

Shabbat Sh’mini

28 Nisan 5785 / 25-26 April 2025

Erev Shabbat

18:30 Erev Shabbat Service (in the Beit Tefillah)
Led by Rabbi Elliott, Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Nicola.

Shabbat Morning

10:30 Shabbat Morning Service (in the Beit Tefillah)
Led by Rabbi Elliott, accompanied by guitar.
The Torah will be read by Rafi Laitner-Gerber.
The Sermon will be given by Rabbi Elliott.
There will be an unsupervised kids corner.

10:30 Shabbat Morning Lay-led Service (in the Cecil Rosen Hall)
Led by Rabbi Nicola and lay leaders.
There will be an unsupervised kids corner.

Marking Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut with Alyth Erev Yom Hazikaron

Tuesday 29 April (19:00)
We will be marking Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day) with an evening of reflection and sharing, including poetry, readings, song and a short memorial service. Join us at Alyth or online. See website for details.

Pardes
Thursday 1 May (13:00)
A special Pardes for Yom Ha’atzmaut, exploring some of the literature of the early state of Israel. Join us at Alyth or online. See website for details.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Family Tea
Thursday 1 May (16:30)

Join the Youth and Education Hub to board Alyth Airways to fly to Israel and travel around the country, making stops at Tel Aviv, Haifa, Holon, Jerusalem and Eilat. An afternoon of cooking, crafting and games, followed by a delicious Israeli inspired supper.

Guest Sermon In Our Shabbat Morning Choral Service
Saturday 3 May (10:30)

Rabbi Cantor Shani ben Or is the first person to have been ordained as both a Rabbi and a Cantor in Israel. We are honoured that she will join us this Shabbat Atzma’ut to give a special sermon as we move towards the World Zionist Congress Elections. Rabbi Cantor Shani will speak about what we can do to support a pluralist and democratic Israel.

Havdalah Concert: A Song Between Worlds (at Finchley Reform Synagogue)
Saturday 3 May (20:00)

Join Rabbi Cantor Shani ben Or, Boaz Dorot and musicians from the Progressive Movement, including some guest Alyth musicians for an evening of Havdalah, harmony and a call-to-action.

Shabbat and Festival Services at Alyth

Throughout Jewish history, Shabbat has been at the heart of Jewish life, a distinctive and special time, different from the working week. At Alyth, we strive to uphold this holiness of Shabbat, with learning and multiple services to meet the needs of the community. Please help us to ensure that everyone can pray and participate by thinking about the needs of those around you. If you need to leave the service to avoid disturbing others, please note that the service can be watched on livestream, this week in the kindergarten.

To help us to separate Shabbat from the rest of the week, please switch off your mobile phone, and do not take photographs or video, or smoke/vape on the premises on Shabbat. When we want to show appreciation during a service, it is traditional not to applaud but to shout *‘yasher koach’* or *‘sh’koach’*, which means ‘strength to you.’ Please refrain from applauding but join in this greeting.

In case of an emergency, evacuation of the building is either through the main entrance doors, congregating on Temple Grove, or via the kindergarten into the cemetery. Please do not gather on Alyth Gardens as this may block emergency services access. We will make Kiddush together over wine and challah on Friday nights & Shabbat mornings to end our services. We ask that you please not drink or eat until we have said the blessings. On Shabbat, as through the week, we rely on the contribution of many of our members. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this Shabbat special. *Shabbat Shalom.*

Additional Songs and Readings for Shabbat

Ma Tovu

Words: Numbers 24:5

מה־טבו אה־לִיךְ יַעֲקֹב. מִשְׁכְּנֹתֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Mah tovu ohalecha ya’akov, mishk’notecha yisra’el.

How good are your tents, O Jacob, and your homes, O Israel!

Ya’aloz Sadai

Words: Psalm 96:12

Music: Yoel Sykes and Navot ben Barak

יַעֲלֹז שְׁדִי וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־בוֹ אֲזוּ יִרְנְנוּ כָל־עֲצֵי־יַעַר:

Ya’aloz sadai v’chol asher bo, az y’rann’nu kol atsei ya’ar.

Let the field be glad and all within it, let all trees of the forest sing out

Bo’i khallah

Music: Lior Ben Hur & Sol Tevel

בּוֹאִי כָלָה פָּנִי שַׁבָּת נִקְבְּלָה, לָכָה דּוּדֵי לִקְרֹאת כָּלָה, לָכָה דּוּדֵי פָּנֵי שַׁבָּת נִקְבְּלָה

Bo’i khallah, bo’i khallah, p’nei Shabbat n’kab’lah, bo’i khallah, bo’i khallah, bo’i khallah
L’chah dodi, l’chah dodi likrat kalla, p’nei Shabbat n’kab’lah

Come, my bride, to welcome in the Shabbat eve.

