Colmore Row, Birmingham, London office, 7 Park Lane, London W1.  
 Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/1/6 Plan of part of Singers Hill Synagogue entitled 'Suggestion for raising Rostrum front (oak)' n.d. [1930s]  
 Unsigned, probably by Harry Weedon.  
 JA/2/J/1/7 is a copy of this plan.  
 Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/1/7 Plan of part of Singers Hill Synagogue entitled 'Suggestion for raising Rostrum front (oak)' n.d. [1930s]  
 Unsigned, probably by Harry Weedon.  
 JA/2/J/1/6 is a copy of this plan.  
 Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/1/8 Plan of Singers Hill Synagogue entitled 'Birmingham Synagogue. Proposed Alterations' n.d. [1960s]  
 Plan, cross-section and longitudinal section, signed by

Birch and Caulfield, Chartered Architects, Solihull.  
JA/2/J/1/9 is a copy of this plan.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/J/1/9 Plan of Singers Hill Synagogue entitled 'Birmingham Synagogue. Proposed Alterations' n.d. [1960s]

Plan, cross-section and longitudinal section, signed by Birch and Caulfield, Chartered Architects, Solihull.  
JA/2/J/1/8 is a copy of this plan.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/J/1/10 Plans of alterations to Singers Hill Synagogue n.d. [1960s]

Creator of material: Birch and Caulfield, Chartered Architects.  
Plan, cross-section, and longitudinal section, signed by Birch and Caulfield, Chartered Architects, Solihull.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/J/1/11 Plan and drawing of Singers Hill Synagogue n.d. [1960s]

Creator of material: Birch and Caulfield, Chartered Architects.  
Plan and section with drawing of Ark and Bimah, signed by Birch and Caulfield, Chartered Architects, Solihull.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/J/1/12 'Details of Wardens' Seats Birmingham Synagogue Singers Hill' December 1962

Creator of material: Birch and Caulfield, Chartered Architects.  
Shows front elevation, plan, section, and detail of post finial, signed by Birch and Caulfield, Chartered Architects, Solihull.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/J/1/13 Sketches and plans labelled 'Singers Hill Synagogue: Proposals for Ark' 1962

Creator of material: Birch and Caulfield, Chartered Architects.  
Three sketches of Ark, 1 elevation, 1 detail, 1 Ner Tamid.

Extent: 6 Plans

JA/2/J/1/14 Architect's drawings of Singers Hill Synagogue entitled 'Proposed Alterations to Almemar' 1962

Two plans showing sections of the Ark and reading desk, one annotated, 'decided 10 July 1962'; three ground floor plans, all unsigned.

Extent: 5 Plans

JA/2/J/1/15 Heating Diagram of Singers Hill Synagogue n.d. [twentieth century]

Creator of material: Henry Lea and Son, Consulting Engineers.

Drawn by Henry Lea and Son, Consulting Engineers, 38 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/J/1/16 Plan labelled 'Section Drawings (incl. Heating Chamber)' n.d. [twentieth century]

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/J/1/17 Ground floor plan of Singers Hill Synagogue n.d. [twentieth century]  
Creator of material: Cotton, Ballard, and Blow.

Extent: 1 Plan

### **JA/2/J/2 Plans of the Communal Hall and Schools, 1899 - 1971**

Arranged in chronological order

JA/2/J/2/1 'Proposed Hebrew School and Assembly Hall' June 1899

Signed by C. Whitwell and Son, Architects, 23 Temple Row Birmingham. Shows Gough and Blucher St facades of Infants Schools plus section.

JA/2/J/2/2 is a photocopy of this map.

Extent: 1 Plan

JA/2/J/2/2 'Proposed Hebrew School and Assembly Hall' June 1899

Late twentieth-century photocopy of 1899 document. Signed by C. Whitwell and Son, Architects, 23 Temple Row Birmingham. Shows Gough and Blucher St facades of Infants Schools plus section.

Extent: 1 Plan

- JA/2/J/2/3 'Proposed Institute to be erected on present School site, Ellis St, Birmingham' n.d.
- Creator of material: Satchwell Roberts Architects.  
Signed by Satchwell Roberts, Architects, 7 Waterloo Street, showing wash of front elevations, 3 floor plans, 2 sections, and basement.
- Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/2/4 'Proposed Hebrew Institute, Severn St, Birmingham' February 1927
- Creator of material: Satchwell Roberts Architects.  
Floor plan.
- Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/2/5 'Proposed Communal Hall, Schools and Club Premises, St Luke's Road, Edgbaston Birmingham for the Committee of the Hebrew Congregation' February 1929
- Creator of material: Essex and Goodman Architects and Surveyors.  
Signed by Essex and Goodman, Architects and Surveyors, 21 Waterloo Street, Birmingham. Set of four sheets: ground floor, first floor, second floor, south elevation and section.
- Extent: 4 Plans
- JA/2/J/2/6 'Drainage Plan Hebrew Schools, St Luke's Road, Birmingham' May 1933
- Creator of material: Essex and Goodman Architects and Surveyors.  
Signed by Essex and Goodman, Architects and Surveyors, 21 Waterloo Street, Birmingham.  
Condition: Fair.  
Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/2/7 'Proposed Alterations to Premises at the rear of the Synagogue, Ellis Street, Birmingham' October 1933
- Creator of material: Essex and Goodman, Architects and Surveyors.  
Signed by Essex and Goodman, Architects and Surveyors, 21 Waterloo Street, Birmingham.  
Condition: Fair.  
Extent: 1 Plan

