

# Around Alyth

February 2025



## Engaging with Israel at Alyth Friday 31 January—Saturday 1 February

### Special Guest: Yocheved Ruttenberg: Friday 31 January (18:30)

Yocheved Ruttenberg, who is visiting the UK from Israel, will be joining us on Friday night, 31 January, to give the D'var Torah in our Erev Shabbat Service. Yocheved moved from America to Israel after the events of 7 October and founded one of the fastest growing volunteer networks, Sword of Iron Volunteering, through which over 40,000 people have contributed to civilian support over the past 16 months. Yocheved will stay for our Chavurah supper to engage in conversation with our members over dinner. [Click here](#) to join our dinner of conversation and music.

### Shabbat Shiur: Saturday 1 February (9:15)

Rabbi Galit Cohen-Kedem from Holon Progressive Community in Israel, who once gave a sermon to Alyth from a bomb shelter, from will join us to share her experiences over the past few months. After a decade of campaigning for municipal land to build a synagogue, mayor of Holon, Shai Keinan is blocking the construction of the Reform Jewish building. Rabbi Galit will help us to explore ways in which we can help to support with events in Israel.

## Tu B'ishvat Supper Quiz Sunday 9 February (18:45)



Our fabulous annual quiz is back. With a delicious fish or veggie dinner and competitive questions! £30 a ticket and a great raffle. Raffle tickets can be bought in advance or during the evening. [Click here](#) to buy your quiz tickets and [here](#) for your raffle tickets. Alternatively, call Sarah on 020 8457 8787 for more information. See inside Around Alyth for more details.

## Annual Meeting of Congregants Monday 10 February (19:30)

Join us for the Annual Meeting of Congregants to elect a new chair, Trustees and Vice President as proposed by the Trustees. You can find the Statutory Accounts and Trustees Report [here](#) ([www.alyth.org.uk/amc](http://www.alyth.org.uk/amc)). Please register by [clicking here](#) and let us know whether you will attend in person or online.

## Alyth's Weekend Away Friday 28 - Sunday 30 March 2025 ONE MONTH TO SIGN UP!

Alongside shared community times, there will be Israel, Learning, Music, and Movement & Meditation tracks for you to dip in and out of depending on what sparks your interest. Our Youth & Education team will also run a full programme for children during the day and in the evenings. [Click here to sign up](#). Adults - £290/pp, Children (aged 6-16) - £85/pp, Family of 4 - £665. Contact [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) for more information. Sign ups close on 4 March 2025. [Click here](#) for the flyer.

### EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Friday (18:30)

#### Erev Shabbat Service (Fridays 7, 14, 21, 28 February)

We begin Shabbat with our uplifting and inspirational, intergenerational Erev Shabbat service. A unique combination of song, reflection, prayer & learning.

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Saturday

#### Saturday 1 February

##### Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Josh with guitar. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Tali Mason. The sermon will be given by our Head of Community Care and Lifecycle, Lynette Chazen for Mental Health Awareness Shabbat.

##### Sensory Havdalah, 16:00

Join us for this special Sensory Havdalah experience. See 'Pray with us for Families' for more information.

#### Saturday 8 February

##### Family Focus Group, 10:00

See 'Pray with us for Families' for more information.

##### Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Nicola with the Alyth choir. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Charlotte Sidier.

##### Kollot, 10:30

Our informal, unaccompanied, participatory minyan. Led by Rabbi Elliott and Justin Wise, with members of the community reading and teaching Torah.

#### Saturday 15 February

##### Breakfast 9:15

Join us for breakfast to honour our lay leadership as they complete or continue their time as a trustee.

##### Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Elliott with the Alyth choir.

##### Gesher, 11:00

See 'Pray with us for Families' for more information.

#### Saturday 21 February

##### Shabbat Morning Choral Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Elliott with the Alyth choir. Including the B'nei Mitzvah of Harry Dadoun and Maxwell Partridge.

**SHABBAT B'YACHAD**  
Saturday 8 February (12:30–14:00)

Please join us and your fellow members for a delicious three course meal in our new space. Contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk). Voluntary donation of £5.

**SUNDAY SHACHARIT**  
Sundays 2,9,16,23 February (9:00)

Every Alyth week begins with a lay-led minyan with bagel breakfast at Alyth, led by Alyth members. All are welcome.

