

# Around Alyth

November 2022



## Look inside for details of...

### **NEW: THURSDAY LEARNING (Thursday 3, 17 and 24 November)**

Our new Thursday learning programmes: **Judaism and the Big Ethical Questions** (3 November); **Jewish Music for this Moment** (as part of our Composer in Residence programme, 17 November); **Issues that divide us and how we find common ground** (24 November).

### **SPECIAL GUESTS FROM ISRAEL FOR EREV SHABBAT (Friday 4 November)**

We are delighted to welcome to Alyth the winners of the 2022 New Israel Fund Human Rights Awards, **Nabila Espanioly** and representatives of **Ir Amim**.

Join us for a special pre-service session and for our Erev Shabbat service.

### **NEW MEMBERS' MORNING (Saturday 5 November)**

A breakfast to welcome those who have recently joined the community, followed by a choice of three Shabbat morning services.

### **TALK TOGETHER: HIGH HOLY DAYS (Monday 7 November)**

The opportunity to discuss our experiences of Alyth's High Holy Day services in a new way.

### **COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE: STEPHEN GLASS (Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 November)**

We are delighted to welcome internationally renowned composer and choir director Stephen Glass for an extended weekend of learning and singing together.

### **MITZVAH DAY AT ALYTH (from Thursday 17 November)**

Our annual contribution to the national Mitzvah Day efforts.

**As well as all our regular weekly and monthly services, learning and programmes...**

**Book Now:**

**Alyth Weekend Away**

Friday 2 – Sunday 4 December 2022

**Pray with us, learn with us, be with us...**

laugh with us, relax with us, create with us, ramble with us, play table tennis with us, quiz with us, eat chocolate with us, meditate with us, read the newspapers with us, stay up late with us, design with us, revise in a quiet corner with us, drink coffee with us, connect with us, study Talmud with us, drink with us, dance with us, watch films with us, play with us, hide and seek with us, chill with us, play games with us, sing with us, make new friends with us,

**make memories with us...**

**The Weekend Away is the opportunity to be part of community: to meet new people, to feel ownership of your synagogue, your community and your Judaism. The Weekend Away is the best way to get to know other Alyth members, the staff team and clergy.**

**See over the page for more details, including how we can help you to join us.**

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## Where is it taking place?



This year's Weekend Away is at the beautiful High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon, about an hour from Alyth by car and accessible by train to Broxbourne.

We have exclusive use of the site, with a full programme for adults and children, with plenty of time just to be together.

## Who is it for?

The Weekend Away is for everyone and all the family. There is something for everyone over the course of the weekend. Please note that children under 18 must come with a parent or carer, and this includes all madrichim.

## What will we do?

The programme will speak to head, heart and hand, with the opportunity to explore new activities, learn new skills and to pray and learn with community. As well as services, meals and learning, there will be a variety of outdoor and indoor activities to choose from, or just read the newspaper with a cup of coffee looking out over 40 acres of beautiful land.

## What is there for children?

The Youth and Education team and madrichim (our Alyth trained youth leaders) will be on hand through the weekend running a programme for children during the day and in the evenings. For those with younger children, there are family rooms, with aspects of the programme for young families, and we can also arrange babysitting in the evening.

## How much does it cost

The cost of the Weekend Away is the same as in 2015: £240 per adult including accommodation, food and activities (drinks at the bar aren't included!) The weekend costs £60 for those aged 6-16, with children 5 and under free. We recognise that household budgets may be stretched this winter. Please do not allow finances to be a reason not to attend the Weekend Away.

**The Clergy Jewish Participation Fund is a confidential fund, the purpose of which is to support all Alyth members in having the richest possible Alyth life.**

Contact [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) for more information or to book your place or visit [www.alyth.org.uk/weekendaway2022](http://www.alyth.org.uk/weekendaway2022).

# Pray With Us

November 2022

## EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Friday at 18:30

### *Erev Shabbat Service (Fridays 4, 11, 18, 25 November)*

We begin Shabbat with our uplifting and inspirational, intergenerational Erev Shabbat service. A unique combination of song, reflection, prayer & learning.

*On Erev Shabbat 4 November, we are delighted to welcome Palestinian Israeli civil society activist Nabila Espanioly and representatives of Ir Amim, which works towards a more stable and equitable Jerusalem. Join us for a special pre-service session from 17:15, and for our Erev Shabbat service.*

## SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Saturday

### *Saturday 5 November*

#### *New Members Shabbat*

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

A Shabbat Morning service with the Alyth Choir.

#### **Shacharit Deconstructed Service, 10:30**

A mix of service and study, giving the opportunity to explore the content of the Shabbat morning liturgy while praying together.

#### **Gesher Service, 10:30**

Our musical 'Gesher' service provides a bridge between our young family services and the next stage in Alyth families' prayer life. See 'Pray with us for Families' for more information.

### *Saturday 12 November*

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

Led by Rabbi Hannah with the Alyth choir.