- JA/2/J/2/8 'Sketch Scheme for Rebuilding the Communal Hall, Youth Club and Office. Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Singers Hill' 22 November 1968
- Creator of material: Holland W Hobbiss & Partners, Architects and Surveyors.  
Signed by Holland W Hobbiss & Partners, Architects and Surveyors, 9 Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, B4 6DZ. Sketch elevation from Gough St and floor plans.
- Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/2/9 'Sketch Scheme for Rebuilding the Communal Hall, Youth Club and Office. Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Singers Hill' 22 November 1968
- Creator of material: Holland W Hobbiss & Partners, Architects and Surveyors.  
Signed by Holland W Hobbiss & Partners, Architects and Surveyors, 9 Fountain Court, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, B4 6DZ. Sketch elevation from Gough St and floor plans.
- Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/2/10 'Sketch Scheme for Rebuilding the Communal Hall, Youth Club and Office. Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Singers Hill' 22 November 1968
- Plans of the ground floor and first floor and a sketch of the front of the building. Unsigned.  
Copy catalogued as JA/2/J/2/11.
- Extent: 1 Plan
- JA/2/J/2/11 'Sketch Scheme for Rebuilding the Communal Hall, Youth Club and Office. Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, Singers Hill' 22 November 1968
- Plans of the ground floor and first floor and a sketch of the front of the building. Signed by Holland W Hobbiss & Partners, Architects and Surveyors, 9 Fountain Court, Birmingham 4.  
Copy catalogued as JA/2/J/2/10.
- Extent: 1 Plan

**JA/2/K Deeds and agreements, 1807 - 1980**

Papers of the Congregation's solicitors, including deeds, agreements, and related correspondence. Many of these papers are the papers of Bertram Silverston.

**JA/2/K/1 Property deeds and deeds relating to the Endowed Prizes Fund, with related correspondence, 1807 - 1980**

Grouped by subject and arranged in date order.

JA/2/K/1/1 'Papers re securities' 1865 - 1953

Letters to and copies of letters from Bertram Silverston, mainly concerning legacies to the Congregation and purchase of shares.  
List of deeds and documents relating to Betholom Row burial ground, Holloway Head, and various other Congregation properties, nd; copies of share certificates, 1953; letter to Dr Cohen from S Goodman re payment for a Bursary, 26 June 1927; copies of share certificates, with related correspondence, 1927; copy of will of Braham Madenberg, including bequests to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, 25 August 1865; Bertram Silverston's correspondence with SI Solomons [Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] and others concerning purchase of shares, 1920s-1930s; letter to the Treasurer, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation from David Davis [Solicitor] concerning the will of David Lazarus Dight, 26 July 1921; typed copy of the will of David Lazarus Dight, 6 June 1921; correspondence and list of payments from the estate of Anna Madenberg, 1915; share certificates, [1890-1917]; correspondence re purchase of shares, [1916-1917]; schedule of Birmingham Hebrew Congregation investments, 1943; list of Birmingham Hebrew Congregation investments, 1917; letters to Bertram Silverston concerning purchase of shares, 1927.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/1/2 'Papers re Betholom Row cemetery' 1807 - 1955

File of correspondence, mostly letters to TE Spencer, [solicitor] and Moses Berlyn [Secretary of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation], with some deeds, concerning the Congregation's campaign to prevent the Midland Railway Company from extending the West Suburban Railway Line through its cemetery at Betholom Row, Granville St, including:

List of expenses incurred by Maples, Teesdale, and Co (Parliamentary Agents) during their work on the campaign, 1881

Letter from TE Spencer to Moses Berlyn enclosing copies of advice from Maples, Teasdale and Co about the campaign, 1881

List of expenses incurred by TE Spencer during the campaign, 1880-1881

'Notice to Owners, Lessees, and Occupiers' to the



Trustees of the Hebrew Congregation, informing them about the extension of the Railway Line, listing the properties affected, and asking for a response, 1881

List of expenses incurred by Francis Willmot, Surveyor, 1881

Letter from Teasdale and Co to William Clarke, reporting on an inspection of the cemetery, 19 January 1881

Cash Account for the Cemetery Defence Fund, 1881-1882

Agreement between Thomas Thurber and the Hebrew Congregation concerning use and maintenance of the Congregation's hearse, 1900

