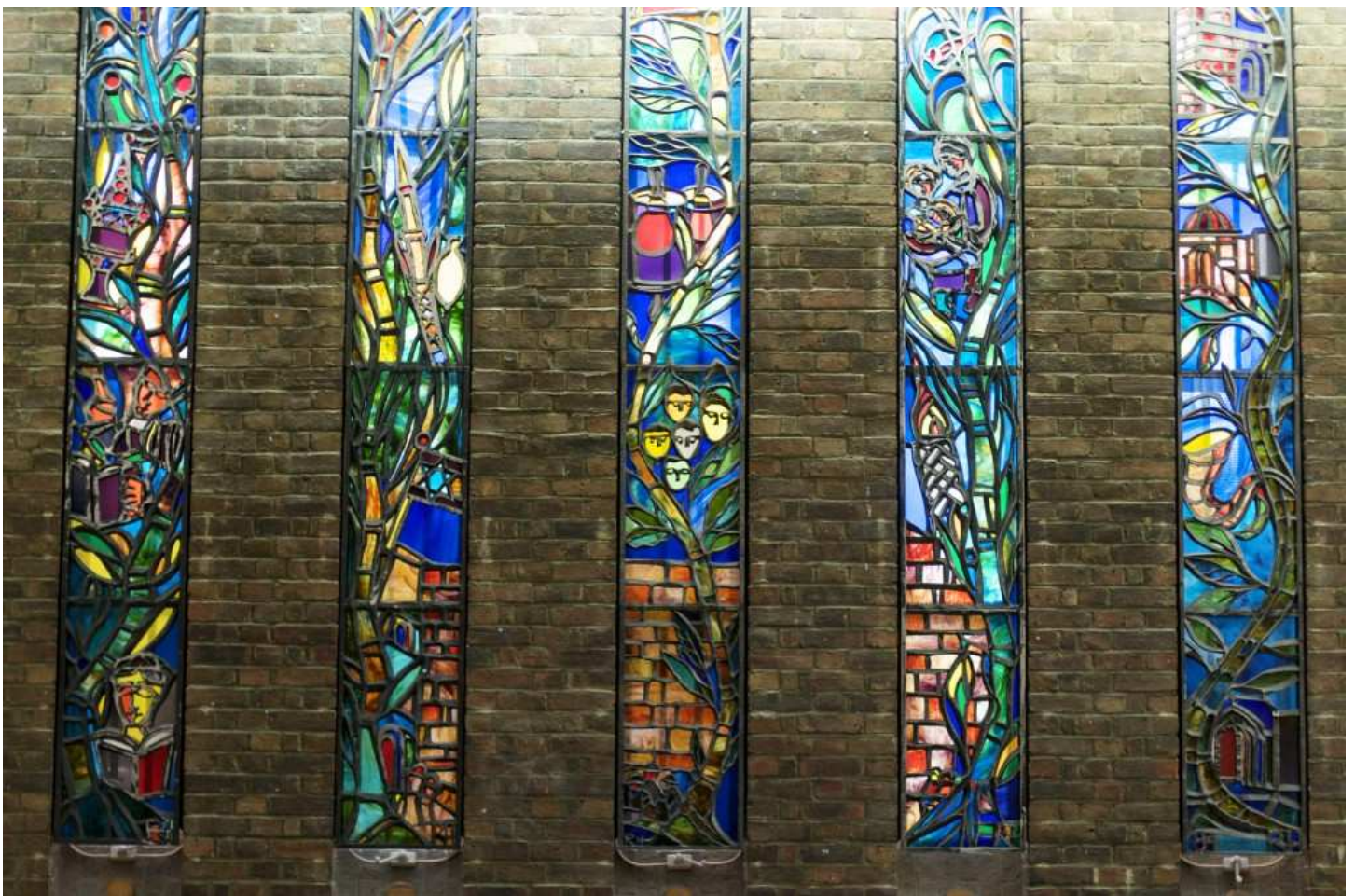




To pray. To learn. To live. Together.



Annual Review 2014



Alyth
North Western Reform Synagogue
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www.alyth.org.uk

Partner Communities
Leo Baeck Education Centre, Haifa, Israel
Kerch Jewish Community, Crimea

Registered Charity No. 247081



Chairman's Report



Looking back on my first year as Chairman of Alyth, I feel privileged and proud to be leading our vibrant community. The scope of activities and engagement of so many of our members every week in the life of the community is truly amazing. We estimate that around 800 members engage on a weekly basis. We welcome each and every person who comes to Alyth for prayer, music, education, social activities, meetings and events. We also welcome many visitors to Alyth and ensure that they too enjoy our hospitality and warmth.

In January 2014 Cantor Cheryl joined the Clergy Team and Cindy Summers joined us as head of our Kindergarten. We are delighted that both Cantor Cheryl and Cindy have settled into their respective roles and are very much a part of the Alyth family. Our Clergy team is an integral part of all that we do at Alyth. Their focus on the work that they do and on ensuring members are welcomed, listened to and supported, is inspiring. They lead not only within the community but outside as well, serving as trustees, governors and activists across a broad range of organisations. Thank you, Mark, Josh and Cheryl for your dedication and commitment to us all.

