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Dear friends

I know that the news from Monday that Rabbi Mark will be leaving Alyth next year has come as a shock to many. There will be plenty of opportunities to spend time with Rabbi Mark when he returns to our rabbinic team in the New Year after his sabbatical, before he then moves on to his new challenge. We will have time to thank him and to wish him well in the next phase of his career.

As Chair, I am aware that this is an important moment for the community. We are very fortunate that we have a wonderful and broad professional team, led by Rabbi Josh, and I am proud of the incredible work they do. I know that they work for the good of Alyth and of all of our members, and will continue to do so over the coming years.

There will, of course, be a recruitment process to ensure that we have the best rabbinic team for the community. Getting the recruitment process right is something that I, the lay leadership, and our rabbis are passionate about. For now, we intend to take some time to reflect on how we proceed, and what type of rabbinic role we would like to see working alongside Rabbi Josh, Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Colin. We will continue to be ambitious and to work to meet the needs of our diverse membership.

Together with the professional team, we are committed to speaking with the membership throughout this process, to having a wide conversation about how we move forward. We promise to be in touch with you further as soon as we can.

I wish you all Shabbat Shalom. If you are with us this Friday night, or at one of our minyanim on Shabbat morning, I look forward to seeing you.

If you would like to contact me, please do email me at chair@alyth.org.uk

With my very best wishes

Russell Baum

Chair