Letters to Moses Berlyn donating money to the Cemetery Defence Fund, 1881

Extract of agreements between the Trustees of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and the Midland Rail Company for sale of land in Granville St, 1876

The Congregation's petition against the Bill, 1881 (two copies)

Report by Dr Hoffman, recommending that bodies buried in Betholom Row should not be removed, 1881

Deeds relating to the burial ground, 1807 and 1855

Copy of an opinion given on the case by Mr VS Dugdale, 1876

Report on the condition of the walls and premises in the cemetery, 1902

Agreement between the Congregation and Arthur Hyam re renting land at Warren Road and College Rd, Perry Barr, 1924

Letters to the Secretary from members of the Congregation who have relatives buried in Betholom Row cemetery, 1924

Correspondence and agreements relating to the appointment of new Trustees for the Betholom Row cemetery, 1945

Carbon copy of a report by Derek Goldberg explaining the history of the Congregation's cemeteries at Betholom Row and Granville St and concluding that Betholom Row still belongs to the Congregation, 2 May 1955

Report by Couchman, Willmot and Couchman advising the Congregation on the condition of the Betholom Row cemetery, the possibility of removing the bodies to Witton cemetery, and items which should be included in any calculation of compensation, 1 January 1881

Draft report of the Cemetery Committee, written at the end of the case, reporting that the railway line will be diverted and that there will be a meeting held to decide what to do with the surplus from the Cemetery Defence Fund, undated

Extent: 1 File

- JA/2/K/1/3 'Papers re Endowed Prizes' [1911 - 1964]  
Deeds and copies of deeds setting up trust funds for prizes to be awarded at the Hebrew School. The prizes are usually set up by members of the Congregation, including: Moses Moses, Gumput Woolf, Meyer Mindesohn, Lionel Spiers, Sarah Goodman, Annie Spiers, and Barnett Goodman, often in memory of a relative.  
Extent: 1 File
- JA/2/K/1/4 'Papers re Warren Rd cemetery' [1914 - 1952]  
Bertram Silverston's [solicitor to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] file of correspondence and deeds relating to the Congregation's cemetery at Witton, Perry Barr. Includes correspondence and deeds relating to purchase of the land from the Calthorpe Estate, [1914-1915]; correspondence concerning sale of part of the land to Birmingham Town Council for road widening and arrangements for running electric cabling and sewers under the site, [1927-1931]; correspondence with Warwickshire Agricultural Committee asking permission to let part of the land next to the cemetery, [1951-1952]  
Extent: 1 File
- JA/2/K/1/5 'Agreement. Water Blucher St School' 08 November 1932  
Agreement between the Congregation and Birmingham Corporation concerning charges for water supply to the school buildings at Blucher St.  
Extent: 1 Document
- JA/2/K/1/6 Correspondence concerning the Endowed Prizes Fund 1946 - 1948  
Correspondence between Barclays Bank and Wallace, Robinson, and Morgan, solicitors re appointing Barclays Bank as a Trustee of the Endowed Prizes Fund and depositing the Trust deeds at Barclays Bank.  
Extent: 1 File
- JA/2/K/1/7 Correspondence concerning maintenance of the King David School playing field. 1966  
Letters and copies of letters from Noel Hastilow, Holland, Hobbis, and Partners, surveyors, to the Chief Education Officer, City of Birmingham Education Department discussing whether the Local Authority is responsible for maintenance of the playing fields at King David School and concluding that it is.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/1/8 Correspondence concerning sale of the St Luke's Road school site 1973 - 1980

Letters from Nathan Rubin, Secretary, United Synagogue, London, to David Zissman, President, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation regarding Value Added Tax liability on synagogue activities, 1973;

Correspondence between Roland Diamond, President, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and Arnold, Shepherd, and Co, Estate Agents concerning sale of the St Luke's Road school site to Birmingham Local Education Authority.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2031.

Extent: 1 File

**JA/2/K/2 Papers relating to trust funds and agreements with other Birmingham congregations, 1902 - 1981**

Grouped by subject and arranged in date order.

JA/2/K/2/1 Agreements between the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and the Birmingham Beth Hamedrash, with related correspondence 1902 - 1956

Agreement between representatives of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and of the Birmingham Beth Hamedrash, Wrottesley St, (later the Central Synagogue) signed and sealed, June 1902. The agreement includes these conditions:

'that the Council [of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] shall annually consider an application to renew the permission to hold Divine Service at the Beth Hamedrash formerly held at Holloway Head but now held at Wrottesley St;

that the Beth Hamedrash shall not engage a Mohel [the person who performs ritual circumcision] or Schochet [butcher]; open a butcher's shop; solemnise marriages; accept as members any person reducing their payments to, or seceding from the Congregation;

that the Beth Hamedrash shall pay fees for Chazkoth Hakeheloh and shall annually supply a list of Members and Subscribers and a balance sheet to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation;

that the Council of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation will recommend that the rabbi of the Beth Hamedrash shall be eligible for election by the Shechita Committee equally with the clerical officers of the Congregation and that the Congregation shall consider granting an annual sum of £100 to the Beth Hamedrash';

