

## Welcome home!

We are delighted to have been able to welcome so many members and friends back into the Alyth building over the last month. Almost one third of our nearly 1600 households have been back to Alyth since we reopened. It has been truly wonderful to see you. We look forward to welcoming more members home during December, including for our Chanukah 'lightings of return'.

### We ask for your continued help in keeping Alyth as safe as possible

The best way to make sure that we are all safe at Alyth is for us to work together to avoid bringing Covid into the building. Please remember not to come to Alyth if you are at all unwell. If you are not fully vaccinated, we ask that you take a lateral flow test each time you come into the building.

We still have limited capacity in the Beit Tefillah to avoid overcrowding. Please remember to let us know that you are coming. We are very sorry that for some Erev Shabbat services we have not been able to accommodate everyone who has wanted to come. Unfortunately, at this stage, we are unable to increase capacity further.

When coming into the Alyth building, please remember to bring a mask. Please use the hand sanitiser around the building, and please observe the signs - areas of the building remain closed due to Covid and our building work.

For those who are still unable to return, we will continue to offer as much of our programme online as we can, for as long as we need to.

### In December there are even more opportunities to come back to Alyth.

#### Chanukah 5782 'Lightings of Return'

A week of dedicated chanukah lightings for those who have been unable to mark life cycle moments at Alyth over the last 20 months, as well as Shabbat Chanukah services, and a community Havdalah and candle lighting (see over for the full programme)

#### Launch of ThursWay

The launch of our new Thursday afternoon programme for Primary School age children. Thursdays with Alyth Youth.

#### Shabbat services

including Shabbat Chanukah, 5 B'nei Mitzvah, a dedicated choir service, Big Bang, and the launch of Tefillateinu - a service led by members of our praying community.

#### And on January 1... The return of Shabbat B'Yachad - New Year's Lunch

Our regular Shabbat meal together returns for the first time since early 2020, with a special New Years' Day lunch.



LIGHTINGS OF RETURN

# Alyth

## CHANUKAH

### 5782

LET'S RETURN TOGETHER WITH A SERIES  
OF DEDICATED CANDLE LIGHTINGS

#### 1ST NIGHT - SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Many Alyth families were unable to be together for Chanukah last year, so will want to gather on this first evening. There will therefore not be a formal Alyth candle lighting on this evening. If you would like to share this first night Chanukah with another Alyth member, or can host another Alyth member to light with you, please contact Lynette.

#### 2ND NIGHT - MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER (18:30)

Welcoming back those who have suffered a bereavement since March 2020.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are coming.

#### 3RD NIGHT - TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER (20:00)

Welcoming back those who been on a status journey since March 2020.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are coming.

#### 4TH NIGHT - WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER (18:30)

Welcoming back all those who have been part of our Darkness to Light programme.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are coming.

#### 5TH NIGHT - THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER: LAUNCH OF THURSWAY (16:00)

Welcoming back our Primary School children, especially those who started school in the last 20 months.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are coming.

#### 6TH NIGHT - FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER: SHABBAT CHANUKAH (18:15)

Welcoming back all those who marked Bar or Bat Mitzvah in the last 20 months.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are coming.

#### 7TH NIGHT - SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER: SHABBAT CHANUKAH (16:00)

Welcoming all Alyth babies born since March 2020.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are coming.

#### 7TH NIGHT - SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER: SHABBAT CHANUKAH (18:00)

A community candle lighting for all of the Alyth community.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are coming.

#### 8TH NIGHT - SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER (14:00)

Welcoming back those who have been married or engaged since March 2020.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are coming.

## Pray With Us

Please go to [www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline](http://www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline) for the in-person registration and online Zoom links.  
The services can also be accessed by going to [www.youtube.com/c/AlythRS](https://www.youtube.com/c/AlythRS)

### EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Friday at 18:30

#### Hybrid Services from our Beit Tefillah (Fridays 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 December)

Our Erev Shabbat services, taking place in the synagogue Beit Tefillah, with extra ventilation, reduced capacity and Covid protocols in place. We ask that you let us know you are coming to avoid overcrowding. These services will be fully hybrid, and are also available through Zoom or YouTube.

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Saturday

#### Saturday 4 December

##### Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

A 'Kollot style' service in our Beit Tefillah. Led by Rabbi Josh, Rabbi Hannah and Justin Wise. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Natasha Rosenfield.

##### NEW Tefillateinu lay led service 10:30

Our inaugural Tefillateinu service—a hybrid, lay-led Shabbat morning service. The sermon, Torah reading, and sections of the liturgy will be led by members of our praying community, supported by Rabbi Elliott and Cantor Tamara. Please let us know if you would like to take part.