Our professional and staff teams continue to support the work that is being done. In his role as Community Director, Adam has begun to streamline our operations and ensure that the administrative and caretaking support in the running of the synagogue is of the highest quality. Our much loved, (now heading toward retirement) Director of Music, Viv, has continued to be at the heart of music and drama at Alyth whilst at the same time partnering with Cantor Cheryl as she has become so much a part of the community. Lynette has embraced her role as Welfare and Life Cycle Director and is constantly finding ways to deepen the way we care for everyone in the community, especially those in need and who are vulnerable.

The Galim team has been hard at work all year, delivery outstanding programmes on Sunday mornings, Friday nights (Ruach) and across the range of youth and education activities that happen throughout the year. With the changing landscape in education and more and more children attending Jewish Day Schools, we are constantly looking at how best to meet the diverse needs of our young children and teens.

Thank you to all the professionals and members of the staff team who work tirelessly to ensure that Alyth is an exciting, busy and welcoming community.

I am grateful to the members of Executive and Council who engage with all that we do and are an invaluable source of support to the honorary officers and myself. The discussion and debate around the table is always respectful and informed and continues to ensure that we follow a path that has Alyth at its very heart.

The annual review is an opportunity for us to look back at the year, celebrate our wonderful community and share some key facts about Alyth. The new layout of this Annual Review is based on the design of our exciting new website. Please do click on www.alyth.org.uk and explore the website. We have also taken the opportunity to shorten the reports from the many committees, groups and clubs that are active in Alyth and hope that this gives you a flavor of what it takes to make Alyth the wonderful and engaging community that we are.

2015 is well underway and already we have much to do and much to look forward to. As we reflect on the year that has past and look forward to the coming months and years, I feel blessed that our community is strong and safe and hope that you will all join me in building a community that is more inspired and engaged than ever before..

President's Report



It seems unbelievable that this is my last Presidents report. Can anyone remember 2009? It seems aeons ago. Actually only 6 years and the year Robbie Jackman, Chairman at the time, asked if I would accept the role of President. I was shocked, amazed, speechless and also very honoured, to be considered as worthy to head this dynamic community.

However, after Robbie picked me up from the floor, I was left with the problem of not knowing what a President actually does. I consulted my wonderful predecessor Jeffery, who gave me a few pointers, but ended by telling me "everyone does it their own way". So that's what I've done. I made up my own brief; To be less involved with day to day affairs, but around in case there was some sort of disagreement or dispute that needed an outside view. To hold the history of Alyth, as far as possible. To be available as a calm slightly detached person. To be one of the friendly, caring concerned faces of Alyth and to be an ambassador for Alyth and for the wider Reform movement.

To try to sum up all the achievements and changes of the last six years would take too long but I would like to highlight one or two. Perhaps the biggest change has been finishing our sanctuary, the Bimah, the Ark doors and now the wonderfully lit Halter windows. I won't mention the one small issue still outstanding!

It is now well established that we are a congregation of many voices, of many Minyanim catering for differing views. We have assembled an amazing stable of Professional staff, a strong creative Clergy team and now education, youth and clerical teams to be proud of. We have a council of young and dynamic lay-leaders and with the launch of the refreshed rebranding, Alyth can continue to show the world it's modern forward looking face.

As President I have tried and hopefully added, to the friendly, welcoming, caring atmosphere of Alyth. I have been very proud to hold the post and to watch the community grow. I have been given so much love and respect it has been very humbling for me. So, though I might be retiring, I know that in your new President, Peter Backman, the role is in very safe hands.

Pray with us

“We believe that prayer is central to a meaningful Jewish life. We aim to create opportunities for worship that are intellectually rich, grounded in Jewish tradition and inspiring for all.”



In 2014 we continued the programme of development of our Shabbat Services as we seek to respond to the diverse needs of the Alyth community.

Our **Erev Shabbat service** is now one of the most well-attended and inspiring services in UK synagogue life. Over the year we continued to develop the service, thinking about how to use different chair layouts, and the role of our Kids' Choir and Youth Singers, alongside the clergy team.

On Shabbat morning, our **classical service**, as every year, hosted B'nei Mitzvah, pre-wedding blessings, birthdays and anniversaries, as well as supporting those experiencing a bereavement and marking a Yartzheit. It continues to offer a high-quality service, with accompaniment from our wonderful volunteer choir, and sermons from our clergy and guest preachers.

Kollot has continued to become embedded in the life of the community, and is now the primary prayer space for a large number of our members, who also have the opportunity to read Torah and deliver a Dvar Torah. We are grateful to Justin Wise, who regularly leads the service with the clergy, and to John and Peter for their role as shamashim. Gratitude, too, to the **Big Bang** musicians, who continue to inspire and entertain in this very special monthly service.

Innovation in tefillah remains one of Alyth's greatest features. In 2014, our **Tefillah Lab** included Shira u'Shtikah, Terrifying Tefillah, Supertots, Healing services and a Cheshbon HaNefesh service for Ellul. 2014 also saw the first of our Third Space services for Young Adults, run in conjunction with FRS.