Typed copies of the agreement, undated;

Typed list of revised recommendations in respect of the agreement between the Congregation and the Beth

Hamedrash, 1919;  
 Copy of part of the minutes of the Council of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation concerning an agreement made with the Liberal Synagogue regarding burial rights, including copy of a letter from S.I. Solomons [Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] to G.L. Joseph [Secretary, Birmingham Liberal Jewish Synagogue], 1936;  
 Letter from Jack Levy to S.I. Solomons [Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation], 1943;  
 Agreement and copy of agreement between Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and Central Synagogue including conditions regarding membership, providing an annual return and balance sheet, rates for capitation fees and funerals, payments for maintenance of cemeteries, appointments to the Birmingham Shechita Board, and use of the Mikvah [immersion pool], 1953;  
 Copy of minutes of a meeting of Council held on 9 July 1956: the Liberal Synagogue asks the Council's permission to increase their subscription rates and the Council agrees.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/2/2

Papers relating to the Jubilee Commemoration Fund

1907

'Instructions to Council' explaining that the Jubilee Commemoration Fund has been set up to raise money for the redemption of the lease on the Synagogue, which is due to expire in 49 years' time, 1907; Deed of Trust of the Jubilee Commemoration Fund, 1907, with typed copies and drafts; Letter from Moses Berlyn [Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] to Bertram Silverston [solicitor] informing him of the decisions taken at Council concerning the establishment of a Trust Deed, 6 June 1907; Letter from Moses Berlyn to Bertram Silverston, 16 July 1907, enclosing a list of Trustees, probably Trustees of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, their dates of appointment, dates of death, and place of burial, undated.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/2/3

Correspondence concerning burial rights in Witton and Brandwood End cemeteries.

1935 - 1966

Correspondence between George L Joseph [Secretary, Liberal Jewish Synagogue, Birmingham] and Leon Salberg and S.I.Solomons [Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] concerning the Liberal Jewish Congregation's application for burial rights in the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation cemetery at Witton, 1935-1936; typed copies of an agreement between the

Liberal Synagogue and the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation concerning burial rights at Witton, copy of 1936 document; typed copy of an agreement between the Central Synagogue and the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation regarding membership lists, burial rights, terms and conditions of funerals, maintenance of cemeteries, marriages, representation on the Shechita Board, and maintenance of the Mikveh [immersion pool], which modifies an agreement made in 1919, nd; typed copies of a document entitled 'Revised Recommendations passed by the Council, in respect of the Agreement existing between the Congregation and the Beth Hamedrash, Wrottesley St, 9 March 1919'; carbon copy of an agreement made in 1946 between the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and the New Synagogue, Hurst St regarding burial rights at Witton, nd; letters from the Liberal Jewish Synagogue to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation concerning payment of subscriptions to the Cemetery Fund, 1946-1955; correspondence between Sidney Gold [Chief Minister, Hebrew Congregation] and Harry, probably Harry Gompertz [Chairman, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation Cemeteries Committee] re planting a hedge to delineate the Liberal portion of the Witton Cemetery from the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation portion, and possible objections to this, 1966; carbon copies of an agreement between the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and the New Synagogue, Hurst St regarding burial rights at Witton and Brandwood End cemeteries, 1953; typed copy of an agreement between the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and the Liberal Jewish Synagogue regarding burial rights and charges for burials, 1935; Letter from J Tobias [President, New Synagogue] renewing the agreement with the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation concerning the burial of non-members of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation cemetery at Brandwood End, 1954; Letter to S.I. Solomons from Joseph Cohen [Chairman, Law Revisions Committee] regarding burial charges made to members of other Congregations, 1945; Agreement between Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and the New Synagogue, Hurst St, regulating the burial of non-members, with related correspondence and drafts of the agreement, 1946.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/2/4

Papers relating to the Morris Schwerin Trust

1941 - 1942

Correspondence between Bertram Silverston [solicitor to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] and Philip, Cohen, Slater, and Tompkins, solicitors concerning the estate of

Morris Schwerin, which has been left to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/2/5 Papers relating to the Endowed Prizes Fund [1945 - 1947]

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/2/6 Correspondence concerning insurance policies 1955 - 1956  
Correspondence between Barclays Bank and the Secretary, Birmingham Hebrew Congregation concerning insurance policies on the Congregation's buildings, 1955

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/2/7 Miscellaneous 1937 - 1981