##### Chanukah Sensory Havdalah 16:00

See Young Family services for more information.

#### Saturday 11 December

##### Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Josh, with guitar, in our Beit Tefillah. Including the B'nei Mitzvah of Dylan Rae and Rosa Coury-Reid.

##### Choral Repertoire Service, 10:30

A special service led by Rabbi Elliott with piano accompaniment, in which we will sing together from Alyth's choral repertoire. In the Youth Hall.

#### Saturday 18 December

##### Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Elliott in our Beit Tefillah. Including the Bar Mitzvah of Saul van der Horst.

##### Big Bang, 11:00

Alyth's world famous participative musical tefillah experience for all the family. Led by Rabbi Hannah with the Big Bang musicians.

#### Saturday 25 December

##### Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Josh in our Beit Tefillah. Including the Bar Mitzvah of Noaz Godin-Heymann

#### Saturday 1 January

##### Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Cantor Tamara and Rabbi Elliott in our Beit Tefillah. Followed by a Shabbat B'Yachad lunch for those who wish to stay and eat together.

Imrei Finu returns in January, along with new experimental parallel minyanim.

Our 'classic' Kollot service restarts in February - please let Rabbi Josh know if you would like to read Torah or give the D'var Torah in Kollot in February or March.

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## Pray With Us for Families

### Baby Den In-Person

*Fridays 4, 11, 18 December (10:30)*

Chug-a-lug into Shabbat with Rabbi Hannah or Cantor Tamara. Sing your favourite Baby Den songs, dance to a shabbat beat and wave to some familiar faces. For families with Young Children.

There is limited space in these services, which must be pre-registered by [clicking here](#).

### Sensory Havdallah In-Person

*Saturday 4 December (16:00)*

Join us for a special Sensory Havdalah and chanukiah candle lighting. We see the flickering candle flame, smell the sweet spices and taste the wine. Join Rabbi Hannah, in the Youth Hall with the windows open, for this special Sensory Havdalah experience where our youngest members can wave goodbye to Shabbat and prepare to start the week new. Feel free to wear your PJs or onesies! Please let us know you are coming by [clicking here](#).

### Pre-Shabbat Story Time In-Person

*Fridays 4, 11, 18 December (16:30)*

Those pre-school in age are invited to join us for a pre shabbat story to help bring in shabbat.

There is very limited space in these services, which must be pre-registered by [clicking here](#).

### Big Bang In-Person and Online

*Saturday 20 December (11:30)*

Alyth's world famous participative musical tefillah experience for all the family. Led by Rabbi Hannah with the Big Bang musicians.

## Services during the week

Please go to [www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline](http://www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline) for the service Zoom links

### Wednesday Ma'ariv Online

*Wednesdays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 December (20:00)*

Join us for a mid-week evening service led by Alyth members from their homes.

### Sunday Shacharit In-Person and Online

*Sundays 5, 12, 19, December (09:00)*

Our lay-led minyan with bagel breakfast, led by Alyth members. From December, Sunday Shacharit will be in-person from Alyth and available online.

**Rabbi Hannah will be on sabbatical from 25 December to 24 February.  
We wish her two months of rest, restoration and spiritual replenishment.**



#StaySafeWithAlyth

December  
2021

## Learn With Us

Please go to [www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline](http://www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline) for the session Zoom links where you will also find the source sheets for each session.

### Alyth Chavruta Project

Thursdays 2, 9, 16 December, 19:00-20:00

Following our break for summer and the High Holy Days, the Alyth Chavruta Project restarted in November. Chavruta is a traditional form of Jewish practice of studying regularly with a partner. You can decide how and when to study during the week, and then we all come together as a group on Thursday evenings.

In this series of the project, we are working our way through a section of Talmud that contains both legal and narrative sections, along with commentaries and supplementary texts. No prior knowledge is required and the text is accessible for all levels.

To register for future series of the Alyth Chavruta Project previously, please email Rabbi Elliott at [elliott@alyth.org.uk](mailto:elliott@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

### E-ssentials - Jewish Texts

Tuesdays 7 & 14 December, 20:00-21:00

Our regular introduction to Judaism class taught by our clergy with Jon Epstein. E-ssentials is the perfect class for those coming to Judaism for the first time, or looking to consolidate the learning of a lifetime - or anywhere in between. Currently E-ssentials is taught online, with one hybrid (in person and online session per month). New students are always welcome.