Finally, a word for our wonderful, lay-led **Sunday Shacharit** service, which meets every Sunday for tefillah, followed by bagels and warm company.

Our services do not run with clergy alone. We are grateful for the support of all who help to make our services work, and especially our choir, lay-readers and wardens. In 2014 the warden team expanded into a much larger group, trained and supported by Michael, Nicola and Selina, who have our gratitude for all their efforts.



Learn with us

We believe that Jewish learning is central to a meaningful Jewish life. We aim to create opportunities for study that are intellectually rich, grounded in Jewish tradition and inspiring for all – both accessible, grown-up Jewish learning, and learning that nurtures and challenges our young people.

Jewish learning is at the heart of communal Alyth life every year, and 2014 was no different.



Our regular learning programmes continued to offer accessible, intellectually challenging learning for our diverse congregation - those coming new to Judaism, those for whom learning is central to their lives, and for those going through the life-cycle. These include our weekly **Gateway** and **Talmud** classes, special **Ruach Parents sessions** parallel with our Bar/Bat Mitzvah programme, our **Marriage course** and **Rosh Chodesh** group.

Other highlights of the year included:

Shabbat Shiurim: 25 different shiurim before the Shabbat morning service over the year, including text study on Midrash, Bible and Talmud; theological discussion; sessions on subjects as diverse as Women in Judaism and Christianity; the Orthodox liturgy and Ours; Jews of the Caribbean; and Jewish Chaplains in the German Army in WW1.

Learning for the Jewish Calendar: Special community learning programmes for Ellul and the High Holy Days, and Preparing for Pesach.

One-off learning sessions: Including: high-level Jewish study (such as an evening on Rabbi Ishmael's 13 Hermeneutical Principles and What is the Talmud and why does it matter?), Israel based learning, Interfaith learning, sessions on Jewish ethics and more.

Trips to the National Gallery and British Museum

A wonderful **Scholar-in-Residence** programme, in which we welcomed one of the world's foremost scholars, the Jewish feminist theologian Rabbi Professor Rachel Adler.



Learn with us - Youth & Education

Galim is the Education and Youth Department of the synagogue.

Galim provides a learning and Jewish engagement programmer for ages 4 - 18, led by a dedicated and ambitious team of educators.

Together we celebrate the festivals with art and crafts, singing, storytelling and other activities.

Our desire is for our children to love coming to learn at Alyth and for them to benefit from the knowledge and skills they acquire and to inspire a journey of learning and living for each of them.



Kef Zone is our Wednesday Club that was developed in September 2014. It acts as an umbrella brand for club run by the Galim department, Upbeat Drama run by Jane Gordon, Children's Choir run by Cantor Cheryl and Alyth's Children's Theatre.

For every festival, the department ran a **Festival Tea** for under 7s and their families to celebrate, come together and partake in festival themed activities. The teas last an hour and are usually very well attended with a range of 10-15 families.

Spring Days run during the Pesach holidays for 34 children in Reception—Year 5. The week consists of Pesach themed activities designed, created and lead by madrichim who are trained in house at Alyth as well as opt in activities including football, drama, designing your own puppet show circus skills, story telling, Pesach games and singing songs.



Summer Days runs the week before Summer Madness and helps create the most thriving month of the year for the department. The activities and the layout of the week is run in a very similar manner to Spring Days to create the 'Days package' including similar activities and including original madrichim lead programmes.

Sukkot Sleepout along with Summer Madness is one of the long standing events in Alyth youth's history. Sukkot Sleepout provides children with the opportunity to experience and empathise with the homeless and what it is like to sleep outside while raising money for Homeless Action in Barnet.

Summer Madness is the highlight of the department's summer. It has been running for 23 years and is always a popular residential trip. With chanichim and madrichim combined, approximately 50 young Alyth members attend Summer Madness and spend 5 days together in Northampton in August. During the week, we partake in many activities including, site lead activities and peulot that madrichim have written and planned, drama, arts and crafts, raft building, wide games, movie nights and much more.



Ruach residentials are an integral part of the B'nei Mitzvah process. The main aim of these residentials, is social bonding and as you can see from the numbers, they are always well attended and very successful. With thanks to JJBS whose grant made it possible.

Year 6: 28 attendees in March

Year 7: 33 attendees in November

Year 8 : 20 attendees in October (international)

The **Hadracha Course** runs in Year 9 and 10 – 5 sessions in year 9 and 10 sessions in year 10. In 2014 there were 9 participants on the Year 10 course and 13 on the Year 9 course. The department is developing an advance hadracha course for those in Year 12 and 13.



Sunday Morning Galim is a nourishing space for young people to build, develop and explore their Jewish identity. Learning is achieved through a dynamic, multi-sensory classroom experiences where both the building of knowledge and a solid peer group are equally valued.

There are 134 students enrolled on this provision ranging from 4-12 years of age. The programme is staffed by 6 teachers with David-Yehuda Stern. Teachers are supported by a team of approximately 25 trained madrichim. Attendance has been strong throughout the year and we have seen increased parent engagement thanks in part to initiatives such as the re-launched Galim Parent's Group.