Come, my friend, to greet the bride, to welcome in the Shabbat eve.

Hashkiveinu

Music: Dan Nichols

הַשְׁכִּיבֵנוּ יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְשָׁלוֹם וְהַעֲמִידֵנוּ מִלְּכָנוּ לְחַיִּים

Hashkiveinu Adonai eloheinu l’shalom, v’ha’amideinu malkeinu l’chayyim

Spread the shelter of Your peace over us; Guide us in wisdom, compassion and trust

Save us for the sake of Your name; Shield us from hatred, sorrow and pain

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָהוּה. הַפּוֹרֵשׁ סִכַּת שְׁלוֹם עַלְיָנוּ וְעַל־עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל־כָּל־הָעוֹלָם:
Baruch attah Adonai, ha-poreis sukkat shalom aleinu v’al ammo yisra’el, v’al kol ha-olam
Blessed are You God, spreading the shelter of peace over us, over Your people Israel, and over all the world.

Nachman of Bratslav’s Prayer for Peace

May it be Your will, Eternal God, that war and bloodshed be abolished from the world, that a great and wondrous peace rule forever; that never again shall nation lift up sword against nation, and never again shall they train for war. But may all who dwell on the earth recognize and understand the basic truth: that we have not come into this world for strife and division, nor for hate and jealousy, contrariness and bloodshed; but we have come into this world to recognize and know You, may You be blessed forever.

A Prayer for the Release of Captives

Words: based on the words of Kol Haneshamah Reform Congregation, Jerusalem

God of Abraham, the first who risked his life for the release of captives. God of Moses, Miriam and Aaron, whose words and actions brought us out of slavery. God of Elijah, who was comforted through his deep despair, by Your still small voice. Be with those everywhere who are enslaved and captive. We wait and pray in hope that they will be returned to their loved ones. In this time of uncertainty, grant strength and resilience to them and their families. Give wisdom, courage and conviction to all those working to bring them home. Help us to understand what we too can do to support those in distress.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָהוּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם מְתִיר אֲסוּרִים:

Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam matir asurim.

Blessed are You our Living God, who frees captives.

Counting the Omer

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָהוּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצּוֹתָיו וְצִנְנוּ עַל סְפִירַת הָעֵמֶר:

Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kidd'shanu b'mitsvotav v'tsivanu al s'firat ha-omer.

Blessed are You, our Living God, Sovereign of the universe, whose commandments make us holy and who commands us to count the Omer.

הַיּוֹם שְׁלֹשָׁה עָשָׂר יוֹם שֶׁהֵם שְׁבוּעַ אֶחָד וְשֵׁשָׁה יָמִים לְעֹמֶר:

Hayom shalosh-asar yom, sh'hem echad v'shishah yamim la'omer.

Today is the thirteenth day, making one week and six days of the Omer.

Hineh Ma Tov

Words: Psalm 133:1

Music: Elana Arian

הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב וּמַה־נְּעִים שָׁבֹת אַחִים גַּם־יַחַד:

Hineh ma tov uma na'im shevet achim gam Yachad

How good it is (How good it is);

How sweet it is (How sweet it is);

To be together on this day

Shalom aleichem, salaam aleikum

How good it is and how pleasant when brothers live in unity together.

Ozi v’zimrat yah

Words: Exodus 15:2 / Psalm 118:14

עֲזִי וְזִמְרַת יְיָ וְיְהִי לִי לִישׁוּעָה

Ozi v’zimrat yah vay’hi li lishu’ah

God the Eternal is my strength and song and has become my salvation!

Torah Portion for Shabbat Sh’mini

Leviticus 9:1-14

א וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁמִינִי קָרָא מֹשֶׁה לְאַהֲרֹן וּלְבָנָיו וּלְזִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: ב וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־אַהֲרֹן קַח־לָךְ עֵגֹל בֶּן־בָּקָר לַחֻטָּאת וְאַיִל לְעֹלָה תְּמִימִם וְהִקְרֵב לִפְנֵי יְהוָה: ג וְאַל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל תִּדְבָּר לֵאמֹר קַחוּ שְׁעִיר־עִזִּים לַחֻטָּאת וְעִגֹּל וְכִבֵּשׁ בְּנֵי־שִׁנְיָה תְּמִימִם לְעֹלָה: ד וְשׂוֹר וְאַיִל לְשִׁלְמִים לְזִבְחַ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וּמִנְחָה בְּלוֹלָה בַשֶּׁמֶן כִּי הַיּוֹם יְהוָה נִרְאָה אֲלֵיכֶם:

¹On the eighth day Moses called Aaron and his sons, and the elders of Israel. ²He said to Aaron: “Take a calf of the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering, without blemish, and bring them before God. ³And speak to the Israelites, saying: Take a he-goat for a sin offering; a calf and a lamb, yearlings without blemish, for a burnt offering; ⁴and an ox and a ram for an offering of well-being to sacrifice before God; and a meal offering with oil mixed in. For today God will appear to you.”