### PRAY WITH US FOR FAMILIES ON SHABBAT

#### Baby Den

*Fridays 7, 14, 21, 28 February (10:30)*

Chug-a-lug into Shabbat. Sing your favourite Baby Den songs, dance to a Shabbat beat and wave to some familiar faces. For families with Young Children.

#### Sensory Havdalah

*Saturday 1 February (16:00)*

Havdalah is one of our most sensory experiences. We see the flickering candle flame, smell the sweet spices and taste the wine. Join Rabbi Hannah, Han and the dungareenees, for this special Sensory Havdalah experience where our youngest members can wave goodbye to Shabbat and prepare to start the week anew.

#### Family Focus Group

*Saturday 8 February (10:00)*

For families with children in years 3 and 4 who feel too old for Gesher. Join Rabbi Hannah and Abi for brunch and a conversation about how to reengage in shul life.

#### Gesher

*Saturday 15 February (11:00)*

Our musical service providing a bridge between our youngest family services and the next stage in Alyth families' prayer life.

## Be With Us

February 2025

### Tu B'ishvat Supper Quiz

Sunday 9 February (18:45)

Back by popular demand, the Alyth Supper Quiz is a fun evening with old and new friends and a delicious supper to feed your brain cells. Either make up your own table of 10 or we can allocate you a table. Cost is £30 a ticket. [Click here](#) to buy your tickets, or call Deborah on 020 8457 8784 for more information.



We are also looking for donations of high quality, exceptional raffle prizes and volunteers to help on the team.

Please contact Sarah on 020 8457 8787 or [sarah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sarah@alyth.org.uk)

### Newlyweds Chavurah Dinner

Friday 28 February (18:30)

Calling all those marrieds in 2024, or those getting married in 2025, to a chavurah dinner. Join us for the Erev Shabbat service and stay for dinner, hosted by Rabbi Hannah and Sam. As well as chatting, eating and drinking wine, we will use this evening as a mini focus group so you can let us know what you want your Alyth journey to look like. Email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) to let us know you are coming.

### Judaism: the Essentials

Tuesdays (20:00-21:30ish)

Our regular introduction to Judaism class taught by our clergy. Essentials is the perfect class for those coming to Judaism for the first time, or looking to consolidate the learning of a lifetime - or anywhere in between. New students are always welcome. Please contact Rabbi Elliott [elliott@alyth.org.uk](mailto:elliott@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

**4** Anglo Jewish History. Welcoming our member and guest teacher, Dr Jeremy Smilg.

**11** Tu Bishvat Seder and Jewish Environmental Ethics

**18** *No Essentials*

**25** Confronting Modernity: new challenges, new Jewish answers

### Adult Hebrew

#### Intensive Hebrew Reading Course

For beginners, to learn the aleph-bet and basic decoding skills.

*These two courses are taught by Alyth member Jan Roseman. Contact [elliott@alyth.org.uk](mailto:elliott@alyth.org.uk).*

#### Hebrew Reading Course

For those already proficient in Hebrew reading, to continue to develop their skills.

#### Biblical Hebrew

*Sundays, 11:15-12:30 and Wednesdays 18:00-19:15*

A programme for those with high level Hebrew reading ability. Email [edwardjgold@hotmail.com](mailto:edwardjgold@hotmail.com) if you would like to join. Sunday's class is "Prayer Book Hebrew: studying the Hebrew and how it is translated" and Wednesday's class is "Biblical Hebrew: Studying the Weekly Parashah".

### Pardes:

#### Special Guest Teacher: Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner

Thursdays 6, 13, 20, 27 February (13:00-14:00)

We are delighted to be joined over the next few weeks by Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner who will be a special guest teacher at Pardes. What on earth are the legal and political battles over the legal system in Israel in the last couple of years? What can Jewish sources teach us about?

### We Need to Talk About...Tech

Monday 24 February (19:30)

We Need To Talk About ... is a new series of evenings where we come together to discuss issues facing our community with experts in the field. Since the demands of the Covid pandemic, technology in services has literally become a part of the furniture in our building as a way of including more people in the Alyth's prayer life. Join us for a special evening of learning and conversation, in which we will consider the principles underlying our use of technology in services, and reflect on the way in which it affects our experience of worship at Alyth. We are delighted to be joined by Student Rabbi Andrea Kulikovsky, who will speak about her rabbinic dissertation research in this area.

