

# THE NEW EALING REVIEW

ROSH HASHANAH

2020/5781



לשנה טובה תכתבו

# EALING SYNAGOGUE

15 Grange Road, Ealing W5 5QN

**TEL** 020 8579 4894 **EMAIL** [office@ealingsynagogue.org.uk](mailto:office@ealingsynagogue.org.uk) **ADMINISTRATOR** Carole Lateman

**WEBSITE** [www.ealingsynagogue.org.uk](http://www.ealingsynagogue.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 242552

**OFFICE HOURS** Tuesdays and Thursdays – 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

## MINISTER

Rabbi H Vogel BA

Mobile - 07425 456642; Email - rabbivogelus@gmail.com

## CO-CHAIRS

Dawn Shestopal

Michael Mars

## FINANCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Ray Temple

## WARDENS

Stephen Hirst

Leslie Sommer

## HONORARY SHAMAS

Alan Sierota

## ELDER

Brian Robinson

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Edward Cohen	Board of Deputies Representative
Mike Gettleson	Health and Safety
Jo Glass	Interfaith
Stephen Hirst	Security, Zoom Social Events
Michael Jacobs	Library
Ella Marks	Mitzvah Day, Outside communities
Joan Michaels	Guild
Leslie Sommer	Relationship with the wider community, Welfare liaison

## SUB-COMMITTEES

Kate Hirst	Combined Charities
Alison Shindler	Community Cares (Welfare)

As we look towards Rosh Hashanah and begin a time of reflection on the last year, the coronavirus pandemic is sadly what many of us will remember of the last 12 months. At Jewish Care, from an early stage, we took a series of measures to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 across all our resources, and we continue to take measures in line with UK government and Public Health England guidelines, to keep all those in our care safe and protected to the best of our ability.

Measures we took included cancelling all in-person events and gatherings, investing in PPE and procuring over 1,750,000 items of PPE to date, and suspending indoor visits to our care homes and Independent Living facilities. We are now facilitating socially distanced, outdoor visits where it is safe to do so. We have also consistently campaigned for Covid-19 testing for our staff and residents.

We are also now able to accept new residents into our care homes where it is safe to do so. There are very strict criteria in place for how we take people into our care homes, including a negative Covid-19 test and an initial 14-day isolation period for all new residents.

We redeployed a number of Jewish Care staff to help facilitate phone calls, video calls or a Skype call with a loved one instead of a physical visit and purchased a number of additional iPads for use in our care homes for this purpose. Jewish Care extended the offer of a number of additional services to those that these closures may have affected, including, but not limited to Meals

on Wheels and Telephone befriending services, which have all been helped by the huge number of additional volunteers that have come forward to help.

By mid- August, we had delivered over 21,000 Meals on Wheels to those who need them and are making over 1000 calls a week to the most vulnerable and isolated members of our community.

Although we have had a number of residents, clients, staff and volunteers who have made a full recovery from Covid-19, our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who sadly lost loved ones to the virus. They will always be a part of the Jewish Care family and we are grateful to have had them with us.

We have also had a number of very special moments during the pandemic. We celebrated birthdays, anniversaries and fundraising challenges. We celebrated Pesach in all of our homes and independent living facilities with Zoom seders, online Haggadahs, pre-recorded prayers, delivered seder plates and meals. Our residents were frequently sent letters, drawings and messages of support from the community, our volunteers and schoolchildren. More recently, we have been able to facilitate many relatives to have socially distanced outdoor visits to loved ones after months of being unable to see one another in person. We hope to have many more bright moments to come, however, we continue to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautions to safeguard against the virus.

Jewish Care continues to be prepared to ensure that we have everything we need for now and in the future. We are only able to do so because of the vital support we receive from the community and to those that have supported us in our greatest hour of need, there are not enough words to thank you for all you've done.

We hope that you and your families keep safe and well, and that this Rosh Hashanah brings only a happy and healthy new year for us all.

If you feel that you or a loved one would benefit from one of the services mentioned above, please contact our helpline on 020 8922 2222 or [helpline@jcare.org](mailto:helpline@jcare.org) or visit [www.jewishcare.org](http://www.jewishcare.org).

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# EDITORIAL

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## 'The New Ealing Review' Editorial Committee

Marianne Izen

Ben Kosky

Isabel Kosky

Ella Marks

Helen Mars

Marianne Temple

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This year has been different from all other years, with everyone facing new challenges and routines. This year's 'New Ealing Review' is also different and we hope that you will enjoy reading it.

Even before lockdown officially started at the end of March, Ealing Synagogue took the precaution to close for services and social events, but this only strengthened our resolve to keep in touch. As you will read in these pages, Alison Shindler has been amazing in organising shopping for the more vulnerable members of the community and Stephen Hirst has done a grand job of hosting a variety of Zoom events to keep the cultural side of our brains intact.

Kabbalat Shabbat, Havdalah and Sunday morning Shacharit were held using Zoom. Even though the shul has now re-opened, you can still Zoom into these services at the shul from the comfort of your own home.

Israeli dancing, hosted by Daniela Bland, has been Zoomed. Although dancing at home on your own around the coffee table is not the same as dancing together, the dancers have enjoyed keeping in touch with one another and, perhaps, keeping fit.

We now anticipate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the 'Days of Awe'. Rarely has that epithet been so understated. Our co-Chairs, Dawn Shestopal and Michael Mars, with Rabbi Vogel, the wardens and their sub-committee, have worked very hard to ensure that services in the shul will be held in a safe and socially-distanced environment, in keeping with the guidelines issued by the Government, the United Synagogue and the Office of the Chief Rabbi. This is a challenge that should not be in the remit of any Honorary Officer and we thank them for all their efforts in pulling this together.

Looking back, we remember 2019, our Centenary year, and the finale dinner held in November 2019. We hope that you enjoy looking at photos from that event.

Looking forward, we wish you and your families a year of only good health, peace and hope.



# THE CHIEF RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rosh Hashanah 5781

As I reflect on an extraordinary year, my first thoughts are with those whose lives were tragically cut short by the Coronavirus. May their memories be for a blessing and may their families find comfort in their sad loss.

My heart goes out to the many whose health, whether physical or mental, has been affected and to those who are facing severe financial hardship or crises in their personal relationships. The restrictions on social interaction, abrupt changes to our routine and the grip of deep uncertainty have dramatically impacted the fabric of all of our lives in ways that we could never have imagined.

In the years to come, while many will admirably recall our resilience and forbearance during these most trying of times, ultimately the success of our response to this Pandemic will be judged not by how we felt, but by how we acted.

The Torah portion of Nitzavim, which is always read immediately prior to Rosh Hashanah, commences with these words: "You are all standing this day before the Lord your God; your heads, your tribes (shivtechem), your elders and your officers".

In this list of national leaders, 'tribes' appears to be out of place. Mindful of the fact that 'shevet' also means 'staff' or 'sceptre', our commentators explain that the leaders of our people are being referred to according to the item that they carried that symbolised their role. In the same way as 'the Crown' refers to the monarch and

'First Violin' refers to an orchestra's lead musician, a person who leads is known by the instrument of that leadership.

The message that emerges is extremely powerful. You are defined by what you do. The essence of a person is measured according to what they have achieved.

For this reason, we call community leaders 'machers' (makers). 'Macher' is a role that conveys respect, because the people who change the world are not the dreamers and thinkers; the people who change the world are the 'doers'.

On Yom Kippur, we read the book of Jonah, in which the prophet informs the inhabitants of Nineveh of their impending doom.

In response, they fast and repent for their evil ways. The text captures that epic event in just a few words: "God saw their deeds". Their words of apology and their fasting were merely steps towards a life-changing moment. What concerned God was not their protestations, but their actions.

This year, without any preparation whatsoever, every one of our communities was plunged into a crisis of unprecedented proportions.

Your response has been simply magnificent. With our Shuls closed, our communities redoubled their creativity and their altruism. We have never known such an outpouring of compassion, such acts of selfless care for the vulnerable and such generosity in charitable giving.

I have no doubt that such action will remain at the heart of our Covid-19 response for as long as it takes us to overcome the dangers it presents to all of humankind.

As we commence 5781, may Hashem inscribe and seal each and every one of us in the Book of Life, good health, peace and fulfilment.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis  
September 2020 • Ellul 5780



# A TIME FOR REFLECTION

Rabbi Hershi Vogel

This year has been a difficult one. I am writing this article a few weeks before Rosh Hashanah.

Hearing the conflicting and confusing statistics, I have wondered who and what is correct. Should we go out, should we go to work, should we stay at home? Then came the bubble; who can be in the bubble? How many people? In the garden or in the house? And the instructions continue to confuse.

Over the past few months, we have witnessed an unprecedented change. Some have lost loved ones, some have lost livelihoods, and it will never be the same for us again. No-one is exempt from Covid's reach. Many are mourning the loss of familiar practices, habits, privileges, comforts and general way of life. Many are also counting their blessings at the same time.

Heading towards the New Year, what message can we take from all this?

On one of our Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat services, my dear brother-in-law, Rabbi Alti Bukiet, related a story of two brothers who were imprisoned in a cell where they could not pray. One of the brothers started to cry, as he could not fulfil his obligation but the other brother was dancing. He said to his devastated brother, 'The same God that tells you to pray is now telling you not to pray.' Every moment in our lives we have to ask ourselves 'What is the Almighty asking of me right now?'

It is not easy to have simple faith when looking around at the devastation. I have found it very difficult from an emotional and physical perspective. Seeing, hearing and speaking to people about how they are affected prompts me to ask myself how I balance my world as a

husband, father, child, Rabbi, chaplain and psychotherapy student who is now working from home. Even though we know that everything is from the Almighty, it is hard for us to grasp and to see that everything is ultimately good.

I recently saw a powerful and fascinating book titled with Hebrew letters that read "Zoom". It does not have a single word inside; instead each page has a picture. Every page turned zoomed out more and more, allowing the reader to see how each page was part of a much bigger picture. The prevailing message is that the more we zoom out the more we see.

One of the most difficult things we have experienced over the last few months is that we could not be together, not in shul, not at weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs or other joyous occasions. We could not spend time with or hug our loved ones. Being together is important and we need one another. In fact, much can be achieved in numbers. However, we are all individuals and unique and Hashem wants to hear from each of us individually. What is important is not only what we do, but who each of us is as a person. We all have the power to reach God, perhaps in an even greater way than if we prayed together, because, this is what the Almighty wants from us right now. Please God we will get back to some normality and have the option.

My daughter Rosie was chosen to speak at her school's end of year graduation. She spoke beautifully and eloquently about the Parshot of Matot and Massei. She explained how Matot means a branch or a stick and Massei means a journey. Matot inspires us to believe that Hashem has given us ability and

strength. Just like a branch that becomes detached from its source and develops into a rod as it dries out and becomes very strong, so too, we can overcome our challenges. But, unlike a detached rod, we never actually lose our connection and that's why we are referred to as Shevatim (tribes), which also means sticks or branches. But these branches are still connected to their source.

As we travel through life, we face obstacles and we can become like a Matot, a stick that has detached from its source. We can feel that we are on our own, not seeing anyone as we remain alone in our homes and working from home. This can make us feel cut off from society and religion. Or we could remain a Shevet, a stick that is still attached regardless of what we are dealing with. If we allow ourselves to admit to the confusion, to the conflicts between what we want and what we may instinctively know is right, we can identify if we are distant from our Source and recognise our inner connection. This will help us to go from strength to strength on our journey.

Zelda and I feel blessed to be part of this kind, friendly and beautiful family community which goes the extra mile to help those in need. As we stand together, albeit from a distance for now, we must focus on staying attached and remaining strong both as individuals and collectively. We should go from strength to strength.

May it be God's will that we truly see a year of health, happiness, success and continued nachas from all our families.

Happy New Year  
(in its true meaning).



## CO-CHAIRS' REPORT

Dawn Shestopal and Michael Mars



The past year has been a game of two halves. We spent all of 2019 celebrating our Centenary with enjoyable and moving occasions, including an exhibition in the Synagogue hall paying tribute to our founders, an album commemorating community members and events, all culminating in November, in a magnificent Centenary Dinner. We are grateful to those who helped in the organisation of the events over the year, the production of the album and the planning of the dinner: Marian and Edward Cohen, Estelle and Michael Jacobs, Kate and Stephen Hirst, Joan Michaels and Marianne Temple.