Carbon copy list of references to the Beth Hamedrash, Wrottesley St (later the Central Synagogue) in the minutes of meetings of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation held between 1894-1902, probably referring to meetings of the Council, with list of the amount of grant money paid by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation to the Beth Hamedrash, the amounts paid for the Mikvah by the Beth Hamedrash, and the amounts received by the Congregation from the Beth Hamedrash in capitation fees from 1903-1929, undated;  
Licence granted by the Birmingham Shechita Board to Mr A Gallagher, 21 November 1966;  
Agreement between Birmingham Hebrew Congregation and Estelle Jacobs employing her as a temporary unqualified assistant teacher at the Hebrew School, with related correspondence, 1961;  
Photocopy of a letter from Jacob Moses Cohen to Sarah Benjamin, describing the opening of Singers Hill Synagogue in 1856, with typed copies of a transcript of the letter, nd  
Brochure for the 125th Anniversary Celebrations Appeal for Singers Hill Synagogue, which proposes to renovate the Joseph Cohen Hall, 1981;  
Order of service for a ceremony of prayer and thanksgiving celebrating the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 8 May 1937, Hebrew and English, produced by the Office of the Chief Rabbi;  
Typed brief history of the Birmingham Hebrew National School, nd.  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2062.  
Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/3 Deeds and agreements relating to the Birmingham Jewish 1932 - 1943

Boys' and Girls' Club

Bertram Silverston's file of leases and draft leases of the Boys' and Girls' Club buildings, with related correspondence, including:

Lease from the Trustees of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation to the Trustees of the Birmingham Jewish Boys' and Girls' Club of premises in St Luke's Rd, Birmingham to be used as a Boys' and Girls' Club, 15 December 1932; letters from Bertram Silverston to Joseph Cohen and Cowan Solicitors sending drafts of the lease, 1932; letter from London Assurance re insurance on the Boys' and Girls' Club and adjoining buildings, 1932; draft agreement between the Boys' and Girls' Club and the Communal Scheme granting £1000 from the Communal Scheme to the Club, 1932, with related correspondence; two copies of lease, one surrendered, 1943; correspondence between Bertram Silverston and Joseph Cohen and Cowen, Solicitors, arranging the surrender of the lease and insurance on the Boys' and Girls' Club premises, 8 October 1943.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/4

Register of securities

[1914 - 1960]

Register listing securities purchased by the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation, the Cemetery Fund, the Endowed Prizes Fund, the Philanthropic Society, the Educational Aid Society, the Shechitah Committee, the Board of Guardians, and the Jubilee Commemoration Fund. There is also a list of Deeds and Papers in the Congregation's Deed Box, p. 169. Enclosed, letters from Bertram Silverston [Solicitor to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation] to the Secretary of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation regarding purchase of shares, 1919, and typed list of Birmingham Hebrew Congregation's investments, 1942.

Access: Closed until 01/01/2011.

Extent: 1 Volume

**JA/2/K/5 Deeds and correspondence relating to the Hebrew School, 1844 - 1930**

JA/2/K/5/1

Correspondence 'Hebrew National School Hurst St and Ellis St'

1844 - 1932

File labelled 'Papers re Hebrew National School Hurst St and Ellis St'.

Copies of correspondence between David Davis, solicitor to the Hebrew Congregation, and HW Munslow, Brassfounders, 41 and 42 Ellis St, concerning a dispute over right of light, 1902-1932

Legal opinion given to the Congregation by J Cowling,

solicitor, concerning a dispute between the Committee of the Hebrew National School and the builders of the school, Messrs Williams and Roberts, 22 June 1844. The builders 'contend that the original contract has become useless and void and they are at liberty to disregard the contract and are entitled to claim to be paid by measure and value and this according to the valuation of other parties than the architect of the Works'; the School Committee contends that the contract still stands. The document includes a summary of the dispute, a copy of the contract for the building of the Hebrew School, and notes by Cowling giving his opinion on the case, which supports the Committee.

Deed of settlement of property in Lower Hurst St, belonging to the Jewish Congregation in Birmingham, 15 April 1853

Report entitled 'Supplementary Report on Rights of Light', given to the Congregation by Cooper Whitwell and Frank Barlow Osborne, 1904

Correspondence between the Board of Education and probably Birmingham City Council concerning inadequate playground space, WCs, and other improvements that need to be made to the Hebrew School, 1915

Memorandum of agreement re Hebrew National School, June 1844

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/5/2

Correspondence concerning the building of the New Infant School and the Bremer bequest 1895 - 1933

Envelope of letters and papers labelled 'Letters and Papers from Messrs Essex and Goodman re Alterations to Ellis Street School' 'Sketch Scheme for Additional Cloakroom The Synagogue, Blucher St Birmingham, signed Essex and Goodman, Jan 1933'.

Includes correspondence between Essex and Goodman [architects] and JW Levy concerning alterations to the synagogue in Ellis St, including two plans, 1933; two letters concerning Albert Bremer's will, which left the residue of his estate to the Congregation, 1896, copy of Albert Bremer's will, 1895, and final accounts of his estate, n.d. [1899]; two letters and a report from Whitwell and Son to the Secretary of the Congregation concerning alterations to the Hebrew Schools, Ellis St, 1915; correspondence, deeds, and other papers concerning the sale of Blucher St Schools, 1933, including a draft conveyance selling land at Blucher St to the Girl Guides Association, 1933, an advertisement for the sale of the old Infant School, and cuttings from the Birmingham Post including advertisements for the sale of the old Infant



School.