ה וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה מֹשֶׁה אֶל־פְּנֵי אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וַיִּקְרְבוּ כָל־הָעֵדָה וַיַּעֲמֵדוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה: ו וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה זֶה הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יְהוָה תַּעֲשׂוּ וִירָא אֲלֵיכֶם כְּבוֹד יְהוָה: ז וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן קִרְב אֶל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וַעֲשֵׂה אֶת־חֻטָּאתְךָ וְאֶת־עֹלֹתְךָ וּכְפֹר בַּעֲדֶךָ וּבַעַד הָעָם וַעֲשֵׂה אֶת־קִרְבֶּן הָעָם וּכְפֹר בַּעֲדָם כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה:

⁵They brought to the front of the Tent of Meeting the things that Moses had commanded, and the community leadership came forward and stood before God. ⁶Moses said: “This is what God has commanded that you do, that the Presence of God may appear to you.” ⁷Then Moses said to Aaron: “Come forward to the altar and sacrifice your sin offering and your burnt offering, making expiation for yourself and for the people; and sacrifice the people’s offering and make expiation for them, as God has commanded.”

ח וַיִּקְרַב אַהֲרֹן אֶל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וַיִּשְׁחַט אֶת־עֵגֹל הַחֻטָּאת אֲשֶׁר־לּוֹ: ט וַיִּקְרְבוּ בְנֵי אַהֲרֹן אֶת־הַדָּם אֵלָיו וַיִּטְבֹּל אֶצְבָּעוֹ בָּדָם וַיֹּתֵן עַל־קֶרְנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת־הַדָּם יָצַק אֶל־יְסוּד הַמִּזְבֵּחַ: י וְאֶת־הַחֹלֶב וְאֶת־הַכֶּלִית וְאֶת־הַיִּתְרַת מִן־הַכֶּבֶד מִן־הַחֻטָּאת הִקְטִיר הַמִּזְבֵּחַה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת־מֹשֶׁה: יא וְאֶת־הַבֶּשֶׂר וְאֶת־הָעוֹר שָׂרָף בָּאֵשׁ מִחוּץ לַמִּחֲנֶה: יב וַיִּשְׁחַט אֶת־הָעֹלָה וַיִּמְצְאוּ בְנֵי אַהֲרֹן אֵלָיו אֶת־הַדָּם וַיִּזְרְקֵהוּ עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ סָבִיב: יג וְאֶת־הָעֹלָה הִמְצִיאוּ אֵלָיו לַנֹּתֶחֱהָ וְאֶת־הָרֹאשׁ וַיִּקְטֹר עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ: יד וַיִּרְתֹּץ אֶת־הַקָּרֶב וְאֶת־הַכְּרָעִים וַיִּקְטֹר עַל־הָעֹלָה הַמִּזְבֵּחַה: טו וַיִּקְרַב אֶת קֶרְבֵּן הָעָם וַיִּקָּח אֶת־שְׁעִיר הַחֻטָּאת אֲשֶׁר לָעָם וַיִּשְׁחַטְהוּ וַיַּחֲטֹאֵהוּ כְּרֹאשׁוֹן:

⁸Aaron came forward to the altar and slaughtered his calf of sin offering. ⁹Aaron's sons brought the blood to him; he dipped his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the altar; and he poured out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. ¹⁰The fat, the kidneys, and the protuberance of the liver from the sin offering he turned into smoke on the altar—as God had commanded Moses; ¹¹and the flesh and the skin were consumed in fire outside the camp. ¹²Then he slaughtered the burnt offering. Aaron's sons passed the blood to him, and he dashed it against all sides of the altar. ¹³They passed the burnt offering to him in sections, as well as the head, and he turned it into smoke on the altar. ¹⁴He washed the entrails and the legs, and turned them into smoke on the altar with the burnt offering.

Haftarah

2 Samuel 7:1-17

¹When the king was settled in his palace and God had granted him safety from all the enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan: “Here I am dwelling in a house of cedar, while the Ark of God abides in a tent!” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go and do whatever you have in mind, for God is with you.” “But that same night the word of God came to Nathan: ⁵“Go and say to My servant David: Thus said God: Are you the one to build a house for Me to dwell in? ⁶From the day that I brought the people of Israel out of Egypt to this day I have not dwelt in a house, but have moved about in Tent and Tabernacle. ⁷As I moved about wherever the Israelites went, did I ever reproach any of the tribal leaders whom I appointed to care for My people Israel: Why have you not built Me a house of cedar? ⁸“Further, say thus to My servant David: Thus said God of Hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be ruler of My people Israel, ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut down all your enemies before you. Moreover, I will give you great renown like that of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰I will establish a home for My people Israel and will plant them firm, so that they shall dwell secure and shall tremble no more. Iniquitous people shall not oppress them anymore as in the past, ¹¹ever since I appointed chieftains over My people Israel. I will give you safety from all your enemies. “God declares to you: God will establish a house for you— ¹²When your days are done and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own issue, and I will establish his kingship. ¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, And he shall be a son to Me. When he does wrong, I will chastise him with the rod of mortals and the blows of humankind. ¹⁵“But I will never withdraw My favour from him as I withdrew it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingship shall ever be secure before you; your throne shall be established forever.” ¹⁷Nathan spoke to David in accordance with all these words and all this prophecy.