At the beginning of March this year, many of us locked down ahead of the Government's instruction to do so, but by mid-March, we had cancelled all the scheduled events, such as the annual Civic Service and a choral concert, and made no further plans.

This does not mean that the community went into hibernation. First and foremost, as Synagogue services are the life-blood of a community, Zoom services were set up for Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat, Havdalah, Sunday morning Shacharit and Rosh Chodesh. We had a pre-Shavuot service with Divrei Torah, instead of our annual Leil Limmud. At the time of writing we don't know where the country will be in terms of the virus by the Yamim Noraim, but we are preparing for every contingency.

We do know, however, that the magazine editorial committee has, despite the difficulties, produced this admirable Rosh Hashanah Magazine. We are grateful to them and to the contributors.

We pay tribute to the work of the Community Cares committee, headed by Alison Shindler. This is one of the committees that, hitherto, has operated largely under the radar, but their ongoing efforts in caring for the more vulnerable among us, in particular in the form of the regular communal lunches enjoyed by us all, have been appreciated. During these past few months, when so many have been in isolation, they have been unstinting in the telephone calls to keep in touch and organising shopping and delivery of food. We could not have managed without them.

The newsletter has continued to be prepared and sent, keeping us all in touch.

Stephen Hirst has been indefatigable in organising virtual activities - a Drawing Group, a Reading Group and, a 'Show and Tell'. Daniela Bland ensured that the regular Israeli dancing sessions continued virtually, as has Leslie Sommer with the AJR meetings.

Edward Cohen has attended the Board of Deputies plenary meetings and presented his reports in his usual witty way. There has never been a time, during the lifetime of most of us, when its work in combating antisemitism, warding off attacks on shechita and circumcision and addressing the opting in scheme of organ donation, has been more necessary.

Our Administrator, Carole Lateman, has worked industriously and with great good humour to ensure that the administrative work of the community continues. We, personally, are so grateful to her. Our ever-willing caretaker, Dave

Gyatt, has been furloughed but has nevertheless shown his dedication to the Synagogue and the community. Our thanks also to Michael Franks who helps us with security.

And so, as the community has pulled together and coped happily in unprecedented times, we can say that, despite the pressures of isolation, we are still the spirited and vibrant Ealing Community which was so deservedly fêted at the Centenary Dinner by the Chief Rabbi and the President of the United Synagogue, and of which we are proud to serve as Co-Chairs.



# THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE

## Tishrei 5781



The most powerful event in our nation's history is about to take place. The morning sun rises. The Children of Israel are camped at the foot of Mount Sinai, clothes washed, expectant. The scene is set. They are ready to hear from God Himself. Thunder and lightning fill the air. A thick cloud envelops the mountain. Shortly it will smoke and quake.

The people shudder. But a close reading of the text shows that it wasn't the thunder, the lightning or the fire which cause them to tremble. Rather, וְקוֹל שֹׁפָר הַזֶּזֶק מְאֹד – it is 'a very strong Shofar blast' (Exodus 19:16). This is the first mention of the word 'Shofar' in the Torah. And it provides a clue, I think, to why the hearing of the Shofar has resonated with Jews of all backgrounds for centuries.

Rosh Hashanah is the anniversary of the creation of the world. Mount Sinai is the anniversary of our covenant with God. The Shofar blasts of Rosh Hashanah echo the ones heard at the giving of the Torah. The Shofar focuses our minds and reminds us of our responsibilities as Jews to study, to pray and to make the world a better place.

This Rosh Hashanah will be one like no other. Many of us will still not be comfortable heading to shul, perhaps spending our first Rosh Hashanah away from synagogue in decades. To help, do look out for our new publication – *Shana Tova!* – arriving in the post soon and to be used whether you are in shul or at home. We've also teamed up with the

publishers Koren to offer you a discount on the Rabbi Sacks Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur machzors.

But if I can urge you to do one thing – safely – this Rosh Hashanah, it is to hear the Shofar blasts. Our communities are organising Covid-secure blowings in shul, in youth and family programmes, in parallel services and in open spaces (this year on second day only as first day falls on Shabbat).

This is not how we expected to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the United Synagogue. But Jews are the people of *tikva*, hope, and so even in times of crisis we look for the silver linings. I have never been more proud to be the President of the United Synagogue as I have this year. Our communities, led by dedicated Honorary Officers supported by many volunteers, have without fail, stepped up to combat the Coronavirus crisis.

Our Rabbis and Rebbetzins have conducted pastoral visits and funerals at the most difficult of times. Through the United Synagogue Chesed department and our Community Care coordinators, 1,000 'Seder in a box' kits were delivered to isolated members ahead of Pesach. The 'Shabbat in a box' initiative with three freshly-cooked meals has enabled those unable to put food on the table to celebrate Shabbat.

Our communities have re-imagined themselves virtually and I have been struck by the extraordinary range of

programmes our shuls have provided, including inspirational Kabbalat Shabbat services online. The United Synagogue's new video on-demand service, TheUS.tv, has attracted thousands of viewers and, more importantly, has kept people connected to their Judaism.

These are our Shofar blasts: a call to our members that our communities are here for you. At this most unusual of Jewish New Years, my sincere good wishes to you and your families. Shana tova.

**Michael Goldstein**  
President, United Synagogue



# PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES

Marie van der Zyl

This has been a year like no other. The global pandemic has affected life more in a short space of time than any other event in peace time.

Of course, the effects have been experienced worldwide with hundreds of thousands dead and millions more badly affected by this virulent virus. We are a small community but we have been hit heavily. Sadly, our death rate has been more than double that of the general community and we have lost some wonderful people since March, taken from us way before their time. It has been a time to mourn but also a time to act. The Board of Deputies lobbied hard to ensure that local councils could not cremate bodies without first consulting with the families of the deceased. This was a fine example of collaboration between Jews and Muslims who shared the same concerns. We collaborated closely with other community organisations to ensure that UK Jews received all the help and information possible in the emergency, using all of our resources for the benefit of those affected. We collated a document bringing together all of the special guidelines for Passover this year and devised a card for members of the community to print off, fill out and post through the letter box to neighbours, letting members of the local community know that people are available to do a food shop or even just to speak to someone on the phone who is self-isolating. No less importantly, our team has had the sad but necessary duty of collating the deaths we have endured so that we have an accurate record.

Last year, we were in the midst of Labour's antisemitism crisis. Twelve months on and Labour are, in the words of new leader Sir Keir Starmer,

“under new management”. We set out our Ten Pledges on anti-Jewish racism in January and they were enthusiastically adopted by the new leadership team. The progress we have seen is very encouraging. The scourge of antisemitism has not disappeared from the Labour Party but the determination to address it and take action where it is needed, as in the case of the sacking of Rebecca Long-Bailey, gives all of us reason to be optimistic after a dark few years.

Even Coronavirus could not completely overshadow the worldwide movement which developed rapidly in response to the racist murder of George Floyd. We in the Jewish community felt we needed to formulate our own initiative. The result is the Board of Deputies' Commission on Racial Inclusivity in the Jewish Community which is being chaired by distinguished journalist Stephen Bush. We need to make sure that we are accepting of people of all backgrounds and I look forward to making progress on this most important of issues.

Those who know the Board of Deputies will understand we work on a diverse set of issues – indeed so many that it is impossible to list everything in a short message.

We exist to ensure that the UK's Jewish community can live freely, happily and continue to practise our traditions.

We are passionate about protecting our religious freedoms, whether the right to circumcise our baby boys in accordance with our tradition or to ensure that employees are able to take time off for Jewish festivals and follow their Jewish traditions within the law.

Our interfaith activities have certainly made the news – for example our support for the Chinese Uyghur Muslims currently suffering oppression in China, has raised awareness of the problems.

Through Pikuach, we supervise religious education in Jewish schools, and, pandemic permitting, we travel the country with the Jewish Living Experience exhibition, educating non-Jewish children and adults about our way of life.

We engage with Government ministers, MPs, local councillors, diplomats, faith leaders and with a huge variety of public bodies on behalf of the community we represent.

We can only do this work with the help of communities across the UK, so I thank you for all the support that you all give. Let's hope the New Year truly does bring health and happiness to all of us.

**Shana Tovah.**

# CST wishes our community a peaceful, healthy & safe New Year



It is CST's mission to protect our Jewish communities up and down the country. We are committed to you, and ensuring your security, so that Jewish life can continue to exist and thrive in the UK.

The past year has been filled with challenges, both individual and collective. The pandemic has touched all of our lives, some in deeply tragic ways. The ability to physically meet with friends, family and in community – the networks that can make the most difficult and uncertain of times more bearable – has been removed. Where there is crisis, anger and blame follow, often directed at Jewish people. Now that we can gather together once again, CST is here to make sure it happens safe from prejudice and physical harm.

We wish that the security we provide were not necessary, but sadly terrorism, although rare, is a reality that can happen anywhere. Last Yom Kippur, the synagogue in Halle, Germany, was attacked by

a neo-Nazi. Using a homemade gun, he tried and failed to enter the synagogue, but did kill a passer-by and a customer at a nearby kebab shop. It was the cooperation of the congregants and shul staff, simply properly closing the door behind them, that saved the lives of those inside the service.

CST is here to protect you and facilitate the flourishing of Jewish life. This works best when you work with us. Please be mindful of basic security procedures and of our many dedicated volunteers who are devoting their time and efforts to ensure our safety, allowing us to spend the High Holy Days in peace. We wish you a safe, happy New Year, and a meaningful fast.

Please consider volunteering for CST or donating to us. We are a charity and we cannot do our work without your help. In an emergency, call the Police and then call our 24-hour National Emergency Number 0800 032 3263.

[www.cst.org.uk](http://www.cst.org.uk)  Community Security Trust  @CST\_UK

 National Emergency Number (24-hour) **0800 032 3263**  
London (Head Office) **020 8457 9999**  
Manchester (Northern Regional Office) **0161 792 6666**

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## BOARD OF DEPUTIES REVIEW

### Edward Cohen, Ealing Synagogue's BoD Representative

Like most other organisations, the Board has been deeply affected by the coronavirus pandemic, resulting in this report covering ten months, not the usual twelve. Honorary Officers and staff have worked from home. Indeed, history has been made with regard to meetings, of which, more later.

After a summer break, the first Plenary took place in September 2019. There were two main speakers: Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, described himself as a non-Jew, married to a Jewish woman, with two lovely Jewish daughters. His main theme was the necessity to fight antisemitism, but he strongly supported the proposed Holocaust Memorial planned near the entrance to Parliament.

The second speaker, Rabbi Joseph Dweck, senior Sephardi Rabbi, delivered a fascinating sermon on Freedom. The main fund-raising event of the year, the President's Dinner was in November. The Guest of Honour was Tony Blair and, unsurprisingly, the function was a sell-out.

Unusually, there was another long break in Plenary meetings, until January 2020. Being near to Holocaust Memorial Day, the accent was on that theme. The two main speakers were survivors, who described their experiences in a most moving way.

In her statement, the President, Marie van der Zyl, gave thanks for the defeat of Mr. Corbyn. She mentioned her attendance at the reception at Buckingham Palace for

the Jewish Community, attended also by our own Ella Marks, representing the League of Jewish Women. The President quoted the words of HRH Prince Charles: 'I see this as the least I can do to try to repay in some small way the immense blessings the Jewish people have brought to this land and to humanity.'

The next Plenary, in February, was addressed by Esther Offenburg, President of NUJS. She mentioned that the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, had arranged a gift of £300,000 to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation.

March saw a few Deputies attend the annual Provincial meeting in Birmingham. Despite the disappointing lack of numbers, the main Speaker, Jess Phillips, MP for Birmingham Yardley, gave an address strongly supportive of the British Jewish Community.

History was made at the May Plenary, the first in the Board's long history to be held on Zoom. About 190 Deputies logged on, and heard yet another splendid address by Mark Regev, the departing Israeli Ambassador, describing how Israel had applied lockdown very early on in the Covid-19 breakout, unlike other countries which had hesitated, causing more deaths than were necessary. This was his last visit to BoD as Ambassador, as his appointment expired shortly after.

Being online, there were fewer interruptions than usual. Is this the way for future meetings, asked many?

The period under review ended with the June Plenary, again on Zoom. The main speaker was Lord John Mann, the Government's advisor on antisemitism. He emphasised that the highest danger will occur if and when the economy starts to fail, as those affected will look for scapegoats. He outlined three priorities: education, dealing with extremism in social media and the necessity of promoting the definition of antisemitism in social places such as football clubs.