This year students have explored a range of topics and in doing so engaged in many unique experiences including: building their own Chanukiah, Mezuzah and Tallitot making and taking



part in professional-led Israeli dance classes. In addition to our regular Jewish Studies and Hebrew sessions, students have also enjoyed some great festival themed mornings, and we regularly have members of the Clergy come in and run assemblies for the students.

We require all staff to hold a valid DBS and to attend regular training programmes during the course of the year. They receive regular feedback and are supported by the professional Galim Team. For the second year running we brought in a group of professional educators from our community to observe, support and provide feedback to each of our teachers. This space provides staff the opportunity to discuss successes and challenges with an experienced education professional and for us to observe and develop best class practice

There are approximately 82 members enrolled on the **Ruach** our Bar & Bat Mitzvah programme.. The programme is staffed by David-Yehuda Stern, Alice Goldsmith and Sophie Langsford with support from 6 trained madrichim and 20 B'nei Mitzvah mentors.

The topics covered on a Friday evening are Social Justice and Ethics, Prayer and Shabbat and The Jewish Journey . Our sessions have been joined by guest educators such as Ben Salamon, Tzedek's Education Programme Coordinator and Dalia Lyons from the Artisan Tallit Co.



We continue to run Ruach Parents Sessions, which are led by the Clergy and are aimed at parents whose children attend the Friday night programme. The sessions are designed to help support and build parents Jewish knowledge and confidence during the B'nei Mitzvah experience.

We currently have very strong attendance at the Friday Night Service from both students and parents. Approximately 85% of students attending the Friday evening programme attend the service each week.

Learn with us - Early Years

Alyth Kindergarten



Under the leadership of Cindy Summer, the Alyth Kindergarten is now very much part of the synagogue community and works far more closely with the clergy and the Galim team. The creation of Supertots, held once a term, strengthens ties with the community and is led by Rabbi Mark, Tor Alter and Cindy Summer.

Keeping parents involved in the learning of their children is very important to us and we do this by a new Parent Forum which meets once per half-term and a weekly newsletter which is presented in a new style along with a personal email written by Cindy. This has resulted in happy parents and Cindy's 'open door' policy has increased the positive relationships with parents.



We have taken on two work placement students with special needs. This tangible inclusion is very important for both staff and also for the children to see.

The structures of the Kindergarten have also changed. The school year has been increased from 34 to 36 weeks, more in line with other schools. A new teaching structure empowers the Teacher Team Leader to take full control and responsibility for their children, their parents and the classroom. Long Days lessons are now themed, with a Teacher Team Leader, making the programme more attractive. This has resulted in numbers of attendees increasing to 36. More flexible afternoon sessions mean parents can choose from 1 to 3 days (non-consecutive).

Shofar Daycare Nursery

Over the past year, we have been involved in the creation of a dynamic, new Jewish Daycare Nursery for babies and children aged six months to five years old in Finchley.

Shofar is an inspiring collaboration between Alyth and Finchley Reform Synagogue (FRS). The aim is to build a daycare nursery that provides families with the highest quality daycare in a creative, caring, stimulating, Reform Jewish environment.

The new purpose designed space at the Sternberg Center in N3 will be filled with fantastic activities and resources to allow children to grow and develop both indoors and out.

Shofar is due to open in late October 2015



Be with us - Synagogue Groups

We believe that nothing is more important in the life of a Jewish community than the relationships that we build and the welcome that we can give to one another.

Prayer and learning are a central part of Jewish life, but they are not enough. To be a community is to share a wider range of interests and activities with one another – to be a genuine Jewish community centre.

There are many groups and clubs that meet regularly at Alyth (and sometimes outside):



Thursday afternoon **Bridge** is flourishing. We have a core of regular attendees who come with a smile whatever the weather! Our players are able to come without a prior commitment or a partner. As a by product of these afternoons, organised by Sheila and Michael Angel we have raised nearly £8,000 for synagogue funds.

The **Cycling Community**, organised by Laurence Mendoza, continues to provide friendship and exercise for Alyth members spanning our community in age and ability with their monthly rides (and more regular rides in the summer).

Our new **Coffee House Poetry** group of 20 members meets every other month to share and discuss poetry.

The **Alyth Ramblers** have been on six day rambles in the Chilterns and Hertfordshire area throughout the year. They have also rambled for longer periods at their weekend away in Shropshire in July and a week in Israel in the Galilee in May.



The Alyth **Senior Club**, organised by a team of volunteers, is our 60s plus club for members of the synagogue or parents of synagogue members with approximately 25-30 members attending the Monday afternoon meetings. The programme (speakers, music, current affairs discussion, quizzes etc.) starts at 14:00 and lasts for just under an hour, followed by an excellent tea prepared by Synagogue members. Several outings are organised every year. In July the club visited the Green Dragon Pub in London Colney for a Pub Lunch; in August Afternoon Tea was enjoyed at the West Lodge Park Hotel and in March this year the club attended a musical show at the Wyllyotts Theatre in Potters Bar.

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, carers and toddlers have enjoyed playing with toys and having a sing-a-long on Monday mornings at our **Toddler Group**.



