

**From:** [Alyth](#)  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Notice of Special Meeting to Elect Alyth Deputies on Monday 24 May 2021  
**Date:** 09 May 2021 13:36:41

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## **Community Update and Notice of a Special Meeting to Elect Alyth Deputies for the next Board of Deputies Triennium**

9 May 2021

Dear [First Name]

As we take small steps towards once again being together, we are writing to you as Co-Charis, to update you on some important developments in the work of the synagogue, including two Special Meetings of the Community coming up in May and July.

### Board of Deputies: Election of new Deputies

Every three years, new Deputies are elected to represent synagogues and other communal organisations. As you may have seen in our recent weekly emails, we are calling a Special Meeting in May to elect our Deputies. This will enable us to meet the Board of Deputies' timeline for this process.

*The notice and details of the Special Meeting of Congregants to elect Deputies for the next triennium of the Board of Deputies can be seen by [clicking here](#).*

### Online and in-person

In line with the values that Rabbi Josh set out for us in the Alyth Online email on 1 April ([click here](#) to read it), we have begun the journey together out of lockdown.

The majority of our tefillah and programming remains online, as we slowly increase the number of in-person services and activities. Over the past weeks we have been able to welcome more members to a range of in-person activities in the Youth Hall and in the Sukkah. Congregational singing is not currently allowed inside, so we continue to focus our efforts on outside services, which allow the added joy, for members and clergy, of singing safely together.

Alongside tefillah, the Trustee Board have also set as a priority the return to in-person activity for our young people, many of whom have been unable to be together in person since March 2020.

To enable a safe return, we are carrying out some small works in the synagogue to address the challenge of ventilation. We have also carried out minor works in the Sukkah area to enable more people to gather there. At the same time, the professional team are also exploring the possibilities and challenges of being able to provide both online and in person services and programming. We are committed to continuing innovation and experimentation to ensure that the best aspects of the last 15 months are not lost, while we celebrate being able to come

back together.

### Building Project

We were delighted that at the Special Meeting in February, the community voted overwhelmingly to support the building project which includes the demolition and re-building of the Leo Baeck wing of the Synagogue, as well as remedial work to the rest of the Alyth building. Over the last few months, we have worked closely with the architects and project managers, and are on target to begin building works after the High Holy Days. We will update the community further on the project in the coming weeks.

### Special meetings and Leadership:

At the General Meeting to approve subscriptions in December last year, the community approved the decision to move the financial year-end from December to August. This enables the preparation of budgets to correspond to the workings of the synagogue, matching both the Jewish and academic years. This has the added advantage of us not doing the work of budget preparation at the same time as planning and running the High Holy Days.

The decision to change the financial year-end also means a change to the shape of the Board Year. The Special Meeting to approve the subscriptions (previously our ABGM) moves from December to June/July and the Annual Meeting of Congregants moves to January.

*A Special Meeting to approve the subscriptions for 2021-22 will be held on 4 July 2020 at 10:30am.*

At this meeting we will also be asking the community to support a six-month extension to the term of office of the current Trustee Board until the Annual Meeting of Congregants which will take place in January 2022. As Trustees, we have worked with Rabbi Josh and the Professional Team, leading the community through the challenges of the pandemic. As a Board we are committed to seeing this journey through to its end, rather than asking a new Board to begin its term with a raft of difficult decisions still to be made. In particular, planning for the High Holy Days this year is once again challenging. We await the decisions of government on social distancing and singing, as well as experiencing the impact of the pandemic on some of our suppliers.

Alongside the current Board, we are working to bring a new cohort of trustees into leadership. In 2019 the Trustees, together with Rabbi Josh, set ourselves three priorities: renewal of our clergy team, renewal of our building and renewal of our leadership. We are proud of the progress we have made on the first two, but recognise that renewal of our leadership has been significantly affected by the pandemic. We are committed to beginning the work of the three new Advisory Groups in the coming months. With the support of an interim Nominations Group, we have also spoken with a number of members about becoming trustees. We will propose three new Trustees for election to the meeting in July to join the current Board until January. At that point, we and two other trustees who have completed their time on the Board will step down, and additional new trustees will be elected, along with a new Chair/s.

We are grateful to our President, Jon Epstein, and the Vice Presidents for their wisdom and understanding in helping us to consider this way forward. We hope that you will join them in supporting the motion.

It may sound counter-intuitive but serving as Co-Chairs of Alyth at this time has been an immense privilege. The enormous challenges of the last year have been met by a Trustee Board who have given wholeheartedly of their time and energy for the good of the community. They continue to grapple with difficult decisions as we move out of pandemic into a new phase of life living with Covid.

Most especially, we have seen the extraordinary love and commitment that Rabbi Josh, the Clergy and the Professional Team have for the community. We have been held and inspired by the services, learning, caring and innovative programmes that they have brought to us.

We know that with our support, and that of a growing, dynamic Trustee Board, Alyth will continue to be a thriving community and Jewish home to each and every one of our members.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings in both May and July.



Noeleen Cohen & Russell Baum  
Co-Chairs.

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