The work of the four sub-Divisions has continued without a break. The HOs and staff have done a magnificent job in coping with problems imposed by coronavirus. In a short report of this nature, it is not possible to comment on specific items or achievements. However it is worth remembering that the Board of Deputies is the only organisation recognised by the Government as representing the Jewish communities of United Kingdom. The Board deserves your whole-hearted support.

# THE PRAYER OF JEWISH IDENTITY

Brian Robinson

People enjoy their Yiddishkeit to a greater or lesser degree. Belonging to a community seems to be important for various reasons. Regular collective prayer is not, perhaps, a main one, though for the size of our little community we don't do too badly. We belong because we want to be together as a communal family to associate with one another during life's events, sharing happiness as well as unpleasant events and helping and supporting each other. It's good to sing our own praises.

Our communal world has been turned upside down in recent months due to the coronavirus pandemic. None of us has ever experienced anything like this. So much has changed. We cannot be together as before. Our lives are separate and for some, very lonely. Thank God for modern methods of communication. The efforts made by Stephen Hirst in providing a regular weekly programme of

Zoom events to keep us together cannot be praised highly enough.

To return to our religious practice, apart from the Zoom services, which are better than not having anything at all, there is great concern that organised prayer may never be the same again. Consider the arrangements, which our Honorary Officers, at the time of writing this, are making in trying to restart Shabbat services and the High Holydays.

One aspect of religious practice, however, which has been of great concern to most of us, is the inability to say Kaddish. However irreligious we are, there continues to be a personal need for us to say the mourners' Kaddish, not only at burials and shivas but for the Yahrzeits of our parents and other close relatives. We cannot pray together unless there is a minyan in one place, so it is not permitted to say Kaddish. There has been much discussion as to the possibility of

counting a Zoom minyan as appropriate, or even saying Kaddish without a minyan, or on one's own. This is supported halachically for good reasons (ask the Rabbi).

Why is the mourners' Kaddish so important to us? It is not actually a prayer of mourning but it simply and eloquently glorifies God's name and is the most solemn and most ancient of all Jewish prayers. Even the Christian "Lord's Prayer" has part of its origin in the Kaddish: "May His great name be blessed for ever and all time" – "Hallowed be thy name". It is our way of remembering our departed relatives and showing respect to previous generations, acknowledging their Jewishness and, indeed, our own.

The continuity of reciting Kaddish will help ensure the survival of the Jewish people and the Jewish religion.

**May we go back to the future.**



תְּגַדֵּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא (אָמֵן)  
amen rabba sh'meh ve yit ka dash yit ga dal

*Exalted and sanctified is his great name. Amen*



# TONY HITMAN Z"l

25 May 1927– 20 December 2019

It would be impossible to record memories of VE Day without remembering a much-loved and respected member of the Ealing community, Tony Hitman z"l, who died at the end of last year.

In his last article for "The New Ealing Review" Rosh Hashanah 2019, Tony wrote about being a teenager during the Second World War. Tony took great pride in his service in the British Army; his memory of, interest in and knowledge of all things related to the Second World War were legendary. On VE Day, he was still working and studying to be a chartered surveyor. On significant events in the calendar, such as the AJEX parade, Tony would speak after the Shabbat morning service about his time in the army and would recall his days in the army and The Royal Engineers as among the most enjoyable of his life.

In honour of Tony, the following is an extract from a personal letter to his wife Joan and the Hespel given by his cousin, John Harris, during the shiva week, from which Joan has very kindly allowed us to take excerpts:

"Toby, better known to most of us as Tony, was born at 193 Plumstead High Street, Woolwich, to Pearl and Harry Hitman. He was one of three children – sister Heather and brother Maxwell.

Tony was a self-made man. He studied and qualified as a chartered surveyor and formed a very successful practice, Browett Taylor, in Holborn.

Tony first married Cherry Azulay in December 1949. They were both born in 1927 but, tragically, Cherry passed away in 1956 aged 29. They had two children, Gerald and Jacqueline (Jacky) and Tony brought them up by himself. He married Joan in March 1970 and continued to live in Ealing.

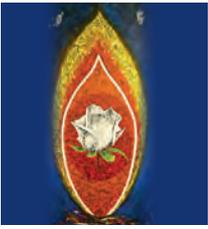
Sadly, Tony's sister Heather and his brother Maxwell both died of MS. His son, Gerald, died in 2009. Gerald had one son who was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident a week after Tony's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party in July 2017 (which he celebrated with all his family at Ealing Synagogue).

For many years, I sat with Tony in MacDonald's shul in Netanya during Pesach, Yom Kippur and Succot. It will be hard for me to attend services, remembering my dear cousin and old friend.

Although Tony was a regular attendee at Ealing shul, he did admit that his belief in God had diminished. This was due to his tragic losses, which I fully understood.

The last three generations of our family have all been Freemasons. Tony was initiated into Leadenhall Lodge, of which many of Tony's uncles and cousins were also members. He was also a member of Fiat Lux Lodge, the daughter Lodge of Leadenhall Lodge, and Montefiore Lodge No. 1017, in London.

On Sunday 15 December 2019, my wife Sue and I went over to Ealing for lunch and Tony was in good form. The following day he drove down to Southend to visit his brother-in-law, Arnold Azulay, and drove back. On Tuesday he did not feel well and on Wednesday, the doctor admitted him to Ealing hospital with flu, which turned out to be pneumonia. He sadly passed away on Friday 20 December 2019."



# VE DAY REMEMBERED

8 May 1945

## David Filer

In retrospect Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 was a “crazy” day. At that time, I was a pupil at St Paul’s School, which had been evacuated to the environs of Crowthorne in Berkshire. We were scattered in hostels with a house master and 10-15 occupants. Lessons were cancelled and all we could do was laze about. Suddenly, in the early afternoon, some of us were told to pack a bag for an overnight stay at home! Coaches were ready to drive us to Bracknell Station, where a train with reserved seating for St Paul’s School had been arranged for us, to go to Richmond station, where our parents would be waiting. The train duly arrived and we set off for London. Chaos reigned on the journey - electric light bulbs were removed and hurled at people standing at passing stations. The rest of the day is a memory blur.

What I find so interesting is the fact that a train with reservations for the school could be “conjured up” at such very short notice. Various suggestions were made but I like one particular scenario. It so happened that the senior boy in my particular hostel was a Michael Summerskill, the son of Dr Edith Summerskill, who already had a feisty political reputation. I have often wondered if he had phoned his Mum.

## Marian Cohen

At the time of VE Day, as was common practice in those far off days, we lived above my father’s surgery, on the borders of West Ealing and Hanwell. My father was still in military uniform, serving in the military hospital in Woolwich. I have a clear recollection of a street party in Grosvenor Road; with the children, I played on a bomb site next to our garden. I do remember a conjurer called Uncle Boko! I then went with my parents, walking through Dean Gardens and Walpole Park, to Ealing.

There were crowds singing and dancing. Dad hoisted me onto his shoulders and everyone seemed to know him and were touching his medals. Mum and Dad joined the singing and dancing. I also remember there were still barrage balloons above Ealing Common.

## Hans Danziger

(by courtesy and copyright of Sheila Lassman)

On May 8<sup>th</sup> the war ended. There was a mood of victory on May 7<sup>th</sup> when I stole out of school in the dinner hour to buy some red, white and blue ribbon for the celebration. I was detected and then sent to Miss Barton, the headmistress, but as the war was nearly over, she didn’t do anything in the way of punishment. On Monday evening I heard the great news on the radio and went to the local café and celebrated by having a sixpenny ice cream. Now, on Tuesday we had a perfectly glorious time. In the morning I went with Lorna to the place we patronised at times and had an ice cream soda, costing a bob.

I made arrangements with my friends that we should all go with Mum, Uncle Harry and Laurence to the West End to see the sights - and how marvellous these sights were. We went to Parliament Square to see Mr Churchill. All we saw was his hat. From there we went to, or rather pushed, our way to St James’s Park where we had our picnic tea, being unable to get any (a foregone conclusion this was) at any restaurant.

When we got home at 8.30, we arranged to go out again. It wasn’t so easy travelling this time. We managed to get on the tube, wherein sat half a dozen soldiers, very young and boisterous, as well they might be at this time, with a few ATS girls. We decided to get out at Piccadilly. We had to push past

them, which was quite difficult, but we managed to get out as the doors were closing.

When we left the tube station and got into the street, what a sight met our eyes. The thousands of people gave us quite a shock. There was such a mob dancing round the hidden statue of Eros. We literally pushed our way to Trafalgar Square, where we sat as high up Nelson’s Column as we could. Gosh, we had some fun, dancing and singing like happy two-year-olds. I didn’t know Mum could be so jolly as she was that night. Then, at about 10 o’clock, when the floodlights came on, wow. The National Gallery was a beautiful yellowy-lime colour. The surroundings were mauve, and occasionally the colours were reversed and swung across each other. It looked marvellous. Around Admiralty Arch, the light was a brilliant lime colour and down the Strand, it was deep crimson. In the midst of all this colour, some people standing on Admiralty Arch were sending down fireworks, nearly all red ones.

When we got back home, a great bonfire at the bottom of the street was in progress. There was a piano in the street and various people took turns playing, while we danced. What a day! It was half past one before we got in. Then we couldn’t sleep till about half past three or four o’clock.

## Daphne Gerlis

I remember playing truant from a family wedding reception in the West End. My cousins and I fought our way into Oxford Street and joined the jubilant celebration, which we have by now seen so many times on old newsreels.

I am somewhat ashamed to say that my abiding memory of that gloriously momentous day is that of a 17-year-



## VE DAY REMEMBERED

old wearing high heels for the first time in her life, limping back from the celebrations and telling her mother "I'm never going to wear high heels again – NEVER." Needless to say, that vow didn't last long.

### ELLA MARKS

As an 11-year-old, I was taken by my parents to the centre of London to see the celebrations on VE Day. I can remember being in Piccadilly and joining the excited crowd watching Winston Churchill drive past in an open car on the way to the palace. Churchill had been my hero to the extent that I had kept a scrap book of photos of him from the papers for the last few years of the war, so, to see him in person, and I'm sure, having a personal wave from him, was more than I could have hoped for. Later, our walk to the palace to see him again with the royal family was not nearly as exciting, almost an anti-climax.

### DOROTHY KOCHAN

VE Day in Buenos Aires: From the beginning of the war, Argentina was a neutral country, though it was well

known that the government sympathised with Germany. Nonetheless, they welcomed British merchant ships, which arrived to load with corn, wheat and meat. The ships were equipped with refrigeration chambers, so the produce would keep till it returned to Britain. The food was needed for the population and the fighting forces. Argentina, or should I say the government, became wealthy on feeding Britain. By the end of 1944 it was clear that the Allied Forces were beating Germany, so then President Peron declared the country as supporting the Allies. (Still, many important Nazis found refuge in what they knew was a welcoming country.)

When VE Day was declared, I was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of high school. The announcement went through all the classrooms and we were told to go out to celebrate. With a group of friends, we congregated in one of the local parks, near other schools, including boys' schools. (All local authority schools were single sex schools.) All the girls flocked there, dressed in our regulation white

overalls, where we danced and sang, even smoking a surreptitious cigarette.

### ROS EGER

On VE Day in Liverpool, I remember walking round to the shop to buy a newspaper and in every pub I passed, people were singing "Land of Hope and Glory".

A few days later, a street party was held in a nearby road, which was a cul-de-sac and there were trestle tables laden with sandwiches, including fish paste.

### JOAN HITMAN

In 1945 on 8<sup>th</sup> May we were celebrating VE Day, the end of the war in Europe, although there was still fighting in the Far East. There were celebrations all over the country, with everyone singing and dancing all day and all night.

We lived in a small village near Maidenhead and had been there for about four years, so of course we knew all the neighbours and I had many friends in the village. On the morning of VE Day, my mother thought I should go to school and off I went on the bus. Of course there were no lessons and so we all went into town, where there was quite a crowd of girls from school. By the time I returned home, all the village was out celebrating with plenty of wonderful food and drink for everyone.

We were able to stay out with all the lights on and no black-out. It was so unusual after so many years of being in the dark. I don't remember going out much at night, except in winter on my way home from school.

I feel sure we were all out late and with no school next day, everyone could rest and then carry on with the partying. I always remember VE Day as such a special day with everyone so happy.