Extent: 1 File

JA/2/K/5/3

Deeds and correspondence concerning purchase of land for a new school.

1929 - 1952

Bertram Silverston's file of deeds and correspondence relating to the purchase of a property in Edgbaston called 'the Middlemore Homes'. There were several buildings on the site, which were altered to make a new building for the Birmingham Hebrew School (sometimes referred to in the records as St Luke's Rd School) and a Boys' and Girls' Club.

The file includes various insurance policies on the school buildings, an agreement regarding water supply to the building, 1932-1958; an Instrument of Management issued by the Minister of Education stating the rules for the government of the school, including the numbers of Foundation Managers appointed, 1951; a folder of press cuttings, some illustrated with photographs of the school from a range of newspapers including the Birmingham Gazette and the Jewish Chronicle, dating from the opening of the school in 1931 and rebuilding in 1952, with orders of service for the laying the foundation stone, 1931 and the reopening and dedication, 1952; correspondence between Bertram Silverston and Guy Heaton [sub-agent, Calthorpe Estates Company] arranging a new lease of the Middlemore Homes, 1930; various draft agreements and deeds relating to purchase of the site including a lease from the Calthorpe Estate, draft contract for sale, 1929; two abstracts of title to the Middlemore Homes, one with a map of the property, 1929; correspondence concerning insurance on the buildings, 1930-1931; correspondence between Chesshire, Gibson, and Co and Lionel Albury concerning costs of the sale, 1929; correspondence between Bertram Silverston and Guy Heaton concerning purchase of the leasehold and submitting plans for building on the site to the Calthorpe Estate, 1929-1930; correspondence between JW Levy and Essex and Goodman Surveyors and an engineering firm concerning flooding of the basement of the school, 1932.

Extent: 1 File

### **JA/2/L Financial records: General Fund, 1934 - 1995**

The financial records of the Congregation have been arranged in two series: records of the General Fund and associated records; and records of the Cemetery Fund.

### **JA/2/L/1 Ledgers,[1934 - 1980]**

Ledgers of the General Fund. The earliest ledger in the series refers to a previous ledger

which has not survived.

JA/2/L/1/1	<u>Ledger</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2031. Extent: 1 Volume	[1934 - 1980]
JA/2/L/1/2	<u>Ledger</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	[1946 - 1950]
JA/2/L/1/3	<u>Ledger</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2010. Extent: 1 Volume	[1950 - 1959]
JA/2/L/1/4	<u>Ledger</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2011. Extent: 1 Volume	[1956 - 1960]
JA/2/L/1/5	<u>Ledger</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2018. Extent: 1 Volume	[1960 - 1967]
JA/2/L/1/6	<u>Ledger</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2033. Extent: 1 Volume	[1967 - 1982]

### **JA/2/L/2 Cashbooks,1935 - 1962**

JA/2/L/2/1	<u>Cashbook</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	1935 - 1945
JA/2/L/2/2	<u>Cashbook</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	1945 - 1953
JA/2/L/2/3	<u>Cashbook</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2009. Extent: 1 Volume	1953 - 1958
JA/2/L/2/4	<u>Cashbook</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2013. Extent: 1 Volume	1959 - 1962

### **JA/2/L/3 Cash analysis books,1948 – 1991**

- /1 November 1948-August 1949 (open)
- /2 August 1949-April 1950 (open)
- /3 April 1950-February 1951 (open)
- /4 February 1951-October 1951 (open)