**7 December** The formation of Judaism:  
Rabbinic literature - Aggadah (online)

**14 December** Post Talmudic textual development (online)

In January, we return with a hybrid session in advance of Tu B'Shvat on **11 January**  
On **18 & 25 January** we begin our short course on Jewish history.

Please contact [hannah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:hannah@alyth.org.uk) for more information about this programme.  
During January and February, please contact Rabbi Elliott - [elliott@alyth.org.uk](mailto:elliott@alyth.org.uk)

### Adult Hebrew

#### Biblical Hebrew

Sundays 5, 12, 19 December 11:00-12:00

A programme for those with high level Hebrew reading ability.

Email [edwardjgold@hotmail.com](mailto:edwardjgold@hotmail.com) if you would like to join this class so that you can be sent the link and materials in advance.

#### Hebrew reading from Scratch

Tuesdays 7 & 14 December 19:00-20:00

Taught by Alyth member Jan Roseman, who has been one of the UK's leading synagogue-based Jewish educators for the last few decades. Take an hour each week in term time to learn how to read Hebrew from scratch.

## Learn With Us

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### Pardes - Three special sessions for December (online) Thursdays 2, 9, 16 December, 13:00-14:00

#### Thursday 2 December Chanukah Special with Rabbi Hannah

##### The women of Chanukah

A special session with Rabbi Hannah exploring the stories of Judith and Hannah. How did these narratives come to be associated with Chanukah, and what can we learn from them?

#### Thursday 9 December Special Guest teacher Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton

##### Why do Chanukah and Christmas both begin on the 25th of the Month?

Join Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton to explore primary sources for the dating of Chanukah and Christmas, and why he believes there is a link. This story takes us down many byways, including Antiochus setting himself up as a God, the winter solstice, Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity and the Roman festival of the rebirth of the sun.

Who would have thought that a calendar date could be so interesting?

#### Thursday 16 December Pre-Christmas Special with Rabbi Josh

##### Grappling with the concept of Virgin Birth

The Tanakh contains plenty of stories of miracle births, to which the story of the virgin birth is clearly related. Together we will explore some of these stories, and will ask what is different about the foundational Christian story. How do later Jewish texts deal with the idea of virgin birth, and the figure of Mary?

### Shabbat Shiur (in-person & online)

Saturday 11 December, 9:15-10:15

#### “It was not you who sent me here, but God”: Divine Providence in the story of Joseph

In this week's Torah portion, Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers. He reassures them that he will not take vengeance on them, stating that when they sold him into slavery, this was part of a grand divine plan. How does this idea sit with us? What other aspects of Jewish tradition speak to this idea of Divine Providence? Join Rabbi Elliott to explore these questions.

This session will take place in the synagogue library with windows open, and can also be joined via Zoom. If coming in person, please make sure you let us know you are coming, and remember to dress appropriately.

Support the Alyth Building Project for free every time you shop at Amazon



Every time you shop using [Amazon Smile](#), Amazon will donate a percentage of the purchase price to Alyth. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you normally use, and you can use your normal Amazon account.



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December  
2021

## Be With Us

Please go to [www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline](http://www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline) for the session Zoom links.

### Regular Activities

#### Senior Club (in-person)

*Mondays 6 & 13 December, 14:00-15:30*

In-person activities and tea for our senior members.

These sessions must be pre-booked with Lynette at [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) or on 020 8457 8793.

#### Monday Club (in-person)

*Monday 6 December, 19:00-20:30*

A friendly in-person meeting place for people with learning disabilities.

This session must be pre booked. For more information please contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk).

#### Alyth Choral Society (in-person)

*Tuesday 7 December, 20:00-22:00*

For Choral Society Members only. Go to [www.alythchoralsociety.org](http://www.alythchoralsociety.org) for more information.

### Monthly Activities

#### Alyth Book Club (online)

*Monday 6 December, 18:30-19:30*

This month's book is "The Tunnel" by A.B. Yehoshua, [click here](#) for more information about the book.

January's session is on Monday 10 January. The book will be The Passenger by Ulrich Boschwitz.

#### News, Views & Schmooze (in-person)

*Wednesdays 8 & 22 December, 13:00-14:30*

Join us for a couple of hours of schmooze to discuss what is going on in the world around us. Led by volunteers from the Soup and Schmooze group. All are welcome but these sessions must be pre-booked with [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk).

#### Mellow Chair Yoga for All Ages (online)

*Thursdays 2, 9, 16 December 11:00-12:00*

Our special Chair Yoga and Meditation with Maxine, open to all ages wishing to enhance overall mental and physical wellbeing.

[Click here](#) to register and pay for the class.

#### Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation (online)

*Fridays 3, 10, 17 December 17:00-18:00*

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation helps us to open our hearts and find peace through our spiritual heritage. [Click here](#) to make a donation towards the costs of employing the facilitators.

#### Alyth Cycling Community Bike Ride

*Sunday 12 December, 08:15*

The Alyth Cycling Community brings riders of all abilities together to enjoy cycling and conversation. For more information contact [laurancemendoza@aol.com](mailto:laurancemendoza@aol.com).

#### Singing for Pleasure (in-person & online)

*Sunday 12 December, 15:30-17:00*

Join Viv and sing songs from the shows, Israeli folksongs, songs from the 60s and more. No need to audition, read music or feel intimidated.

### Alyth Choral Society Concert - Sunday 12 December, 19:00

Join us for Alyth Choral Society's Concert for Peace Joy, Loss & Hope, in aid of The British Red Cross Afghanistan Crisis Appeal.

We are delighted to be able to welcome ACS back to the Alyth building.

Tickets are £10/adult, under 16s go free.

[Click here](#) for tickets and more information.



#StaySafeWithAlyth

December  
2021

## Learn With Us - Youth and Education

Please go to [www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline](http://www.alyth.org.uk/alythonline) for the session Zoom links.

Contact [mike@alyth.org.uk](mailto:mike@alyth.org.uk) for more information about any of these programmes.

Introducing...

### ThursWAY

Thursdays 2 & 9 December, 16:00-17:00

## Join us for the launch of our new programme, ThursWAY.

**Kids come play... brighten up your Thursday afternoon with some cosy vibes With Alyth Youth!**

For all Primary School aged children, join us at our 'drop in and out' after school club. Staffed by our Youth & Ed Hub and madrichim, you can chat, play video/board games, read stories, have a nap or just have fun!

ThursWAY will launch with a Chanukah Tea and Lighting on 2 December 2021. Let's bring the light back this winter!

Contact [mike@alyth.org.uk](mailto:mike@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Weekly Learning

### SMG In-Person

*Sunday 5 December, (10:00-12:00)*

Our experiential Jewish education programme for Reception to Year 6. [Click here](#) to enrol into SMG. SMG provides our youngest members the opportunity to explore their Jewish identity by exploring a curriculum of key Jewish behaviours and rituals and core Jewish texts. With our wonderful team of Educators and Madrichim (youth leaders), everyone will encounter both Jewish Studies and Hebrew, in a creative and dynamic space.

*SMG returns on 16 January.*

### Ruach 1 - 4 In-Person

*Friday 3 December (17:15-18:15)*

Ruach is our pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah programme delivered by our wonderful team of madrichim (youth leaders). Our participants get to explore their Jewish identity through the lens of community.

**Please note that we are returning to 17:15-18:15 to enable young people and their families to stay for the service in-person.**

Participants will be able to enter Alyth from 16:30 for Drop-In.

*Ruach returns on 14 January.*

## Drama Activities

### Alyth Children's Theatre (ACT) Matilda

*Thursdays 2 & 9 December (17:00-18:15)*

### Academy Legally Blonde

*Sunday 5 December (18:00-20:00)*

## Learn With Us - Youth and Education

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Contact [mike@alyth.org.uk](mailto:mike@alyth.org.uk) for more information about any of these programmes.

### LEADERSHIP TRAINING

#### Year 10 Hadracha Final session and Graduation Dinner

*Tuesday 7 December (session 18:00, dinner from 19:30)*

We're excited to celebrate the graduation of another generation of our dedicated madrichim (youth leaders)! Our Hadracha Graduation Dinner is a joyous and special occasion for all the family. Join us for a catered dinner at Alyth, immediately after the final session, which will include a graduation ceremony and blessing. This is also an opportunity to hear all what comes next for our inspiring teenagers in their Alyth journey.

Please confirm whether you will be attending, and how many of you will be coming from your family by email to [mike@alyth.org.uk](mailto:mike@alyth.org.uk)

#### Hadracha Skills Weekend 10-12 December

A fun packed residential for all graduate madrichim. Skills weekend brings together our Year 10-13 leaders for a creative and reflective Shabbat, and advanced Jewish youth work training. Spaces are limited and filling up fast! Only 10 beds left! [Click here](#) to sign up

#### Alyth | Build with us

#### BUILD THE FUTURE

Work is continuing to enable us to remain in the building when the main works start early in 2022. The upstairs back corridor has been cleared to create a large meeting, teaching and prayer space. Other rooms upstairs are being renovated, including with new toilets. A new route is being created to allow access to the offices downstairs. The work is making good progress, as you can see from these pictures.