VE Day Celebrations in London, 8 May 1945



# THE RING

Marian Cohen

The Imperial War Museum records show 6 November 1940 as being the day of the first heavy bombardment over London of the Second World War.

My maternal grandparents lived in Finchley Road, Golders Green. It was the day that they were celebrating their wedding anniversary with a sister and brother-in-law.

A bomb hit the house and everyone was killed except my grandfather, who miraculously escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

Three children aged nine, seven and five were orphaned. Richard Goldwater z"l, a former member of Ealing Synagogue, lived close by, and told me that he remembered the total devastation of the house.

Sadly, my grandmother Lily was found several days later by a local dogwalker, buried under rubble.

At the date of this family tragedy, my mother Cynthia was a young mother of 22 and I was just a baby.

Fast forward to March 1963. I had met Edward and we were among a group of young adults who were growing up in the thriving Jewish community in Ealing.

At our wedding, the "bedecken" had taken place and we had assembled waiting to start the marriage ceremony when my beloved grandfather quietly came up to me and slipped a ring on the finger of my right hand. This was all that was found on my grandmother and he wanted her to be at our wedding.

The ring is my most treasured possession and will be passed on to the next generation.



Firefighters putting out a blaze in London after an air raid during The Blitz in 1941.



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## OYZEGEZOOMT

I'm so done with Zoom... Dawn Shestopal

First, in case there is a nice-looking girl iPad out there, my personal ID is 123 456 789. And my password is Gezoomthait. You see, I don't get much chance to do social media because she doesn't do Facebook or FaceTime as she doesn't want anyone to see her in high definition. I am, however, totally oyzegezoomt. We go from meetings to conferences to cultural activities, with hardly time to draw breath.

One day last week used up the whole battery. She had "A Good Read", Stephen Hirst's get-together to discuss interesting ideas from books and articles, which was from 3pm to 4.15pm, to an in-depth Jewish Book Week interview with Jonathan Freedland about his new book, under his Sam Bourne pseudonym, called "To Kill a Man".

We had to miss the Memories morning called "Show and Tell"

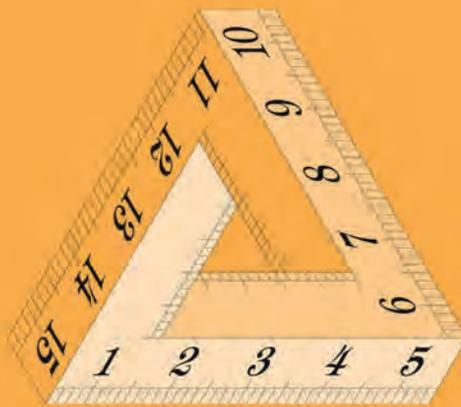
because we went on a virtual tour of the National Gallery. We looked at art with a Biblical theme and having the paintings explained in detail both as to the art and the theme, by a lecturer from the London School of Jewish Studies. Actually, I rather enjoyed that, particularly the Rembrandt portrayal of Belshazzar's Feast.

Just had a Zoom disaster. A virtual Tour of London didn't work, so after forty minutes it had to be cancelled. So back to my theme.

Tomorrow we are going to Westcliff for a virtual coffee morning with the girls and then in the evening we are joining a United Synagogue Chairs Forum. Tonight, we are watching a play streamed from the National Theatre. Actually, that sounds quite good. Sometimes her streaming is a bit heavy, like last week we did "Anthony and Cleopatra". It was so long that I was completely knackered.

And that's another thing. I don't get any rest. I have to spend all night recharging my battery. Tell you a secret though. Please don't tell anyone. I think she just does some of this high culture to impress. Sometimes I am exhausting myself, schlepping around a gallery or streaming an opera and she's got one eye on me and one eye on the TV, watching Fauda on Netflix. One day, she logged on to a tour of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam for a tour and discovered it was in Dutch! Laugh? I nearly burst my battery, I thought it was so funny. That'll teach her to overreach herself.

I think I will be pleased when the Covid-19 pandemic is over and I can go back to my quiet life tucked up next to the Kindle. Or maybe I will miss it all and being so important to her.



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# POTTERING AROUND IN LOCKDOWN

Michael Mars

For four years prior to my full retirement at the end of 2010 I reduced my working week to three days. On the remaining days I attended pottery classes at Kensington and Chelsea College, completing the City and Guilds course. One of my brothers is a professional ceramicist and glass maker and there has always been an interest in pottery in the family. Ten years ago, I built my own studio at the bottom of the garden. Neil Shestopal z"l affixed the mezuzah at an opening ceremony with a group from the community.

I have spent many happy hours working in the studio but over the past year it was becoming neglected, though I had organised three portrait sculpture workshops for four participants. Then came the virus, lockdown, and for Helen, "shielding". So, we never left the house, and no one came into the house. The studio was waiting to be reinstated after it had been under-used. What a unique opportunity. All the time in the world with no interruptions and a chance to work methodically and slowly, developing my not quite forgotten skills. No rush, we were not going anywhere, no cinema, theatre, art

gallery, restaurant, weekends away and no shul.

I decided to develop pieces and decorative techniques which I had worked on ten years ago. First, my sister-in-law has a reproduction antique black pewter kiddush plate and she asked me if I could copy it. It dates from 1620 Amsterdam. Having made the original moulds, I decided to make the plates in different colours. I then incised the Hebrew lettering and flowed liquid coloured clay (slip) into the void. This took several days, each word taking 2 hours to complete.

Examples are shown below



Fig. 1 Black incised Kiddush plate



Fig. 2 Blue incised Kiddush plate



Fig. 3 Original Pewter copied Kiddush Plate



Fig. 4 Kiddush Plate with flame red glaze



I had created a special decorative style using Japanese tissue paper.

Left are examples of bowls and flat platters.



# WHAT DID YOU DO IN LOCKDOWN GRANDPA?

Stephen Hirst

Hints, emails and the odd direct question appeared in this warden's inbox to the effect of "What is the shul doing for lockdown?" Actually, quite a lot, especially considering our size, age profile and resources. Alison Shindler and colleagues got off to a tremendous start in coping with the demands of Pesach and Marianne Temple immediately wrestled Zoom to the ground and set up Kabbalat Shabbat, Havdalah and Sunday Shacharit services.

What usefully could be added? People needed to see familiar faces, an opportunity to chat and socialise.

Best of all would be if we could reach those who are not tech savvy and/or without tablet or computer, but it still had to be Zoom.

I started with four ideas: a drawing group, a book type club, "Show and Tell" and a quiz.

As regards the quiz, it turned out I was reinventing the wheel. I had a bit of fun writing sample quiz questions, especially playing with PowerPoint's sound and video. Then I happened to speak to Dorothy Kochan, who told me all about the regular, beautifully organised family

and friends' quiz she and David were attending through "Zoom Rooms" – something I had not heard of. Out of my depth, I decided to leave quizzes to our proven experts, Jo Glass and Alison Shindler.

The Drawing Group idea was purely selfish on my part. I am learning to draw. After a year's lessons, I have improved from being 'absolutely rubbish' to just 'rubbish'. If I stick at it for another year, I might become 'not particularly good'. With the shut-down of Open Ealing, my lessons came to an abrupt halt, so starting a drawing group seemed a win-win for me.



Clare



Stephen



Judith



Estelle

We are a small select lot in the Drawing Group; me, Estelle Jacobs, Judith Robinson, Clare Sandler and Jen Henley. It has turned out to be great fun. We meet via Zoom on a Monday afternoon. Using a smartphone and tripod combination, I prepare set-ups on our dining room table. We usually start with a "warm up" quick sketch, for example, a teddy bear, a china pig or an old hat. I have to be careful it is not too involving as there are moans when I suggest we move on. Until recently I would then offer a choice of "main

course". I've realised this is not always a good idea, as agreeing the subject can become an intense, if polite, debate. Of course, this gives me ideas above my station, for although being the weakest of us, I get to choose. I'm really the lowly assistant stage manager rather than director. By way of example, see our drawings of Kate's old gramophone.

Great for me is that I'm learning from seeing how and what the others do. Scraps of advice scavenged from lessons, school days and A Level are

all thrown into the mix for my and, I hope, the others' benefit. I should say there are long periods of companionable silence, occasionally broken by a softly muttered, always mild, expletive.

We are lucky in having Jen Henley, an established local artist, join us. Jen enjoys the sociable atmosphere as she works on her current project (see pictured) while we learn about technique, abstract ideas, art in general and even a bit of bookbinding.

Still aiming to bring people out of lockdown, if only metaphorically, the “Show and Tell” sessions appeared. To quote our flyer: “Do you have an interest or hobby, a much-loved item (or not) associated with memories, or maybe a curio/novelty/antique which we could have a guess at?” I know from my

professional life that everybody has a story, that everybody is interesting. The thought was that the object might be absorbing in itself, but it was just as likely to be wrapped up in a story or accompanied by a tale worth telling. And so it turned out. It has been amazing to see connections made

across the screen by “exhibitors”. Perhaps the best examples were African sculptures and pots shown coincidentally by different people, which were connected by the background stories, which in turn prompted an explanation of how they were made. One session produced amongst the mix an Israeli photo, samples of glassware, an Hungarian memorial to Raoul Wallenberg, pottery art objects and a fake painting, topped by someone else’s exhibition of fake medals. All came with a who, why and how attached. The most important thing was that people brought themselves. There was no need to show anything, just taking part was the important bit. After half or dozen or so sessions, I thought the project would have come to a natural end, but people want it to continue.



Two mini-collage books bound with Ethiopian Coptic Stitch with metal shim covers that have been embossed. A collage was made on both sides of a large piece of heavyweight paper, then cut to make the pages.

The “Good Read Group” has worked well and proved very enjoyable. I didn’t think a traditional book club would work. It demands we all agree on and read the same book. Co-chair Dawn Shestopal suggested we widen the invitation by way of creating a discussion group, hence the poster invitation: “It could be a book you have just enjoyed (or not), a newspaper or magazine article that has piqued your interest, maybe a painting that has moved you. Perhaps you could talk about it for a few minutes or so with a view to group discussion.” Again, we were keen to get people to come and not worry about bringing anything. A particular success is that it works for those who are without a computer or smartphone. Zoom’s dial-in facility has been a boon. Our first meeting was beautifully kicked off by Daphne Gerlis on the phone from Stanmore. She was in the middle of a book telling the story of the rescue of a New York Yiddish library. This triggered a sharing of memories of Yiddish and thoughts on its future. By way of a contrasting example, Dorothy Kochan presented an article from an Argentinian magazine, “The Nation”, entitled “On

Showing the World What a Human Response To Covid-19 Looks Like”. The subjects discussed are varied, from a Radio 3 programme to a Norwegian newspaper article. I was gratified to have an explanation from our Swansea country member, Len Mars, of how to get into James Joyce’s “Ulysses”.

Apparently, the trick is to start with the chapter “Sirens” and not at the beginning! One note from a meeting was the condemnation as “terminally boring”, of George Eliot’s “Daniel Deronda”, by Daphne. This prompted some intense comment, including that the book has one of the first mentions of Zionism, as well as a Jewish hero. I lowered the tone a bit by mentioning I was growing the clematis Daniel Deronda and beautiful it was too. Daphne had abandoned Deronda in the middle which led us to thoughts on if and when a book should be ditched as opposed to doing, as some thought, the decent thing and struggling on.



Mixed views were put and distinctly expressed. Taking our cue from other shuls, we are looking to host a series of Zoom talks and events on Jewish themes. We have had a good start with an “Ask the Rabbi and Rebbetzen” session. Rabbi Hershi Vogel and Zelda fielded questions varying from the challenging to the curious. The shul’s lockdown activities have not been limited to the projects I’ve written about. In addition to the services already mentioned, Daniela Bland hosts Israeli dancing on Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings. I understand dancing on a carpet rather than a sprung shul floor can be a challenge!



## EALING HITS A CENTURY

On Sunday 10 November 2019, Ealing United Synagogue rounded off a spectacular year of events marking its centenary with a bumper dinner at the Holiday Inn Brentford Lock, for 200 members, former members and the generation who grew up in Ealing.

In 2011, accepting pragmatically its declining numbers, Ealing had moved forward with enthusiasm and optimism. Leaving behind its loved and cherished old Synagogue, it continues to flourish in a new purpose-built building artistically designed to replicate the old one. It had the same Aron Kodesh and stained glass windows, but with modern, comfortable furnishings and Mechitzah screens from Kibbutz Lavi, reflecting its long association with Israel.