Alyth is now offering five **Yoga** classes a week; three general classes, one pregnancy class and one mellow yoga class, all taught by experienced yoga teacher Maxine Levy. Rabbi Mark and Maxine have created **Kavannah Yoga** to explore fresh ways of cultivating a personal spiritual practice. Rabbi Mark reads from selected Jewish texts and Maxine interweaves this with traditional yoga postures, movement, breathing and meditation techniques. These sessions have been run at Alyth, JW3 and at Limmud. Yoga has also been added to the Sunday Morning Galim curriculum to help explore Shabbat morning prayer.

Be with us - Tekiyah Fundraising Events



As part of the Alyth 80 celebrations the **Alyth 80 Comedy Night**, compered by Bennett Arron, featured comedians Lee Nelson, Mark Maier and Francine Lewis. 150 attended a hilarious evening raising £1,000.

The **Alyth 80 Cookbook Launch** gave members a chance to see 'A Life in Food', our cookbook. The launch included a chocolate demonstration by celebrity chef and chocolatier David Mendes and grand birthday bake off. Guests were treated to a supper of dishes cooked from recipes included in the cookbook. Competitors were asked to bake an Alyth birthday cake and guests were able to sample all the entries. The overall winner was Valentina Vukadonovic. Cookbooks are still available for purchasing.



Our **Annual Quiz Supper** was held on in November. This popular event attracted 254 guests who enjoyed a fish and chip supper and seven hilarious rounds of questions. The event included an auction and a raffle which raised £9,000.

Be with us - Music and Drama

Music and drama is at the heart of Alyth. Ours is a community that sings together with the music of our diverse services, and the joyful singing of young and old. Under the guidance of our Director of Music of over 30 years, Viv Bellos MBE, Alyth has become famous throughout the world for our adult and youth choirs, and is known as a place in which all are encouraged to sing. This love of music and singing infuses every aspect of communal life.



Our **Synagogue Choir** has 16 dedicated members which expands to 28 for the High Holy Days. The choir brings music and song to all Shabbat morning classical Festival services

Our **Singing for Pleasure** choir consists of 30 members who regularly rehearse together and delight the residents of the many homes that they sing at through out the year..

The **Alyth Choral Society** gives threes concerts a year, including one with professional orchestra & soloists. Its vibrant music director, Robin Osterley, together with its energetic chorus master, Vivienne Bellos MBE, work wonderfully together to create a varied and exciting programme which encompasses an extensive repertoire. The choir had a wonderful bonding trip in Paris where they visited the Rue Copernic Synagogue, and established links between the synagogues. An away day workshop at Latimer Place with music director, chorus master and accompanist, Kelvin Thomson, helped to focus the choir on singing techniques which helped the choir to create a marvellous performance of Handel's Esther in December.



The **Centre for Jewish Music and the Arts**, which is housed at Alyth, put on its annual **Jewish Music Fair** in April with 27 workshops on all aspects of Jewish Music given by some of the country's leading Jewish musicians. 90 participants. It also put on outings to English Touring Opera performances of Handel's Ottone, Donizetti's Siege of Calais, the National Gallery Making Colour Exhibition, the Knitwear Exhibition at the Fashion Museum

Alyth Youth Singers has 22, 13 - 15 year olds who rehearse once a week and sing once a month in the Erev Shabbat service. They are also invited to sing at other events throughout the year including the Barnet Council Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration, the 70th anniversary of liberation of Auschwitz in Westminster Abbey and this year trip took them to Dublin.



In addition to the wonderful spirit that their singing brings to a monthly Erev Shabbat services, the **Children's Choir** builds the childrens' confidence, teaches teamwork, and provides a lot of fun whilst learning Jewish music with friends.

2014 saw the resurgence of **Alyth Academy of Performing Arts** with 16, 13 - 15 year olds working on a production of the Musical '13' for performances over the May 2015 Bank Holiday weekend. **Alyth Children's Theatre**, the junior version of Academy, put on a hugely successful production of Oliver in June. Whilst **PACT - Upbeat Theatre**, the preparatory version of ACT, allowed 8, 3 - 7 year olds to take part in an introduction to the disciplines of putting on shows this group give a short performance each term.



Act with us

We believe in a Judaism that is utterly engaged with the world around us, both within the Jewish people and our wider community.

To be Jewish is to care about the world around us and to take responsibility for it. Alyth is home to the social awareness and activism that Judaism demands of us.

From our willingness to have difficult conversations about Israel to our work to support our twin community in Kerch in the Crimea; from our volunteer-led monthly refugee drop-in and winter homeless shelter, to our work to enable those with mental illness to enjoy Jewish life; from our campaigning work for social justice to the extraordinary contributions of our members to life in the wider community – Alyth is a community engaged in the world around us.