### Weekly

#### Monday Club

*Mondays 3, 10, 17, February 19:00-20:30*

A friendly in-person meeting place for people with learning and other disabilities. For more information or to let us know you will be attending, please email [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk).

#### Alyth Choral Society

*Tuesdays, 19:30-21:30*

We have two or three concerts a year, one with full orchestra. New members always welcome. [Click here](#) or email [acs@alyth.org.uk](mailto:acs@alyth.org.uk) if our future programme inspires you.

### Monthly

#### Alyth Cycling Community Bike Ride

*Sunday 9 February, 8:15*

Bringing riders of all abilities together to enjoy cycling and conversation. For more information, please contact [laurancemendoza@aol.com](mailto:laurancemendoza@aol.com).

#### Alyth Book Club

*Monday 3 February 18:30*

This month's book by Yael van der Wouden is "A Safe Keep", shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2024. The author will be joining us online to discuss her book with us. The March book club is on Monday 3 March.

Email [colin@alyth.org.uk](mailto:colin@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

#### Rainbow Lunch

*Sunday 16 February, 12:30-14:30*

A lunch for LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers, where they are offered food, friendship and a safe place to be themselves.

#### Refugee Choir

*Sunday 16 February 13:30-14:30*

This multi-faith, multicultural choir is open to refugees, drop-in volunteers and the wider Alyth community.

#### Singing for Pleasure

*Sunday 16 February 15:30-16:30*

Join Viv and sing songs from the shows, Israeli folksongs, songs from the 60s and more. No need to audition, read music or feel intimidated.

### Mindfulness and Meditation

#### Monthly JMM (online only)

*Friday 7, 14, 21, 28 February  
17:00-18:00*

Welcome in Shabbat with us in a peaceful and reflective environment. Free of charge. All welcome.

#### Weekly Move, Breathe and Connect

*Tuesdays, 20:00-21:00*

Our new Tuesday sessions are designed to help you press 'pause' in the middle of your week. Cost: 12 Sessions @ £12 per session or £100 for a block of 10 sessions. Payment via cash or card on the day.

### A Night of Songs Concert Sunday 23 February (18:00—19:30)

Alyth will be filled with the voices of Katie Hainbach, Tom Morss and Janine Clements, accompanied by Stephen Hose on piano and Henry Gilbert on bass, all in support of our Monday Club, for adults with learning and other disabilities.



### The Alyth Social Mondays (14:00 – 16:00)

Part of the Alyth Friendship Project. Join us for an afternoon of entertainment, discussion, tea and great company! Contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) for more information. All are welcome.

**3 Alan Dein – The Return!**

Alan, journalist, historian and all-round interesting man, talks about his work recording people's memories of London's Royal Parks.

**10 Stan Hill**

Professional photographer. We will journey with him through Europe and find ourselves travelling across different continents looking at his spectacular adventures.

**16 Lynne Bradley—West Side Story**

Dancer, singer, performer and author, Lynne talks about her absolute favourite musical.

**24 Katie Sings**

Join Katie and Maya as they entertain us with songs from opera, musicals and films.

### Neurobics Brain and Body Fitness Wednesdays (11:00)

Simple brain-fitness exercises, alongside being more mindful of various lifestyle habits, are an essential way to slow down cognitive decline, improve brain fitness and harness the power of the brain's ability to change. To sign up for Neurobics, please [click here](#). This is a 6 week course but can be accessed on any week. £12/session.

### Music On A Winter's Afternoon Wednesdays (12:30 – 14:30)

Please join us for a cup of soup to warm your body, and music to soothe your soul from world class musicians from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) for more information. Suggested donation: £5

**19 Look out for details in the weekly email**

**26 Giulio Corrado**, award winning Italian pianist and student from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama will perform Debussy and Chopin

### Bereavement Cafe

Have you recently been bereaved? Come and meet others in a similar situation to talk, chat and make new friendships. Facilitated by Lynette. Part of our new Well Being Wednesdays programme. To sign up, please email [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) or call on 020 8457 8793.