Members of the Asserson family, grandchildren of David Asserson, one of the joint founders, were among the guests. Trevor Asserson came from Israel to share memories of his grandfather.

The Chief Rabbi spoke of Ealing's celebrations past, including the one when the roof fell in, but also of its characteristics as a caring community with a welter of social, cultural and educational activities. He invested long-serving Warden, Dr Brian Robinson, as Elder of the Synagogue, presenting him with a certificate marking a donation by the Synagogue in Brian's name to Langdon. Dr Stephen Hirst, his successor, spoke of Brian's dedicated service. Michael Goldstein, President of the United Synagogue, described the high regard in which Ealing is

held within the United Synagogue, particularly for the dignity with which it moved into its new Shul. Both referred to the Biblical significance of the number 100.

Before leaving, each guest was presented with a personalised album collated by the Album Committee during many hours of painstaking research, consisting of one hundred years of memorabilia in the life of the community.

There was much joy and laughter and a few tears shed for members past.

But the spirit engendered by the evening will ensure that Ealing's true grit will keep it going, despite being outside the north-west London bubble, for many a year to come.







EALING HITS A CENTURY







EALING HITS A CENTURY







EALING HITS A CENTURY





# MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS

## after the Centenary Dinner

### HANS DANZIGER

I have just got my new computer so I must thank you for the splendid dinner you and others arranged and which we much enjoyed. To whoever did the seating plan also a thank you as my daughter and the Filer girls have known each other since childhood when Leslie used to feed them on Yom Kippur.

Best wishes. Hans

### PATRICK KENNEDY

Just to say a BIG Thank you for the wonderful and memorable evening on the 10th of November 2019. It is an occasion that I shall remember for the rest of my life – brilliant organisation and, of course, words of Wisdom from the Chief Rabbi.

### OWEN GRAINGER

Just a quick line to thank you for your fantastic efforts in producing a great event, on Sunday.

Although I have not yet been through it, in any detail, the album appears to be a wonderful publication and I look forward to studying it in greater detail.

With kind regards. Owen

### MIKE GETTLESON

Just thought I'd say what a fantastic event!!!! Many thanks for your wonderful work

Regards, Mike

### JOYCE FRANKAL

I just wish to say how much I enjoyed the Centenary Dinner on Sunday, a sentiment echoed by Ruth, Anthony and our friends. As the culmination of all the various lovely events throughout the year, it was a truly wonderful occasion.

I am aware of all the hard work involved in organising a function of this scale, so it is not surprising that you need a little time to recover. Nevertheless, I wish to thank and congratulate you and your team on doing a great job and providing an unforgettable experience for everyone present. We all enjoyed it immensely.

Congratulations and my thanks also for the beautiful brochure which brought back happy memories of my time in Ealing over the past sixty plus years.

With love, Joyce

### ALISON SHINDLER AND JO GLASS

We just wanted to thank you all for your hard work that resulted in a really lovely evening on Sunday. The food was delicious and we were very happy with our table - meeting new and interesting people - as well as having the chance to catch up with some old and familiar faces from way back when.

Congratulations on an excellent event.

All the best, Alison and Jo

### BEN KOSKY

I'm a) relieved to know the Committee are just about recovered! and b) keen to add my voice to the many others who I'm sure have given their thoughts on Sunday's event.

The whole atmosphere was so convivial, it really felt like a fitting celebration – and most importantly the food was of an excellent standard! A huge thumbs-up to you and everyone else who put in so much hard work to make it happen.

Also, thank you so much for adding my name to the 'credits' list in the album, very much appreciated.

All the best, Ben

### LAURA AND MUM VALERIE GREEN

I would just like to thank all the organisers for a lovely, friendly event. The food was also very good.

Mum and I both enjoyed seeing lots of familiar faces.

Thanks once again for an enjoyable evening.

Laura and my mum Valerie Green

### NORMAN CONROY

A big thank you to you from Margaret and me for last night's dinner. It was a splendid occasion in every way.

### ELLA MARKS

Many thanks to you all for a highly successful and enjoyable evening. A lot of very hard work paid off, and as far as I could see, there were no blips, and apparently all went according to plan. Thank you.

Ella

### ANTHONY FRANKAL

Thanks very much for all your efforts towards yesterday's event – I thought it went really well and I had a good time.

### LINDA AND JEREMY FRASER

We just wanted to say thank you for a really lovely evening. It was so professional but so warm and inviting. The food was amazing! I do believe a great time was had by all, well worth all the effort. It was lovely to see everyone.

Best regards

### FRANKLYN AND MARGARET ELLISON

You and your team orchestrated a truly memorable event yesterday and I sure everyone appreciated the thought and effort that went into it. The menu was imaginative and beautifully executed and there was a wonderful ambience- many people meeting up with others they had not seen for years but also being able to share a party with those they see regularly in the more day-to-day elements of community life. For us it was a wonderful and nostalgic return- we try to keep up with our Ealing friends but do not see them often enough! Our heartfelt thanks to all those involved.

### DOROTHY AND DAVID KOCHAN

Thank you for the magnificent work you put in to Organize the Centenary Dinner. It was an evening to remember. Delicious and abundant food, beautifully presented, good speeches (some a little long), able and amusing compèring, and a number of details which made the evening run smoothly.

The atmosphere should have been bottled!

Please extend my congratulations and David's to your committee.

With much affection from one of the "MATRIARCHS"!!!!!

### ROSEMARY GRAINGER

I just had to drop you a note to say what a super evening it turned out to be, in a large part thanks to you and your organisation.

The committee really did an amazing job. The album is fabulous and I can quite see where all the hard work came in. We are looking forward to spending time browsing and enjoying its contents.

### JONATHAN AND JOANNA MINDELL

I just want to say what a marvellous evening it was last night. Brought back many fond memories! Everything seemed to go off without a hitch. And whilst there were a lot of speeches (!) they were all entertaining or thought provoking.

I am sure the hours you put in for the event were significant, but it paid off!

Many thanks again.

### SYDNEY ASSOR

I wanted to write to express Elaine's and my delight at attending last week's Centenary dinner of Ealing Synagogue. It was perfectly organised in every aspect of the event. Every person seemed to enjoy it and meeting old friends was a plus which is unequalled. You can be proud of your work and the work of the committee, which should be congratulated. This last event conformed to all other events we have attended in Ealing, ie perfect. Thank you again and wishing you and Ealing Synagogue a happy future and look forward to sharing with you many other simchas.

Our thanks to  
**NIGEL BEWLEY**  
for the photos of the  
Centenary Dinner

# EALING COMMUNITY CARES

Alison Shindler, Community Cares Coordinator

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**Thanks to the committee,  
as always:**

Judith Robinson  
Rosemary Grainger  
Helen Mars  
Joan Michaels  
Ella Marks  
Joyce Frankal  
Ros Eger  
Leslie Sommer  
Estelle Jacobs

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It has been a busy few months for all of us involved in Ealing Community Cares. This has encompassed the committee as well as several other members of the community who have stepped up to help support the many members who have been affected drastically by the lockdown of the past few months. The age profile of the community has meant that a huge proportion of members have been forced to become recipients as well as givers of help and support, but everyone has continued to work hard in whatever capacity they have been able.

The usual Pesach frenzy of shopping was replaced by a mass community order to Kosher Paradise. Despite their promises to deliver and then their (broken) commitment to have everything ready to be collected, a late-night dash to the shop was ultimately required in order to collect the almost 200 items to deliver them all in a timely manner. Once collected, everything needed to be sorted into individual orders and distributed, along with the calculation of how much each person's shopping cost. Luckily, we had packers and sorters and spreadsheet wizards on hand to assist, and an ancient map of Ealing came in handy when planning the most efficient delivery route. It looked a bit like the map shown at the beginning of "Dad's Army".

The committee ensured that every member of the community received a phone call to see how they were getting on, ascertain if they had any needs we could help meet and obtain offers of help. It was great to connect with everyone and ensure that we had not overlooked any potential areas where we could assist. We also received numerous offers of help with deliveries and food collection. This was a huge

boost and resulted in our ability to make regular bakery and kosher grocery deliveries. Frazer Praag has kindly collected orders from Grodzinski's and done huge amounts of shopping from Kosher Kingdom on a weekly basis, for which the grateful thanks of many members are due. The organising and delivery of these orders has been made possible with the help of all my immediate family, Penny and Mark Harris and Anne and Simon Nadel. Deliveries have been made on foot, by bike, by car, by tandem, with dogs, without dogs and have kept us all fit!

Assistance with other tasks, such as collection of prescriptions has continued on an ad hoc basis.

Of course, Covid-19 has sadly resulted in the cancellation of several planned community lunches; we hope to reinstate these as soon as it is safe to do so.

However, since the last magazine we have held a summer afternoon tea party in my garden and four community lunches. The lunches were well attended and much enjoyed. This year we have been entertained musically by Maya Robinson and poetically by Mike Gettleson. Penny Mann spoke about her valued work in Uganda and Hans Danziger moved all attendees by reading letters sent from his parents, who were still in Germany during the Holocaust, to him and his late sister Marion Goldwater, who were in England, having come over on the Kindertransport. Hans kindly answered the many questions afterwards and gave so much to all of us that afternoon.



# SAMUEL HANAGID

## THE PRINCE, A RABBI AND A GENERAL

“The Rabbi who Led Muslim Armies to Battle”

By Dr Menashe Tahan

Samuel was not born a prince, but he was a scion of a prominent family in Cordova. His full name was Samuel ben Joseph HaLevy Ibn Nagrila. He was born around 993 and showed, from a very early age, astonishing abilities. Accordingly, he was given a superior education.

### HIS EDUCATION

Samuel HaLevy studied Judaism, with pre-eminent teachers like Rabbi Hanoch ben Moses, and Hebrew grammar, with Rabbi Yehuda Hayyudj. He studied Hebrew poetry and other languages, including Latin, Romance, Berber languages and Arabic. He studied Christian and Muslim theology, and the sciences of the time. His abilities gained him respect and convinced him of his own superiority.

But at that time a civil war was erupting in Cordova. The Jewish people were oppressed by Arabs, Berbers and Slavs. Samuel believed he was destined to save the Jewish people from oppression by hostile rulers. The conquest of Cordova by Berbers, whose rioting, pillaging, raping and burning, ended his dreams and compelled him, at the age of 20, to flee Cordova to Malaga.

### IN MALAGA

Samuel HaLevy lived in Malaga for about seven years. He opened a spice shop and was successful in business. Yet, he was lonely and miserable, disappointed to be approaching thirty years old without a position worthy of his abilities. At his shop, as a favour, Samuel used to write letters for acquaintances who could not write proper Arabic. Among them was the maidservant of an official, Abul Abbas Ibn al-Arif, a vizier in the kingdom of Granada. The supreme Arabic style of the letters that al-Arif received from Malaga astonished him. He wanted to know who composed the letters

to him. On a visit there, the maidservant pointed her finger to the man in the shop nearby and introduced al-Arif to Samuel HaLevy. Impressed by the personality and erudition of Samuel, the vizier requested him to enter his service. Samuel accepted the offer and followed the vizier to Granada.

### A VIZIER

In Granada at the time, the Berber tribe of Sinhadjia ruled. Samuel was given the task of collecting taxes. Due to his efficiency and diligence in financial affairs, he was promoted to an assistant to the vizier. Soon afterwards, in 1020, he was promoted by King Habbus to Minister of Finance and was given the title of vizier. Samuel endeared himself to the people and won the friendship and appreciation of the ruler.

### A CHIEF VIZIER

In July 1037, King Habbus died and there were two contenders to succeed. Samuel supported the first born, Badis, who became the king. The new king was aware that Samuel had worked on his behalf, at a time when the majority of chiefs opposed him. He, therefore, respected Samuel and appreciated his loyalty, talents and devotion to duty.