For the third year, we participated in the **Together in Barnet Night Shelter**, in partnership with Golders Green Parish Church. We were also part of the team that planned and volunteered for the Christmas Shelter for which ran for four days from Christmas Eve, working with the team at FRS who hosted the Shelter. Over 30 volunteers from Alyth and Golders Green Parish Church came together to provide a three course home-cooked meal, companionship and conversation, as well as safe, warm overnight accommodation for a group of 16 homeless men and women each week



Over the course of the Together in Barnet Shelter this year, 60 guests used the Shelter; by the end of the Shelter more than 20 guests had been found homes. When they are housed, each guest receives a Starter Pack of basic household goods (such as pots and pans, a toaster and a kettle), which are being funded this year by the generosity of Alyth through the High Holy Days Appeal.



Our **Interfaith** programme continued to grow with our series of conversations with members of St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church. One such discussion was on the controversial topic of Covenant. This was hosted by the Church and we were given a very interesting tour of this historic place. An innovation of the year was to host an Iftar, the name given to the breaking of fast each night during Ramadan. We welcomed 30 members of the Muslim community as the first Synagogue to do this and garnered coverage on press, radio and TV. For our contribution to Interfaith Week we organised on behalf of Barnet Multifaith Forum and Barnet Womens Interfaith Network an evening at the Town hall with Dr Harriet Crabtree, the Director of the Interfaith Network of the UK and other members of the IFN Executive, including Rabbi Maurice.

50 infirm, housebound or unwell members of Alyth were visited by one of a team more than 20 volunteers who deliver **care packages** at Sukkot and Purim.



6 **Bayit Cham** lunches were held for an average 25 people after the Shabbat morning service, cooked and hosted by a team of volunteers.

The **Kerch Committee** held a fundraiser and screening of the film "The Return". Unfortunately due to the current conflict, no organised official trip have been able to take place but around £20,000 has been sent to our twinned community in Kerch.

Our **Monday Club**, organised by Dennis Sher, had 38 sessions, providing social activities for people with learning difficulties.



6 **Shalom Suppers**, organised by Zvia Klier were held in 2014. Regularly feeding 70 people from JAMI and the Shalom Centre who join us for Shabbat services and for a Shabbat evening meal cooked by a team of volunteers. *With thanks to Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust.*

The **Monthly Drop in for Recent Refugees**, organised Debbie Rose and Cheryl Brodie, continued to help approximately 40 clients each month. A large group of volunteers from the Alyth community provide a place to meet, to gain help with British bureaucracy, to knit, and to eat and enjoy.



The 2014 **High Holy Days Appeal** raised over £55,000. Thank you to everyone who donated. The selected charities will be coming to Alyth to tell us more about their work over the coming months. The charities we are supporting this year include the Clergy Charitable Fund, Welfare Fund, Alyth Weekend Away Fund, Kerch Jewish Community, Leo Baeck Education Centre, Haifa, Parents Circle-Families Forum, Meketa, The Bike Project, Together in Barnet Night Shelter, Opening Doors with Age Concern. Please go to our website to find out more about these charities.

Alyth is always engaged with **Israel** but never scared of dealing with Israel's complexities. In 2014 the Synagogue programme included a number of encounters which opened up Israeli society through the eyes of trusted interpreters. Through sermons in our services, open fora, panel discussions and talks at the Synagogue and in members' homes we heard from Rabbi Gilad Kariv (Executive Director of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism), Anat Hoffman (Director of the Israel Religious Action Center and leader of Women of the Wall), Rabbi Ofek Meir (Deputy Director of our twin community, the Leo Baeck Center in Haifa) and Lian Najami, an inspiring Israeli Arab student leader. We heard about the strains in Israeli society and work to rectify them from Mercavim, an organisation which works to build Israeli civil society. They brought an Ethiopian Israeli leader, a Charedi leader and a leader of Israeli Arabs to the Synagogue to debate and help us to understand their views of Israel's potential. From our own community Dr Keith Kahn Harris helped us to consider how we speak to each other about Israel, with a talk based on his 2014 book, "Uncivil War". David Janner-Klausner helped consider the end of a generation of heroes in Israeli politics following the death of Ariel Sharon.

Two annual events kept us connected to Israel. We commemorated Yom HaZikaron and celebrated Yom HaAtzmaut. Alongside the dance and party organised by the hardworking Alyth Israel Committee chaired by John Cohen, we also showed powerful films made by the students of the Tel Aviv University Film School and held discussions and an Israel party for our youngest members. Teenage Madrichim from the Leo Baeck Center joined Alyth's youth leaders through the late summer for Summer Madness and Summer Days camps bringing Israel to our Youth Department.

The summer was overshadowed by the Israel – Gaza conflict. Alyth was a safe space to talk about our concerns and learn about the conflict. We held a panel discussion with the leaders BICOM, Yachad and the Movement for Reform Judaism and also open fora before our Shabbat evening services so that members could share their concerns with our Clergy.

Intelligent, deep and thoughtful engagement with Israel remained the hallmark of Alyth's Israel work.

Live with us

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.

One of the greatest joys of Jewish life is to live as part of a caring community – one that supports us when we are falling, and shares our joys in happy times.

Alyth is a place of care: led by a dedicated Director of Welfare and Life Cycle, ours is a community in which we care for one another through illness, bereavement, and the many challenges of life – providing practical and emotional support – meals, transport, company, and a listening ear for those who need. To care is built into the fabric of everything we do.