- /5 October 1952-January 1952 (open)
- /6 January 1952-September 1952 (open)
- /7 October 1952-February 1953 (open)
- /8 February 1953-December 1953 (open)
- /9 January 1954-December 1954 (open)
- /10 January 1955-December 1955 (open)
- /11 January 1956-December 1956 (closed until 1/01/2007)
- /12 January 1957-December 1957 (closed until 1/01/2008)
- /13 January 1958-November 1958 (closed until 1/01/2009)
- /14 January 1959-December 1959 (closed until 1/01/20010)
- /15 January 1960-December 1960 and October 1979-July 1980 (closed until 1/01/2031)
- /16 January 1961-December 1961 (closed until 1/01/2012)
- /17 January 1962-March 1963 (closed until 1/01/2014)
- /18 April 1963-March 1964 (closed until 1/01/2015)
- /19 April 1964-March 1965 (closed until 1/01/2016)
- /20 April 1965-March 1966 (closed until 1/01/2017)
- /21 April 1966-March 1967 and July 1980-April 1981 (closed until 1/01/2032)
- /22 April 1967-March 1968 and April 1978-December 1978 (closed until 1/01/2029)
- /23 April 1970-March 1971 and January 1979-October 1979 (closed until 1/01/2030)
- /24 April 1972-April 1973 (closed until 1/01/2024)
- /25 April 1973-March 1974 and April 1977-March 1978 (closed until 1/01/2029)
- /26 April 1974-March 1975 and April 1975-March 1976 and April 1976-June 1976 (closed until 1/01/2027)
- /27 July 1976-March 1977 (closed until 1/01/2028)
- /28 April 1981-November 1981 (closed until 1/01/2032)
- /29 November 1981-October 1982 (closed until 1/01/2033)
- /30 November 1982-November 1983 (closed until 1/01/2034)
- /31 November 1983-December 1984 (closed until 1/01/2035)
- /32 January 1985-March 1986 (closed until 1/01/2037)
- /33 March 1986-April 1987 (closed until 1/01/2038)
- /34 April 1987-March 1988 (closed until 1/01/2039)
- /35 April 1988-March 1989 (closed until 1/01/2040)
- /36 April 1989-March 1990 (closed until 1/01/2041)
- /37 April 1990-March 1991 (closed until 1/01/2042)

#### **JA/2/L/4 Donation books,1947 - 1984**

- |            |  |             |
|------------|--|-------------|
| JA/2/L/4/1 | <p><u>Donation book</u><br/>         Volume listing donations to the synagogue, January 1949-April 1975, to the Dr Cohen Testimonial Fund, August-December 1949, p. 200, deleted list of donations to the Rev Dr Cohen Oil Painting Fund, p. 212, and monthly bank reconciliation, January 1967-June 1970, p. 217.<br/>         Access: Closed until 01/01/2026.<br/>         Extent: 1 Volume</p> | 1949 - 1975 |
| JA/2/L/4/2 | <p><u>Donation book</u><br/>         Volume listing donations to the synagogue, April 1975-January 1984 and to the Synagogue Restoration Fund, June 1947-December 1948.</p>  | 1947 - 1984 |

Access: Closed until 01/01/2035.  
Extent: 1 Volume

JA/2/L/5	<u>Wages book</u> Volume listing Congregation staff wages and National Insurance. Access: Closed until 01/01/2051. Extent: 1 Volume	1963 - 1970
JA/2/L/6	<u>Individual pay records</u> Listing salaries, tax, national insurance, and pension payments to Congregation staff. Access: Closed until 01/01/2060. Extent: 1 Volume	April 1970 - March 1979
JA/2/L/7	<u>Payroll</u> Lists payments to teachers, clerical staff, and cemetery staff. Access: Closed until 01/01/2060. Extent: 1 Volume	April 1970 - March 1979

#### **JA/2/L/8 Monthly outgoings,1981 - 1983**

JA/2/L/8/1	<u>Monthly outgoings</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2033. Extent: 1 Volume	1981 - 1982
JA/2/L/8/2	<u>Monthly outgoings</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2034. Extent: 1 Volume	1982 - 1983

#### **JA/2/L/9 Account books listing General Fund and Cemetery Fund cheque payments,1991 - 1995**

JA/2/L/9/1	<u>Account book</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2044. Extent: 1 Volume	April 1991 - March 1993
JA/2/L/9/2	<u>Account book</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2046. Extent: 1 Volume	April 1993 - March 1995

#### **JA/2/L/10 Receipts books, April 1991 - March 1995**

JA/2/L/10/1	<u>Receipts book</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2042 Extent: 1 Volume	1991 - 1992
JA/2/L/10/2	<u>Receipts book</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2044.	April 1992 - March 1993

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/2/L/10/3	<u>Receipts book</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2045. Extent: 1 Volume	April 1993 - March 1994
JA/2/L/10/4	<u>Receipts book</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2046. Extent: 1 Volume	April 1994 - March 1995
JA/2/L/11	<u>General Fund current account statements</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2044. Extent: 1 File	1987 - 1993

### **JA/2/L/12 Cash analysis books: rough copies, 1949 - 1962**

- /1 September 1949-December 1952
- /2 January 1953-December 1954
- /3 December 1954-December 1956
- /4 January 1957-March 1959 (closed until 1/01/2010)
- /5 March 1959-September 1960 (closed until 1/01/2011)
- /6 September 1960-January 1962 (closed until 1/01/2013)

JA/2/L/13	<u>Ledger listing cheque payments made from the General Fund and the Cemetery Fund</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2044. Extent: 1 Volume	1989 - 1993
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### **JA/2/M Financial records: Cemetery Fund, 1925 – 1993**

Arranged in two series: records of the General Fund and associated records; and records of the Cemetery Fund.