In 1038 the king's cousin, Yaddair, plotted to kill the king and succeed him to the throne. To remove Samuel's opposition, Yaddair and his faction brought Samuel into their cabal, to involve him in such a way that he could not act against them. They asked him to permit them to call a meeting in his home. Samuel granted it but duped them. He revealed the plot to the king and invited him to listen to the meeting from the attic. A plan to murder the king was openly discussed. Badis was greatly moved by his vizier's staunch loyalty, that was greater than that of his brother, who had known of the plot. The king grew much closer to

Samuel and made him Chief Vizier. Samuel's position became very strong. Apart from controlling the treasury, Samuel consolidated all the affairs of state. He kept contact with the princes of southern and eastern Spain, held talks with emissaries from other governments and directed ambassadors going on special missions. He received reports from spies and plotters who came to Granada to receive instructions and remuneration. The dependence of the king on Samuel and his appreciation of him grew because of the deftness and political sagacity of his chief vizier. He was confident that the affairs of government were in good hands and he let all matters of the kingdom come to pass by his word. Dignitaries were appointed and removed frequently in the kingdom of Granada, but Samuel retained his position for decades. His success was exceptional. He achieved the prominence and security that he had dreamed of as a youth.

### A PRINCE

Samuel HaLevy used his influence to protect the Jewish community, enabling Jewish Granadans to serve in the treasury. Many became wealthy, acquiring land and estates, enjoying peace and security. Samuel's greatness became known near and far, bringing Jews from other Muslim states in Spain and other lands to Granada to live under his protection. People asked him for help and Samuel responded willingly to such pleas, endeavouring to help as much as he could. The Jewish community believed that Samuel was destined by the Almighty to protect the Jewish people from their enemies. They gave him the title of “HaNagid”, the Prince, and referred to him only by this title.

### A CHIEF RABBI

Samuel was also the Chief Rabbi of the kingdom of Granada. He responded to every lawsuit and legal

question directed to him, drawing on his vast knowledge of the law.

The versatility of Rabbi Samuel HaNagid was astonishing. He distinguished himself in numerous and diverse disciplines. He was a thorough halachic scholar, dedicating free time to researching halachic and sacred subjects, producing sublime works including:

*A Compendium of the Talmud:* This large work was called "Hilkh'ta G'bharata" i.e. The Great Law, in which HaNagid interpreted the halachot of the Talmud. The compendium was much valued in the Jewish world and was compared in its depth and scope to the works of the Babylonian academics.

*Commentaries on the Books of the Bible:* These have been lost, except as quotations in the works of later writers.

*Treatise against the Koran:* This work was a most daring one by anyone in a Muslim kingdom, as it was an affront to Islam. In it, Samuel called attention to contradictions found in the Koran, such as: Surah (Chapter) 41 states that the world was created in eight days, while Surah 32 states that it was created in six days. Surah 55 says that on the Day of Judgement, no man would be asked to account for his deeds, while in Surah 7, it states the opposite. In Surah 4, verse 90 it says that both the good and the bad stem from God, while in verse 91 it says that whatever good befalls one comes from God, but evil originates in the person himself. When the treatise came to the attention of the Muslims, it provoked rage against Samuel and his king, who gave him such a commanding position over Muslims. Yet, the king would not replace his most distinguished vizier.

*Teaching the Law and Supporting the Scholars:* Dealing with the Torah and the halacha was the joy of Samuel's

life. When possible, he taught the sacred law in the Talmudic Academy of Granada; he supported students and scholars generously and paid scribes to make copies of the Torah and the Talmud for them. He supported the scholars of Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine and Babylonia, and exchanged correspondence and verses with them. As no-one matched his erudition and knowledge of the law, without formal appointment, he became the Chief Rabbi of all Spain.

#### A CHIEF GENERAL

In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Muslim Spain was fragmented into many principalities ruled by Arabs, Berbers and Slavs. They fought continuously. The Arab rulers of Seville had ambitions to dominate Andalusia, as in the past. To achieve this goal, they either attacked the neighbouring principalities or incited them against each other to weaken them: one plan was to unite all the Arab and Slav princes against the Berbers. Thus, constant wars raged in Andalusia and the Berbers' Granada was under constant threat. As a chief vizier, Samuel had to defend the kingdom and to command its army. He led the Granada army achieving one victory after another:

**1041** – He twice defeated the armies of Yaddair, a cousin of the king, who wanted to supplant him and he captured Eijja and annexed it to the kingdom of Granada.

**1042** – He freed Almeria from a siege and it became an ally of Granada.

**1045** – He twice beat attacks on Granada by the combined forces of Carmona and Moron.

**1047** – He beat the combined forces of Ronda, Seville and Malaga, who rose against Granada.

**1048** – He led an alliance of Berber kings against Seville.

**1050** – Samuel and his king defeated the invading armies of Malaga and executed their chiefs and officers.

**1052** – Samuel helped Carmona against the invading armies of Seville.

**1053** – Samuel and his king helped to free Almeria against the combined forces of Valencia, Toledo and Lorca.

**1053** – Samuel saved Granada from the armies of Moron, Ronda and Arcos, incited by Seville.

**1055** – When Seville threatened to attack Granada, Samuel again led the army into battle. His triumph in this campaign stirred much exaltation in Granada.

**No other Jew was ever the first minister of a government of a Muslim kingdom, nor had a Jewish Rabbi stood at the helm and led to battle a Muslim army.**

#### A TOWERING POET

In addition to all his stunning abilities, Samuel HaNagid was an exceptionally talented Hebrew poet. Like King David, Samuel, after every battle, composed a poem and sent it from the battlefield to be read in the Synagogue. These combat poems were usually long, with 150 stanzas, as many of those of the Psalms. These are his most characteristic creations and give him a special place in the history of Jewish literature.

His poetry was more diversified than that of his contemporaries. He composed poems of praise and glory, friendship and polemic, mourning and holiness, wisdom, morality and meditation. He arranged his poetry in three collections: (i) Ben Tehillim, Son of Psalms, (ii) Ben Mishle, Son of Proverbs and (iii) Ben Kohelet, Son of Ecclesiastes. These demonstrated his great literary ability. They were lost for centuries and rediscovered in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, causing great excitement in the Jewish world. They influenced modern Hebrew poets, among them the Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai. The great Hebrew poet Chaim Nachman Bialik was full of admiration for Samuel's work, declaring that HaNagid was a unique personality and poet unmatched in the history of our people.

# HOLOCAUST LEARNING UK EALING UNITED SYNAGOGUE

Wednesday 29 January 2020

Ealing United Synagogue hosted nearly 100 students from local Ealing schools: Villiers, Brentside and Cardinal Wiseman, to learn about the Holocaust and to hear from a survivor.

Sessions were held in the morning and afternoon. After the welcome and introductions, the schools were divided into small workshops, in which they were helped to understand some of what happened during the Holocaust, who was involved, where and when. The workshops highlighted the crimes of racism and victimisation committed during the Holocaust that continue today, with race, religion, gender and disability all still being used as excuses for bullying, hatred and discrimination and arising from this, antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, xenophobia and, indeed, the genocides that continue in the world to this day.

Our morning speaker was Helen Stone, who spoke about her mother Emmy Golding. Helen had interviewed her mother before she died and we heard her story in her



Helen Stone with the Menorah found over 70 years ago and given to her mother just before she passed away

own words, of how living conditions changed in Germany from 1933, when Hitler came into power. Emmy left Germany in May 1939 at the age of 25 and she told of how she left on a domestic visa and eventually, through the kindness of others, managed to make a life for herself in the UK.

By contrast, the afternoon session concluded with the story of Harry Spiro, told movingly by his daughter Tracy Moses. Harry survived three concentration camps but,

amazingly, does not have any hatred towards the perpetrators. He was separated from his parents at the age of 11 and later discovered that he was the only survivor from his whole family. On arrival in the UK, he became one of the "Windermere" boys and gradually he, too, made a life for himself and has a wonderful family of whom he is justly proud and who show him every admiration and respect.

Students were asked to write postcards to the speakers reflecting what they had learnt and how they have been affected by what they had heard.



Harry Spiro and his daughter Tracy Moses

Each session concluded with a small closing ceremony of the lighting of a memorial candle by our guest speaker and a minute's silence, followed by the reading of the poem, "They Came for Me", written by Pastor Peter Niemöller.

The feedback from the schools was very positive. Regrettably, due to the coronavirus, there will not be HMD workshops in 2021, but we hope we will be able to host schools again as soon as the situation allows.



Volunteers for Ealing's HMD

## MY DEAREST CHILDREN

*Excerpts from letters written to Marion Danziger (Marion Goldwater) and her brother, translated by Ruth Meyer.*

Berlin-Wilmersdorf,  
21 December 1941

My dearest Children,

When and how this letter will reach you we do not know. But we surely hope that this will happen, because a dear friend of ours will do everything to let you, my dear children, have these lines. We only hope that this is not the last sign of life from us to you, on the contrary, we firmly believe in a reunion with you, but since we do not know what the present government still has in store for us, one has to be prepared for the worst, and for this reason, this letter has to be written to you.

Well now my dear children, you will ask yourselves for what precise reason your parents have torn apart our lovely family life and sent you to foreign parts. Apropos of that, I have specially to remind you, my dear boy, and you will still remember that all this happened shortly after your first year in school. Easter 1937 you went to school in the Prinzregenten Strasse, and Easter 1938 you were promoted to the next class. On 9 November 1938 the synagogue and school were burned down and you then had to attend the Joseph Lehmann School in Joachims-thaler Strasse.

On the same day, all Jewish businesses were destroyed in Berlin and the whole country. In all public parks, yellow benches were put up for Jews only, and on one occasion when you came with Mulle from the Falks, Mulle fell over and had a bleeding nose, you got a car to take you home, as you could not put Mulle on any of the benches, because there were no benches for Jews in the Meierotto Park, and you were afraid to put her on another bench. Now all the Jews have to wear the yellow Jewish star with the inscription JEW, including all children from the age of six onwards. The children cannot play in any of the parks, cannot do any sport and can neither visit a cinema nor theatre or go to a concert; everything is prohibited to us, and in the evening we have to

be home by nine o'clock in the summer and by eight o'clock in the winter.

Housewives are only allowed to do their shopping between four and five in the afternoon; at no other time are we allowed to enter a shop, and we are not allowed to visit restaurants at all. Sweets, fruit, fish and suchlike are unobtainable for children and adults. Now we can no longer smoke, as tobacco is banned for Jews. You can see from all this that life has become very difficult for us Jews. All Jews who had their own businesses had to give these up and they are now working as ordinary workmen in big factories. I too had to dissolve my business on 31 January 1941 and am now working shovelling coal in an armament establishment of Daimler Benz in Marienfelde. Weekdays and Sundays the Jews have to work, working time is unlimited and holidays are not given to Jews. So, my dearest children, you can see from this little sketch that life has become very hard here, and we believe that all adults and especially children who are no longer here, are doing very well. In particular, we believe that you two are doing very well and have found a second home with really lovely people.

My dear children, it has now started that all Jews are being evacuated to Poland, and this terrible destiny has already affected many of our friends. Unfortunately Aunt Trude and Aunt Herta are amongst them and they find themselves in Lodcz, now known as LIETZMANNSTADT. Nobody knows what will happen to them. One can only take the things one is wearing, everything else has to remain where it is, and one will never see these things again. Grete Wiesenthal is also there and for us who are still here, it is only a short time until destiny also drives us away. Our Mutti (mother) has already prepared everything so that it doesn't come upon us too suddenly, but it will be heart-rending to part from the rooms in which all of us have known so many happy hours!

When this government came to power in 1933, I knew that there would be difficult times ahead for us Jews. But naturally, that it would become so dreadful for us, I did not think. As the circumstances got increasingly worse for us here we had the opportunity to communicate with Baroness Rothschild via Uncle Hans Manasse in Amsterdam; and after she had seen your photographs, she arranged for you to come to England.

After we thought about everything very carefully, we came to the conclusion to send you there, so that you can grow up in peace and quiet and develop, which would have been impossible here. Only this motivated us to reach this so terribly difficult decision, and how much Mutti and I suffer through this parting. I do not need to write you, my beloved children. Of course we did not think that our parting would be for such a long time; we thought that in half a year or a year at the latest, we would be reunited.

Unfortunately, in September 1939 the unhappy war with England started and through this all our plans fell through. When will this misery end for us and other human beings? Only the worry about you and your welfare has motivated us into this. If you think about all this at your leisure, you will realise that your parents only wanted the best for you, and we ourselves suffer tremendously because of our separation. No day passes when we do not talk about you and say "Wolfchen said this, and Mulle said that", and naturally we remind each other of other episodes that we remember, and despite all the pleasure that this gives us, some sadness is also mixed in, for we no longer have our children with us and cannot know when we will be reunited; let us hope it will be soon

# FAME AT LAST

## Edward Cohen

Those who have known me for more than some weeks will be aware that my chief loves in life are my wife, Marian; my children and grandchildren; and Brentford FC. Marian frequently complains 'not necessarily in that order'! However, it is correct to say that the expression 'trials and tribulations' amply covers the seventy-two years I have been supporting The Bees of Brentford Football Club.