The **Shul Shuttle** made approximately 25 journeys a week to bring members to services and events.

A group of 16 men and women make up our **Chevra Kadisha** - attending and performing tahara (body washing) for the dead prior to burial or cremation.

Six members making up the **Bereavement Call Group** made regular calls to all those who have been bereaved.

Our new monthly **Shabbat B'Yachad** provided an average of 30 people the opportunity to share the spirit of Shabbat together following the Erev Shabbat Service.

A five part **Marriage Course** offered to about to be or newly married couples sessions on: The Jewish Home, Putting together a Jewish Wedding Ceremony, Resolving Conflict in your Marriage.

Our new **News Views Coffee & Schmooze** provided 15 people with a fortnightly space to chat about the news.

Two **Young at Heart Days** were attended by approximately 25 people who enjoy a day of activities including singing, mellow yoga, films and more.

Community Statistics

Executive

President: Brenda Freedman
 Vice-Presidents: Edward Cohen
 Gillian Epstein (until May 2014)
 Colette Levy (from May 2014)
 Steve Miller
 Chairman: Harriet Radley (until May 2014)
 Mark Harris (from May 2014)
 Vice-Chairman: Mark Harris (until May 2014)
 Noeleen Cohen (from May 2014)
 Hon Secretary: Noeleen Cohen (until May 2014)
 Lanny Silverstone (from May 2014)
 Hon Treasurer: David Leigh (until May 2014)
 Russell Baum (from May 2014)
 Senior Wardens: Selina Gellert (until May 2014)
 Michael Simon (from May 2014)

Council Members for:

The Building and Health and Safety: Michael Overlander
 Youth and Education: Caronne Graham
 Human Resources: Lanny Silverstone
 Music: Russell Raphael (until May 2014)
 David Leigh (from May 2014)
 Membership: Jackie Miller (until May 2014)
 David Brown from May 2014)
 Kindergarten: Nicola Feuchtwang
 Welfare: Mark Harris (until May 2014)
 Julia Simmonds (from May 2014)
 Youth Representatives: Jemma Mendoza and Harry Stern (to May 2014)

Staff

Clergy Team: Rabbi Mark Goldsmith
 Rabbi Josh Levy
 Cantor Cheryl Wunch
 Rabbi Maurice Michaels
 Fundraising & Development Co-ordinator: Sarah Langsford
 Administration & Support Team: Farah Josephs
 Lisa Kagan
 Lesley Lass
 Rupert Villiers (to March 2014)
 Bonnie Lemer (from April 2014)
 Alan Lee
 Bob Morley
 Robert Kimemia (to July 2014)
 Ben Anazodo (from July 2014)
 Community Director: Adam Martin
 Welfare and Life Cycle Director: Lynette Sunderland
 Director of Music: Viv Bellos
 Kindergarten Headmistress: Cindy Summer
 Head of Youth Engagement: Josh Moritz (to December 2014)
 Facilities Team:
 Head of Education: David Yehuda Stern
 Head of Youth: Sam Brunner (from February 2014)
 Hebrew Co-ordinator: Inbal Zafir (to July 2014)

Representatives to the Board of Deputies of British Jews

Jeremy Baum, Jackie Naftalin, Laurence Radley, Noam Tamir, Marketa Zvelebil

Representatives to the Movement for Reform Judaism

Robert Weiner, Paul Winter, Noeleen Cohen (to March 2014)

Jewish Joint Burial Society

Colin Joseph (Sexton), Brenda Freedman (Governor), Steve Miller (Alternate), Clare Lubin (Treasurer)

Executive Attendance - January to December 2014

Name	Number of Attendances	Possible Attendances
Dr Selina Gellert * 1	3	4
Mrs Harriet Radley *	3	4
Mr Russell Raphael *	3	4
Mrs Julia Simmonds **	5	7
Mr Michael Simon ** 1	6	7
Mr Russell Baum	6	7
Mr David Brown	7	11
Mrs Noeleen Cohen	7	11
Dr Nicola Feuchtwang	8	11
Mrs Caronne Graham	9	11
Mr Mark Harris	11	11
Mr David Leigh	9	11
Mr Michael Overlander	8	11
Mr Lanny Silverstone	10	11