## Put the Dates in your Diaries

2025

### Sensory Shabbat Breakfast

Saturday 1 March (10:00)

Sensory Shabbat is on 1 March at 11:00. Join us for breakfast and a chat before at 10:00

### Alyth's Dog Walk

Sunday 2 March (10:00)

Join Rabbi Hannah, Bailey (Marc and Lior), for a walk on the Heath Extension, and a run and a play on the Heath for our furry friends. We will meet at Alyth and walk from there. If your kids go to SMG, pick up a bagel and coffee and join us for this walk. No dogs needed. Wet weather plan – bring an umbrella! A new addition to our regular programming.

### Alyth's Iftar

Sunday 9 March (16:45)

Over 12 years, Alyth has brought communities together to talk, study and eat at our annual Iftar. We are grateful for the friendships which have grown over the years at this very special event in our annual calendar. It is vital that we continue to reach out beyond boundaries of difference, to cultivate friendships and to deepen our understanding of our brothers and sisters of different cultures, backgrounds and faiths. After a series of learning spaces, we will come together for the call to prayer, finishing in time to share our Iftar meal which, as always, will be plentiful and delicious. Email [hannah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:hannah@alyth.org.uk) for more information and [click here](#) to let us know you are coming.

### Purim

Thursday 13 and Friday 14 March

Join us this Purim! More details will be in the weekly email.

**Erev Purim: Thursday 13 March**

Megillah reading and Ma'ariv (20:00)

**Purim Day: Friday 14 March**

Purim Baby Den (10:30) and Purim Carnival and Dinner (17:30)



### Alyth's Adult Amateur Dramatic Group Taster

Sunday 16 March (10:00)

Following the carnival experience of Purim, are you interested in joining an adult amateur dramatic group at Alyth? Come and join us for a taster, facilitated by Ellen Scannell, and breakfast on Sunday 16 March at 10:00 to discuss the future of this exciting new venture. If you are not able to join us but are still interested, email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk)

### Weekly Learning

#### SMG

Sundays 2, and 9 February (10:00-12:00)  
Our Jewish education programme for Reception to Year 6. [Click here](#) to enrol into SMG.

#### Ruach 1 - 4

Fridays 7, 14, 28 February (17:15-19:30)  
Our pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah programme delivered by our wonderful team of madrichim.

### Drama Activities

#### Alyth Children's Theatre (ACT)

Thursdays 6, 13, 27 February (17:00-18:15)  
Our drama group for primary school aged children.

#### Academy of Performing Arts

Sundays 2 and 9 February (18:00-20:00)  
A feature of the Alyth calendar for secondary school aged children for over 20 years.

### Secret Cinema Saturday 1 February (16:00)

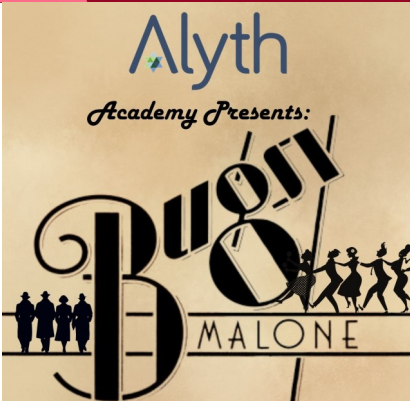
A highlight of the Youth and Education calendar. For all those in year 3 and 4, join us for a cinema evening with dinner, snacks, fun and friends.

Contact [izzie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:izzie@alyth.org.uk) for more information or [click here](#) to sign up.

### Feb Fun for Young Ones Monday 17—Friday 21 February (9:00—12:30)

Feb Fun is a must-do for all children aged 2 to 4. Bringing everyone together, it is a chance to see friends from Alyth and to meet new people too. Please email [izzie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:izzie@alyth.org.uk) to sign up. Enrolment deadline is 3 February.

### Alyth Academy of Performing Arts Presents: Bugsy Malone Sunday 4 May, 14:30 and 18:00



Come and support our incredible cast of talented teenagers performing this years Academy show: Bugsy Malone!

There are two shows on Sunday 4 May at 14:30 and 18:00.

Tickets can be bought in advance by [clicking here](#) or on the door or from [abi@alyth.org.uk](mailto:abi@alyth.org.uk)

If you are interested in joining the Academy cast for 2026, please email [abi@alyth.org.uk](mailto:abi@alyth.org.uk)