I hasten to add that it is not just me amongst Brentford's Ealing Synagogue supporters who have suffered over the years. Our former warden, Jackie Lipowicz was, I suppose, the founder of this august group. At the present time, there are at least five others in the Synagogue, to say nothing of the Ealing exiles who have moved to north-west London, such as my daughter Kate and two of her sons. Ian and Hugh Westbrook, Simon Gale and his son and even his father, our former Rabbi, Dr Norman Gale, have been seen as supporters on the Brentford terraces. At times, there have been enough to form a minyan!

My relationship with the Bees started on a very high note, on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1949, when at my first match (almost two years after they had been relegated from the old First Division), I saw them beat Bury FC 8-2. It went downhill after that, and over the next sixty-five years or so, the team see-sawed between the three lower divisions of the Football League. However, in 2014, they were promoted from League 1 to the Championship. This season they have played so well, they had a chance of automatic promotion to the mega-rich, sunny uplands of the Premier League. Sadly, they spurned that chance by losing the last match of the league season, at home to Barnsley, who thereby saved themselves from relegation to League 1. Nevertheless, for Brentford, the play-offs beckoned. Although the team has improved, their ground, Griffin Park, my semi-spiritual home for almost three quarters of a century, has deteriorated and is not fit for purpose for the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Directors have commissioned a new stadium to be built in Lionel Road South, very

near to Kew Bridge Station, and it will be ready for the new season, which is due to start in September. So the play-off game against Swansea City became the very last match to be played on the hallowed turf of Griffin Park, in front of the Sky TV cameras. Sky decided to put together a video of supporters' memories of famous Bees events at the ground over the last eighty years, to be shown during the TV build-up before the big match. I was volunteered as an elderly fan, and was invited to be interviewed at Griffin Park on the day before the game, 28<sup>th</sup> July.

I arrived at 11am and was shown to my regular seat at the ground; then I was shunted around the ground until the cameraman found the exact spot he wanted with light to match. I was asked about my memories of the old ground, of which I had many. Then, after about twenty minutes, I was asked to give a cheer on camera to the team to 'Play up, and beat Swansea on the morrow', which I did; and so did the team, handsomely, thereby qualifying for the final against neighbours and local rivals Fulham at Wembley Stadium on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August. The video was shown just before the Swansea game on nationwide TV, and I provided the voice-over in places. It ended with my final exhortation to the team, thereby providing the title to this memoir.

The next six days passed in trepidation; could Brentford finally beat the hoodoo, whereby they have never won a play-off on eight similar occasions? Sadly, it was not to be. Bees tried their best, but on the night, Fulham were the better side and just about deserved the Premier League riches that await them. Elation for Leslie Sommer, sadness for me. Never mind, there's always next season!



# MEMORIES OF UGANDA

Basil Mann

When I first knew Penny in 1981, she always talked about her time in Uganda. She had taught in a girls' secondary boarding school in Fort Portal, in the foothills of The Mountains of The Moon in the 60s. Now it was 2000 and Penny was thinking of retiring. We had met a former pupil of hers in London, Evah Baguma and coincidentally, Penny's headteacher at Furzedown Primary had asked her to twin their school with one in Uganda. Penny flew out to Uganda in 2003 to visit that school, Kabalega Primary in the town of Masindi. With the help of Evah's family, Penny stayed opposite the school and came back determined to raise money for new doors and shutters on the classrooms – the old ones had been used as firewood by Idi Amin's soldiers in the 80s.

In 2006 I flew out with Penny, my first visit to Africa, and we were met at the airport by Evah's cousin, Dr Margaret Makulu. We stayed in the Africana Hotel in Kampala and the next day we took a taxi to Jinja to see the source of the River Nile. On the way back, in the dusk, I was very disturbed to see poorly dressed

people carrying heavy buckets of water on their heads, to their simple homes. The next day we were escorted by another of Evah's cousins to Masindi, a four-hour drive on a very bumpy road. We were shocked by the taxi driver asking for money upfront but soon learned that it was the custom.

On my first visit to the school we were greeted warmly. The classrooms were very dirty. The children, 70 in each class, sat on Victorian-style benches. Penny agreed to raise money for digging new latrines and a new roof. There was one water tap for about 700 pupils in the whole school.

Penny returned in 2007, this time to raise money for school lunches, since most pupils came to school on an empty stomach. It was apparent that supervising these improvements would take some time, so I suggested we both go for six months as Penny was now semi-retired.

We went in October 2009 and, once in Masindi, we took possession of The Church of Uganda's guest

house, which was being refurbished and had no gas cooker or fridge. So in lieu of rent we bought those two items from Kampala plus a double bed. Penny cooked on Calor gas, often by candlelight because the electricity supply was very erratic (when some friends came out to stay, one was very concerned by puddles of water coming from the fridge/freezer when the power was "OFF"). We lived mainly on fish – a very nice one called tilapia and another called Nile perch, fresh from Lake Albert. Our diet was very limited, with no recourse to kosher food and biscuits and cakes were scarce, so we did lose weight! We both took our anti-malaria pills every morning, except once when we forgot and ended up feeling extremely nauseous all day.

While Penny was teaching, I coached cricket in the local primary schools, both boys and girls. Each morning, before it got too hot, I hopped on to the back of Mustapha's motorbike taxi to coach cricket for an hour, then Mustapha would come for me again around 4pm and I coached in a different school. Up to that time I had never



## MEMORIES OF UGANDA



ridden on a motorbike! When I arrived, as well as signing the visitors' book, I always had to go to the office and formally greet the Headteacher. In Uganda greetings are important, formal and lengthy. It was not teaching and cricket all the time. We visited Murchison Falls National Park, one of the largest in Uganda. There are now approximately 1500 elephants, 1200 giraffes, 50,000 buffalos, 4000 hippos, 260 lions and 80 leopards – a far cry from the situation in the 80s when Idi Amin's soldiers decimated the park and its animals. Rhinos became extinct at that time but luckily, the Uganda Wild Life Authority converted a former cattle ranch into a rhino sanctuary. When our son Daniel visited at Christmas, we went to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary and the original six rhinos had produced three babies. There are now 30 rhinos at Ziwa! During Daniel's trip we had a wonderful day in Murchison Park. We saw, from the launch, crocodiles, hippos, elephants and waterbuck coming down to drink water from the Nile, and a large number of birds. We also went on a game drive, on the northern bank of the Nile, where we saw giraffes, elephants, Patas monkeys, warthogs, bushbuck,

waterbuck, Uganda kob, oribi and buffalo. We even caught sight of two lionesses hiding in the shade and there were a huge number of baboons at the ferry.

I went out again with Penny in January 2012, staying three months this time in the guest house and because I had never seen zebras, we arranged a trip to the remote Kidepo National Park, in north-west Uganda, bordering Kenya and Sudan. The drive there, in a 4x4, took two days before reaching Kidepo, where they had not received our booking over the radio! However, they found food for us and the tents, with their own showers, were quite luxurious, although we had to be escorted across the compound in the dark in case leopards were about! We could hear them coughing in the hills nearby.

Penny returned to Masindi in July, with a group of teachers from Furzedown School, to teach phonics. To our delight, just before she flew out, we had messages to say that our friend Bishop Stanley Ntagali had been elected Archbishop of the whole of Uganda and George, another friend of ours, was then elected to replace him as

Bishop of Masindi. I joined Penny in September, in time for the two ceremonies. I arrived in Masindi, bearing two huge parcels for George, who had expressed a desire for British-made robes. Custom-made robes were extremely costly, but we found a set donated by the widow of a recently-deceased Welsh bishop. Almost immediately it was time for George to be made Bishop of the Diocese and the whole of the area came to a standstill. It was a very hot day and we spent a lot of time standing around or seated in the shade.

The next highlight of my visit was when we went to Kampala as international guests of the new Archbishop. We stayed in a most comfortable Church of Uganda guest house and were allotted our own personal chauffeur, who drove us to the Cathedral. It was a long service and the pews were very hard! There was an enormous buffet lunch afterwards and again in the evening we were driven to the Archbishop's Residence and offered another huge meal, while being entertained with regional dance and song. Both the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, and the Archbishop of York were present. A most wonderful week!

We made two journeys to the east of the country, to the town of Mbale, close to the Kenyan border. There live the Abuyudaya, the Black Jews of Uganda. Although not officially accepted as Jews, they are devout in their observance of Jewish customs and rituals. I would consider them similar to a Reform community. Their story is a fascinating one: apparently a charismatic Muganda (member of the Baganda tribe) named Kakungulu converted to Christianity and was a great help to the newly arrived British administration around 1905. He thought that the British would reward him with a chieftainship and when that did not

come about, he stalked off to a hill outside Mbale with his followers, sulkily reading his Bible. Allegedly, he then tore it in two, throwing away the New Testament and carefully reading the Old Testament. He then announced that he and his followers were Jewish because they, the people of the Old Testament, kept their word, unlike the Christians he had met. With the help of a Jewish trader from Kampala, he taught his followers how to keep kosher and observe the High Holy Days, as well as forcing all the males to undergo circumcision! We stayed in the Abuyudaya's guest house (newly-built with money from the USA).

Our first visit coincided with Hannukah and we lit candles with another Jewish family, who were visiting their daughter while she was volunteering in Uganda. On the Friday night we had supper with the Rabbi and his family.

On our second visit, we stopped in the market and bought two chickens, hoping that the Rabbi would kosher them and we could eat them for supper. That never came about! They are a very small community and very poor – the women asked Penny to try and sell the papier mâché jewellery that they were making – as were many others in Uganda.



To conclude, my visits to Uganda have been a most wonderful experience. I have been very privileged to see another way of life, something that our great-grandparents might have known, with no electricity, gas, running water and limited technology. All this through the kindness and hospitality of all the Ugandans I have come into contact with.



# TRIBUTE TO YVONNE CAPLAN ON HER 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

by daughters Lindy Sacker and Tina Freedman



Last summer, we were fortunate to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of our very special mum Yvonne. She had envisaged perhaps a lunch with the family and her Ealing friends, but the lockdown put paid to that. However, she received many greetings and calls and was so grateful to be remembered by her Ealing friends on her special day.

Yvonne was born on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1930 and began life in Boileau Road with parents Esther and Jimmy Davis and her big brother Louis, to whom she remains close. She had a beloved Nanny, who remained with our grandparents as a family housekeeper, whom we both remember well. Yvonne's home was opposite that of a dance teacher, Joan Durrant, who was to feature in Yvonne's life. Yvonne began dancing lessons at around 4 years of age, doing ballet and tap. She had an amazing talent, even performing once in front of royalty. She was invited to audition in Hollywood, but only one parent could go with her, and with war looming, that opportunity was passed by. She attended Haberdashers' School. When war broke out, Yvonne and

Louis slept under the stairs in Boileau Road, but an alternative had to be found. The family moved first to Wales, and then to Cheltenham, where Yvonne continued postal education with Haberdashers'.

Moves to Holyport and then Wokingham followed, where Yvonne attended a school called Luckley, where she was very happy, even remaining a year after the war ended to complete her education. She continued to dance, a teacher having been found in Wokingham, but Yvonne says that she already knew as much as the teacher. No-one could compare with Joan Durrant! Louis meanwhile was attending St. Paul's School, which also was evacuated to Wokingham. His best school friend's family was also evacuated there, so their son, Ian, could continue his schooling. Louis and Ian cycled everywhere together, but Ian's bike often needed attention so Louis would tow him home to fix it. Ian got to know the Davis family including, and especially, Louis' younger sister Yvonne and the rest, as they say, is history. Yvonne knew Ian from when she was 11 years old. When Louis met his wife, Anne, the four of them had a wonderful lasting friendship; the boys continued to mend things well into old age.

After gaining her School Certificate, Yvonne's family returned to Ealing, this time to a house called Sunnyside, in Park View Road, which the family had acquired before the War but which had been requisitioned by the Armed Forces. Yvonne re-established her relationship with her dance teacher, Joan Durrant, continued learning, and started teaching the younger children herself. She has maintained a love of dance throughout her life, enjoying trips to the ballet and astounding us all with her skill at tap.

