



North Western Reform Synagogue

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Dear Friends

I am delighted to be able to write to you with more good news.

In early January, we shared the exciting news that Cantor Tamara Wolfson will join our Alyth team at the beginning of April. I am delighted to now share the news of a rabbinic appointment.

Following a rigorous recruitment process, the Trustees have confirmed the appointment of Student Rabbi Elliott Karstadt as a rabbi at Alyth. Elliott will join us in summer following his ordination, and be with us in time for the High Holy Days.

As a dynamic community with over 3,500 individual members, we know that Alyth should have a rich team of rabbis and cantors, working with Rabbi Josh and the professional team to continue to innovate to meet the diverse needs of our members. The appointment of another full-time member of the team will ensure that our rabbis and professional staff are able to engage every part of the community in Jewish life and learning.

Elliott's love of teaching and his commitment to social justice will complement the skills already in the team and bring new perspectives to our text study and our work to improve the world around us. A regular presenter and teacher at Limmud, Elliott has taught extensively in the Progressive world, including at Finchley Progressive Synagogue where he grew up. He is also part of the team leading the Open Talmud Project.

Elliott graduated from Cambridge University in 2008 and went on to complete his PhD in 2013 in Intellectual History at Queen Mary, University of London. He then worked in publishing before joining the Rabbinic Programme at Leo Baeck College, from which he will receive s'michah in July. As chair of Together in Barnet, in whose Winter Shelter project Alyth is a partner, Elliott has driven the response of religious communities to the needs of those who are homeless in our area. He has also spearheaded the Eco-Synagogue initiative at West London Synagogue during his fifth year placement.

The development of our team is one aspect of the continued development and growth of our community. The other is our ongoing building project. We are delighted to invite you to a Special General Meeting on Monday 2 March when we will share the possible ways forward, including the recommended option of the Trustees, and will decide together how to proceed as a community.

I know that you will join me, the synagogue trustees and the Alyth team in warmly welcoming Elliott into the Alyth family.

With my very best wishes

Russell Baum
Chair