#### **JA/2/M/1 Ledgers, [1925 - 1982]**

JA/2/M/1/1	<u>Ledger</u> Extent: 1 Volume	[1925 - 1934]
JA/2/M/1/2	<u>Ledger</u> Extent: 1 Volume	[1932 - 1942]
JA/2/M/1/3	<u>Ledger</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2010. Extent: 1 Volume	[1945 - 1959]
JA/2/M/1/4	<u>Ledger</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2033. Extent: 1 Volume	[1971 - 1982]

**JA/2/M/2 Cashbooks,1940 - 1962**

JA/2/M/2/1	<u>Cashbook</u> Condition: Poor. Extent: 1 Volume	1940 - 1941
JA/2/M/2/2	<u>Cashbook</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	1942 - 1952
JA/2/M/2/3	<u>Cashbook</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2013. Extent: 1 Volume	1952 - 1962

**JA/2/M/3 Petty Cash Books,1945 - 1958**

JA/2/M/3/1	<u>Petty cash book</u>  Extent: 1 Volume	1945 - 1951
JA/2/M/3/2	<u>Petty cash book</u> Access: Closed until 01/01/2009. Extent: 1 Volume	1951 - 1958

**JA/2/M/4 Cemetery Fund bank statements,1987 – 1993**

Access: Closed until 01/01/2044.

**JA/2/N Miscellaneous, 1853 - 1980s**

JA/2/N/1	<u>Volume recording information about insurance policies, staff, prize funds, gifts to the synagogue, and investments.</u> Volume, author unknown, noting information about the Congregation's insurance policies, staff salaries and pension payments, prize funds, and gifts to the synagogue, extracts from wills, investments, and other information. There is a page per member of staff, property, prize fund, or gift. Information about land and property includes the date of purchase, amount paid, and sometimes information copied from the property deeds. Some of the properties mentioned in the volume are: the New Cemetery, Witton, the Old Cemetery, Chequers Walk, and the Burial Ground at Betholom Row, pp. 5-7. Information about prize funds set up by members of the Congregation includes the date that the fund was set up and the amount given, and sometimes an extract from the trust deed. Prizes include the Rachel Sacks Prize, p. 13-14	1865 - 1907
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and the Moses Moses Prize, p. 15.  
 Gifts can be books or other artefacts, for example, p 8,  
 Simeon Greenberg gives a Scroll of the Law to the  
 synagogue to celebrate his son Alfred's 'attaining his  
 religious majority', 1870.  
 Information about staff includes date of engagement,  
 terms of employment, amount of salary and salary  
 increases. Staff members listed include Moses Berlyn, p.  
 10, Rev GJ Emanuel, p. 9, Lewis Levetus, p. 24  
 Other information includes a note of an unsuccessful  
 attempt in 1872 by the Jews of Dudley to form a  
 Congregation, p. 29; a list of Wardens of the Congregation  
 from 1855, p. 30; the balance sheet of the Synagogue  
 Building Fund, pp 45-46; information about the election of  
 a First Reader in 1872, including a list of candidates'  
 names, p. 52; a list of Trustees of the Congregation, p. 64;  
 There is an index at the front of the volume.

Extent: 1 Volume

JA/2/N/2	<p><u>Booklet entitled 'Teach Yourself Hebrew from Yiddish'</u>          Condition: Fair.          Copyright: Unknown.          Extent: 1 Volume</p>	n.d. [late nineteenth century]
JA/2/N/3	<p><u>Copy of a letter from AP Louis and others to the Chief          Rabbi, Dr Adler</u>          Twentieth-century copy of a letter from AP Louis, I          Blankensee and a Committee of 13 others explaining why          they want to secede from the Jewish congregation in          Birmingham and found a new congregation.          Copyright: Unknown.          Extent: 1 Document</p>	1853
JA/2/N/4	<p><u>Photocopy of a programme for a concert given by the 1st          Jewish Company of Guides and Rangers</u>          Includes songs, sketches, and dialogues and the names of          the performers.          Copyright: Unknown.          Extent: 1 Document</p>	n.d.[twentieth century]
JA/2/N/5	<p><u>Photocopied list of names of guests who attended an          official dinner</u>          Access: Closed until 01/01/2070.          Extent: 1 Document</p>	n.d. [1980s]
JA/2/N/6	<p><u>Register of donations to the Central Synagogue Building          Fund Account</u>          Lists the date of the gift, the name and address of the          person making the donation, the annual amount paid, the</p>	1956 - 1957

number of years convenanted, and the total paid.  
Access: Closed until 01/01/2038.  
Extent: 1 Volume

- JA/2/N/7      Cheque issued by the Hebrew Congregation      9 January 1976  
Condition: Fair.  
Extent: 1 Printed document
- JA/2/N/8      Medals issued to commemorate the centenary of Singers      1956  
Hill Synagogue  
Four medals depicting views of the interior and exterior of  
Singers Hill Synagogue, mounted in a wooden case.  
  
Extent: 4 Objects
- JA/2/N/9      Letter inviting an unknown recipient to a meeting of the      18 February  
Hebrew School Foundation Managers      1951  
  
Extent: 1 Item