Yvonne married Ian in Ealing shul in September 1951 and they settled in Delamere Road. Lindy was born in 1955 and Tina in 1958. Both attended, first, Beacon House Nursery School and then, following in Mum's footsteps, Haberdashers. During the 1950s and 60s, Yvonne helped with shul affairs and organised a Chanukah Concert compèred by Michael Lawton, featuring Ealing children including Jackie Lipowicz, and Neil Shestopal. She was part of a group of ladies who helped to set up and run a playgroup and she was known for her wonderful story-telling skills. She was an active member of the Ealing Ladies Guild and Wizo, and at the League of Jewish Women, was repeatedly called on to give a vote of thanks to speakers.

It was through the League that Yvonne engaged in various voluntary roles, taking disabled children to swimming lessons, helping them change and dress afterwards, and taking them to riding lessons, leading them on their ponies, and volunteering in the hospice at Ealing Hospital. Further moves in Ealing took her back to Sunnyside, to Beaufort Road and to Heath Close. Ian and Yvonne were wonderful grandparents to their 5 grandchildren and Yvonne is now a proud great-grandma of 11.

As Ian's health suffered, Yvonne and he moved to be near 'the girls' in Stanmore. Sadly, Ian only lived six months there before passing away, in 2008. Yvonne, however, kept up her association with Ealing, visiting whenever she could for shul lunches, for a sandwich with friends, for a haircut, for the dentist or just because she preferred the M&S there. It just goes to show - you can take the girl out of Ealing, but you can't take Ealing out of the girl!

# TRIBUTE TO JOYCE FRANKAL ON HER 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

by son Anthony Frankal



Joyce grew up in Coborn Road in Bow where her father, Solomon (Sid) had a greengrocery shop. She attended Malmesbury Road School, which was nearby. She was evacuated twice during the war, first to Weymouth with her mother Kitty, sister Norma and brother Alan. Apparently when her mother saw that Weymouth was adjacent to Portland Naval base, she was not convinced that they were any safer there than in the East End of London, and they returned home after only two weeks.

The following year, Joyce was evacuated with her brother to Devon. She remembers going with Alan to the cinema to see 'The Wizard of Oz' and her mother coming in with an usherette in the middle of the film to tell them to come home immediately as they were being evacuated the following day.

While Joyce was in Devon, her mother, father and younger sister moved to Northampton, where her father found work in the engineering industry, first in Northampton and later in Coventry. Once they were established in Northampton, her father set out, after working a nightshift, to bring Joyce and Alan up from Devon. Having not seen her parents for a year, Joyce was most surprised and pleased to see him. They travelled through the night to

London and slept at Euston station before catching an early morning train to Northampton.

In Devon, Joyce had taken an exam to get into grammar school, having been taught fractions for the first time only the previous evening. Soon after she started school in Northampton, she heard that she had passed and got in to a grammar school. The only grammar school with places was a Catholic school, Notre Dame. Not ideal, 'but there was a war on'! At the end of the war, the family returned to London and her father opened a greengrocer's shop in Aylward Street, near Arbour Square, just off Commercial Road, so Joyce changed schools once again to join Raine's Foundation School, in Arbour Square.

After her General Schools examination, she stayed in the sixth form for a time but then transferred to do a commercial course. After leaving school, she had a number of secretarial jobs starting with Barclays Bank, but was more interested in social work. She became a hospital almoner at Mile End Hospital and then worked for the LCC as a children's officer. Outside work she had many interests, went to night school and even monitored fascist meetings on behalf of the Board of Deputies.

Joyce met Ron at a JNF dance. They married in 1958 and moved into the house in Ealing where Joyce still lives, and which Ron had moved into in 1939. Anthony came along in 1959 and Ruth in 1962. Two years later, they spotted an advertisement in the Jewish Chronicle for house-parents to run a boys' home. They applied and were accepted, so the family moved to Woodford for nine months, before the home was relocated to Finsbury Park. Looking after teenage boys was certainly a challenge and after just over four years, Joyce and Ron

decided the time was right to move back to a more 'normal' life. Ron had retrained as a probation officer and after working in a school for a few years, Joyce decided to follow the same path. She worked initially in Harlesden and then in Wembley, while Ron worked in the adjacent Harrow office. As the only married lady with children in the office, Joyce found herself with an above average number of teenage mothers in her caseload.

Probation was certainly a challenge, and after around 20 years, Joyce decided to retire at the same time as Ron, in 1993. In her retirement, she kept busy doing counselling for the Jewish Marriage Council, attending U3A and Ealing National Trust meetings as well as being involved with the shul, in particular the Ladies Guild, where she was joint chairman. For many years Joyce and Ron had also been involved in Ealing B'nai B'rith and had been chairpersons of the women's and men's lodges, respectively. Joyce and Ron loved travelling and went on many cruises, on tours or just under their own steam. They enjoyed foreign travel but also relished travelling around the UK.

In more recent years, Joyce devoted herself to looking after Ron. His health deteriorated and he sadly passed away in September 2018, three months after celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and three weeks after they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Joyce enjoys living in Ealing and being part of the close-knit shul community. Helping and supporting people is part of her DNA and she continues to this day as a member of the shul welfare committee. She also enjoys keeping in touch with friends and family and is especially proud of her three grandchildren, Jared, Daniella and Lauren.

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS

David Filer and Family

wish the Ealing Community  
a Healthy and Happy New Year

Wishing all the congregants  
and their families in Ealing  
A Healthy and Happy New Year

Delia and Martin Stain

Michael and Clive Lawton  
and their Families

Wish all their friends at  
Ealing Synagogue a  
Happy New Year and  
well over the Fast  
and a quick return  
to normal life

Mike, Marion and  
Mark Gettleson

Wish the Ealing community a  
Happy and  
Healthy New Year

Peter Halpern

Wishes the Ealing community a  
very Happy and Healthy  
New Year

The Executive and Board of  
Management of Ealing Synagogue  
wish Rabbi Hershi and Rebbetzen  
Zelda Vogel and their family

A Happy and Healthy New Year

Joyce Frankal and Family

Wish the Ealing community  
a Happy, Healthy and  
Peaceful New Year

Shanah Tovah  
Happiness and Good Health to  
all the Ealing community

Ilana, Menashe and  
Marga Tahan

Ros Eger  
Daphne Gerlis  
Jackie and Brian Glicksman  
Rosemary and Owen Grainger  
Estelle and Michael Jacobs  
Penny and Basil Mann  
Judith and Brian Robinson  
Anthony Scott

Wish the Ealing Community  
and their families a  
Happy and Healthy New Year

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Wishing all my wonderful Ealing  
friends a Happy New Year and  
well over the Fast

Gail Sackloff

Jill Moss

Wishes all the Ealing community a  
Happy and Healthy New Year

Isabel Kosky and Family

Wish the Ealing community a  
Happy, Healthy and  
Peaceful New Year

Good health, contentment and  
good wishes for the  
coming year

Ann and John Curtis

Leslie and Evelyn Sommer,  
Ruth, Ron and Rachel

Wish the Ealing community a  
Happy, Healthy and  
Peaceful New Year

Wishing all my family and friends  
a Peaceful, Healthy and  
contented New Year

Joan Michaels

Judy Dembo

Wishes the Ealing Community a  
very Healthy, Happy and Peaceful  
New Year

Katy, Gary, Lola and Nathan Barak

Wish their family, friends and all  
the Ealing community a very  
healthy, safe and Happy New Year

Shanah Tovah  
to the Ealing Community

Marianne and Ray Temple

Shana Tovah u'Metukah

Marian and Edward Cohen

Michael and Helen Mars  
and Family

Wish the Ealing community a  
Happy, Healthy and  
Peaceful New Year

Dawn Shestopal

wishes the Ealing  
Community and their  
families Shana Tova

With all best wishes to  
everyone in the community  
for a Healthy and Happy New Year  
and well over the Fast

Joan Hitman

Stephen and Kate Hirst  
and Family

Wish the Ealing Community  
a Happy and Healthy  
New Year

Wishing the Ealing Community  
a Healthy and  
Peaceful New Year

Dorothy Kochan with David, Sukey,  
Eliana and Davidad,  
Talia and Odelia

Wishing all our Ealing friends and  
the whole Community a very  
Happy and Peaceful New Year and  
well over the Fast

Yvonne Caplan and Family



# HIGH HOLIDAYS 5781

## TEN COMMANDMENTS

for the Covid Year

It is good to be back in shul for Rosh Hashanah. However, Covid is still with us so here is a reminder of the new Ten Commandments\* in order to keep everyone safe.

\*based on an idea of Central Synagogue Birmingham

- 1 Please wash (or at least sanitise) your hands on entry to and exit from the shul and the building.
- 2 Wear a face mask or covering at all times in the building.
- 3 Maintain social distancing of 2 metres throughout the building at all times unless in a family group.
- 4 Please remain in your seat during the service unless absolutely necessary.
- 5 Please listen to any instructions given by the wardens. They are here to protect all attendees of the service.
- 6 Please refrain from singing during the service.
- 7 Gentlemen, please remain at your seat if called for an Aliyah.
- 8 At the end of the service please put books in your labelled plastic bag, the gentlemen to add their tallit. The bags are to be left on the allocated table.
- 9 Please leave the shul promptly after the conclusion of the service, via the doors indicated. The shul has to be speedily prepared for the next service.
- 10 Please avoid congregating in communal areas including the car park.

Should you need any assistance, please ask one of our wardens.

**שנה טובה ומתוקה**

# TIMES OF SERVICES

## 2020/5781

### EREV ROSH HASHANAH

#### Friday 18 September

Mincha/  
Kabbalat Shabbat 6.45 pm

Yom Tov and  
Shabbat begin 6.54 pm

### ROSH HASHANAH 1st DAY

#### Shabbat 19 September

##### 1st Service

Shacharit 8.30 am –  
10.30 am

##### 2nd Service

Musaf 11.30 am –  
1.30 pm

2nd Day Yom Tov 7.53 pm

### ROSH HASHANAH 2nd DAY

#### Sunday 20 September

##### 1st Service

Shacharit 8.30 am –  
10.30 am

##### 2nd Service

Musaf 11.30 am –  
1.30 pm

Yom Tov ends 7.51 pm  
Havdalah 8.10 pm

### HAVDALAH ZOOM ONLY

#### To join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83795103147?pwd=c3hiTGZl-bTg1VG0wZG5DOHhxmEy-UT09>

Meeting ID: 837 9510 3147

Passcode: 555975

#### Or dial in:

0203 481 5240 or  
0203 901 7895 or  
0203 051 2874

### FAST OF GEDALIA

#### Monday 21 September

Fast begins 5.05 am  
Fast ends 7.42 pm

### Friday 25 September

Shabbat begins 6.38 pm  
Mincha/

Kabbalat Shabbat 6.30 pm

### SHABBAT SHUVA

#### Shabbat 26 September

Service 10.00 am  
12.00 pm

Shabbat ends 7.37 pm

**Due to Covid-19 and social distancing guidelines set out by the Government, Office of the Chief Rabbi and The United Synagogue, attendance at all services in shul must be booked in advance via the Synagogue office.**

**This includes services on Friday evenings and Shabbat mornings, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and other Chagim throughout the year.**

**Please do not attend services at the shul without notifying the office first.**

**Any changes to these arrangements will be notified to you by the Co-Chairs.**

All details are correct at the time of going to print.

### EREV YOM KIPPUR

#### Sunday 27 September

Mincha and Yizkor 2.00 pm

### MINCHA AND YIZKOR ZOOM ONLY

#### To join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87367530360?pwd=NDhuMV-JyZTVwTjVTszBHZHphdU-Vwdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 6753 0360

Passcode: 387374

#### Or dial in:

0203 481 5240 or  
0203 901 7895 or  
0203 051 2874

#### Yom Tov and

Fast begin 6.33 pm  
Kol Nidre 6.30 pm –  
8.30 pm

### YOM KIPPUR

#### Monday 28 September

Shacharit 10.00 am –  
12.00 pm

Mincha and Neila 5.30 pm  
Fast ends 7.32 pm

#### Maariv, Shofar

and Havdalah 7.40 pm

### ZOOM FROM THE SYNAGOGUE

#### To join Zoom at 7.40pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87089664153?pwd=M3B5b-W5oMkthMGZibEt5N-zN6UjJ2dz09>

Meeting ID: 870 8966 4153

Passcode: 380893

#### Or dial in:

0203 481 5240 or  
0203 901 7895 or  
0203 051 2874