Council Attendance – January to December 2014

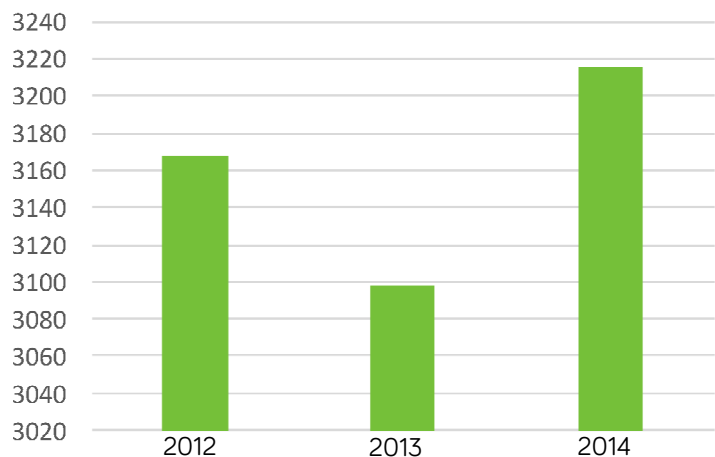
Name	Number of Attendances	Possible Attendances
Mrs Gillian Epstein * 2	2	5
Dr Selina Gellert *	4	5
Mrs Sara Glaser *	0	5
Mr Russell Raphael *	2	5
Mr Robert Weiner *	5	5
Mrs Ruth Wellin *	4	5
Mrs Jo Chadwick **	3	6
Mrs Colette Levy ** 2	2	6
Mrs Clare Lubin **	6	6
Mr Russell Baum	10	11
Mr Howard Bogod	7	11
Mr David Brown	7	11
Mr Edward Cohen	8	11
Mrs Noeleen Cohen	10	11
Dr Nicola Feuchtwang	10	11
Mrs Brenda Freedman	6	11
Mrs Caronne Graham	11	11
Mr Mark Harris	11	11
Mrs Sue Haskel	6	11
Mr Paul Jonas	10	11
Mr David Leigh	11	11
Mr Arieh Miller	9	11
Mrs Jackie Miller	5	11
Mr Steve Miller 2	3	11
Mr Nicky Minter	3	11
Mrs Fran Moscow	9	11
Mr Michael Overlander	8	11
Mrs Harriet Radley 4	9	11
Mr Dan Rosenfield	8	11
Mr Lanny Silverstone	11	11
Mrs Julia Simmonds	8	11
Mr Michael Simon ** 1	6	11
Mrs Ruth Smilg	7	11

- 1 Senior Warden
- 2 Vice President
- 3 President
- 4 Immediate Past Chairman
- * To May 2014
- ** From May 2014

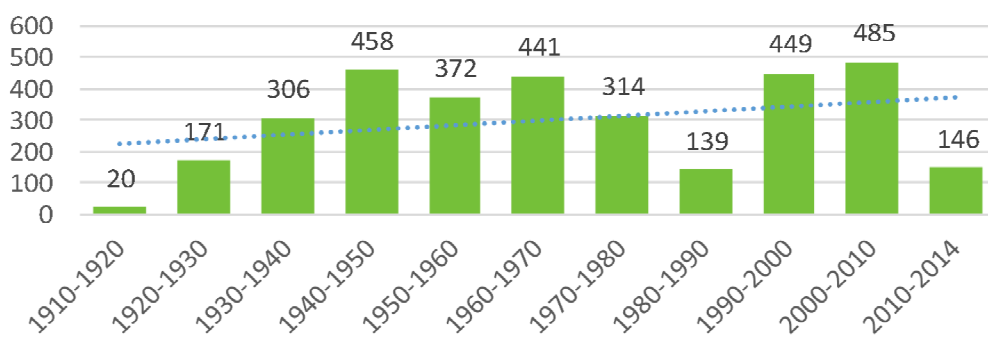
We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered in 2014



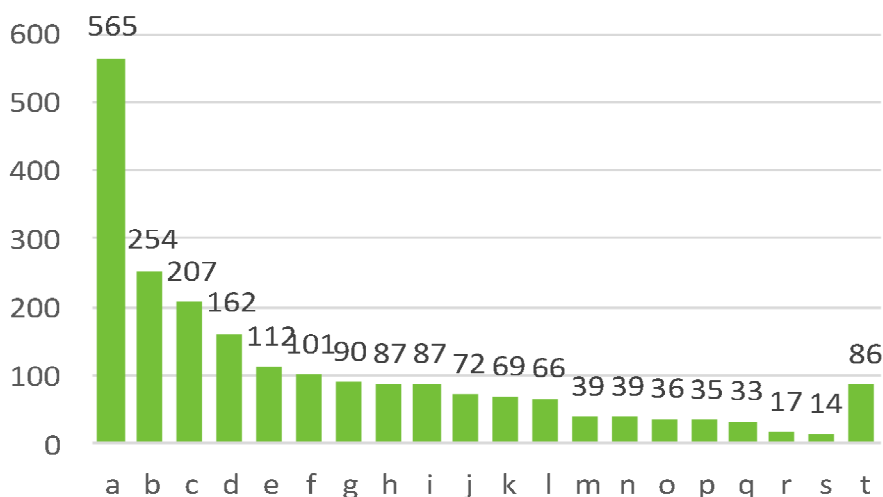
Total Membership



Membership by Date of Birth



Membership by Area



- a - HGS, Golders Green, Temple Fortune
- b - Finchley
- c - HGS & East Finchley
- d - Hampstead & Swiss Cottage
- e - Highgate
- f - North Finchley & Totteridge
- g - Mill Hill
- h - Cricklewood & Childs Hill
- i - Muswell Hill
- j - Watford, Borehamwood & Radlett
- k - Harrow Stanmore & Edware
- l - Hendon
- m - Crouch End
- n - West Hampstead
- o - St Johns Wood
- p - Barnet, Southgate & Enfield
- q - Islington & Camden Town
- r - Frien Barnet
- s - Abroad
- t - Other