Community News

Alyth is built on a foundation of mutual care, in which we share one another’s joys and sorrows, and accompany one another through our life journeys.

On this Shabbat we celebrate with:

Rafi Laitner-Gerber, who is reading Torah for the first time in our Shabbat morning service to celebrate becoming Bar Mitzvah

We regret to announce the death of:

Carole Bray, wife of David Bray, mother of Virginia Ritzmann, stepmother of Elisa Bray-Pearce and sister of Rosalind Simmons

Michael Popper, father of Jonathan Popper

Kenneth Stanton, husband of Vivienne Stanton, father of Miles and Jonathan Stanton

We join with those marking the anniversary of the death of a loved one:

Percival Adams, father of Ian Adams

Rouhollah Aframian, brother of Ata Aframian

Jill Bezalel, mother of Melanie Bezalel

Bruce Cohen, father of Claire Salt

Sonia Dirmeik, mother of Felicity Dirmeik

Michael Feldman, father of Paul Feldman

Morris Feldman, grandfather of Paul Feldman

Lisl Francken, mother of John Francken

Adelaide Gold, mother of Paul Gold

John Harper, husband of Rowena Harper, father of Peter and Charlotte Harper, father-in-law

of Jenny Harper, grandfather of Jack and Ben

Nathan Horwitz, father of Cheryl Brodie

Elizabeth Israel, mother of Martin Israel

Leon Isserow, father of Rory Isserow

Frederick Koh, brother of Robyn Koh-Trosser

Alfred Levi, father of Henry Levi

Leonie Lewis, sister of Bernard Merkel

Harry Lynford, father of Colette Levy

Francine Morris, sister of Geoffrey Rivlin

Eli Neumann, father of Irit Burkeman, grandfather of Libby Shaul-Burkeman

Rietje Oltheten, mother of Carien Smith

Ralph Pope, father of Hayley Baneth

Max Rinkoff, father of Raymond Rinkoff

Sylvie Schrire, mother of Gail Flesch

Michael Sendak, father of John Sendak

Ralph Stanton, husband of Irene Stanton

Venie Stein, mother of Peter Stein

Steven Strauss, father of Jennifer Finlay

Rudy Thier, husband of Tessa Thier

Leslie Wise, father of Jan Wise

Save the Date

Progressive Judaism & Alyth

Monday 28 April (19:00)

Following on from our We Need To Talk About Progressive Judaism meeting, this event will be an opportunity to speak with our Alyth Trustees about the combination before we move forward as a Community. We will be joined by our Rabbi Emeritus and CEO of the Reform Movement, Josh Levy, to answer your questions about the new Progressive Movement. Please submit your questions in advance to adam@alyth.org.uk. Following time for questions, our trustees will vote on the decision to join the Movement.

May Day Trip to Waddesdon Manor

Thursday 1 May (9:30)

LAST FEW PLACES REMAINING

A must-do date for your diary, this May Day. Please join us for a trip to Waddesdon Manor, including the chance to see the new exhibition ‘Discovering Jewish Country Houses: Photographs by Helene Binet’. Travel by coach from Alyth leaving at 9:30 for a visit to this beautiful house owned by the Rothschild family and view the exhibition. We will return to Alyth at approx. 17:30. Cost: £50 per person to include transport and entrance. Costs for National Trust Members: Free Entry; Transport cost £25 per person. Lunch not included. For more information and to register your interest, please email lynette@alyth.org.uk or call her on 020 8457 8793.

Alyth Academy Presents: Bugsy Malone

Sunday 4 May (14:30 & 18:00)

Please come and support our incredible cast of talented teenagers performing this year’s Academy show, Bugsy Malone. There are two shows on Sunday 4 May at 14:30 and 18:00. Tickets can be bought in advance online or on the door or from abi@alyth.org.uk. Come and enjoy the show and our Beit Tefillah 1920s speakeasy! If you are interested in joining the Academy cast of 2026’s production, please email abi@alyth.org.uk

Contact Us

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Rabbinic Team

Rabbi Hannah Kingston, Rabbi Elliott Karstadt, Rabbi Colin Eimer, Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang

Rabbi Josh Levy (Emeritus)