Including the Bar Mitzvah of Isabelle Kendall.

#### **Kollot, 10:30**

Our informal, unaccompanied, participatory minyan led by Alyth clergy and members.

### *Saturday 19 November*

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

A special Shabbat Morning service as part of our Composer in Residence programme. On this Shabbat morning, we will celebrate our choral tradition and repertoire, together with Stephen Glass and the Alyth Synagogue Choir. This morning will include a new composition, being sung at Alyth for the first time.

### *Saturday 26 November*

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

A joyful Shabbat morning service in the Beit Tefillah, accompanied by guitar.

#### **Mincha B'not Mitzvah Service, 16:00**

Led by Rabbi Hannah including the B'not Mitzvah of Sara and Anna Perry.

## New Members' Pre-Service Breakfast

Saturday 5 November, from 09:15

We are delighted to have welcomed over 200 new members to our community since this time last year. Thank you for being with us.

If you have recently joined the community, please join us for breakfast before the service on Shabbat morning, 5 November. This will be an opportunity to meet one another and members of the Alyth team and lay leadership. Breakfast is followed by a choice of three services (see above).

## Pray With Us

November 2022

### SUNDAY SHACHARIT

Sundays 6, 13, 20, 27 November (09:00)

Every Alyth week begins with a lay-led minyan with bagel breakfast at Alyth, led by Alyth members. All are welcome.

## Pray With Us for Families

### Baby Den

*Fridays 4, 11, 18, 25 November (10:30)*

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

### Gesher Service

*Saturday 5 November (10:30)*

If your child feels too old for Sensory Shabbat, but Big Bang felt too grown up, join us for our new family service 'Gesher'. This service has been designed to bridge the gap between our two family prayer spaces, so that your child can grow through tefillah that works for them.

With Rabbi Hannah, Ella and the Gesher Guitarists.

### Sensory Havdalah

*Saturday 5 November (16:00)*

Havdalah is one of our most Sensory experiences. We see the flickering candle flame, smell the sweet spices and taste the wine. Join Rabbi Hannah and Ella 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! Following Havdalah, we will provide an early dinner for the little ones. For catering purposes, please let us know that you are coming by [clicking here](#).

## Talk Together:

### This Year's High Holy Days

Monday 7 November, 19:00-21:00

This year, over 2,000 Alyth members from ages 0 to 100 joined us for a wide range of High Holy Day services and activities in four different Alyth venues.

We're keen to begin a conversation, convened by our Chair of Trustees, Justin Wise, about the diverse range of experiences involved, in a way that helps everyone learn from one another.

We invite you to join us at an evening of sharing experiences, open to everyone, on the evening of **Monday 7 November**, with food at 19:00 and conversation from 19:30-21:30.

We encourage you to join us - whether you had an experience you loved or one you would have liked to be different. We also welcome impressions and experiences from those who can't be with us on the evening. If you would like to take part, either by joining the evening or by sharing your experience please register your interest by [clicking here](#).



## COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE: STEPHEN GLASS THURSDAY 17 - SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER



We are delighted to welcome Stephen Glass for an extended weekend of learning and singing together. Stephen is an internationally renowned composer and director of choirs. The weekend will include: a **presentation and discussion on Thursday evening**, exploring the history, diversity, and importance of Jewish liturgical music; a **special Shabbat morning service**, as we celebrate our choral musical tradition; and a **Sunday afternoon masterclass-in-concert** celebrating the diversity of musical traditions that has defined Alyth's prayer life over the last 90 years and will do so into the future.

### Amazing Jewish Liturgical Music Thursday 17 November, 19:30-21:00

As part of our new series on Jewish music, join us for a very special presentation and discussion exploring the history, diversity, and importance of Jewish liturgical music. Stephen Glass will teach us as we explore our rich musical inheritance. The evening will include recordings, demonstrations at the piano and some sung pieces.

Refreshments will be served. Please [click here](#) to let us know that you will be coming.

### Shabbat Morning Service Saturday 19 November, 10:30

Alyth is rightly proud of our choral tradition, brought to our Shabbat morning service by our dedicated volunteer choir. On this Shabbat morning, we will celebrate this music and repertoire, together with Stephen Glass and the Alyth Synagogue Choir. This morning will include a new composition, being sung at Alyth for the first time.

### Masterclass-in-Concert Sunday 20 November, programme begins at 14:30

As Alyth approaches its 90th anniversary, a masterclass-in-concert showcasing the diversity of musical traditions that has defined our communal prayer life over the last 90 years and will do so into the future. Come prepared to join your voice with ours.

Afternoon tea will be served. Please [click here](#) to let us know that you will be coming.

**This event is the first in a series of Alyth Composers and Songwriters in Residence, a programme made possible in memory of Raymond and Joy Goldman.**

### Judaism the Essentials

Tuesdays in November, 20:00-21:30ish

Our regular introduction to Judaism class taught by our clergy with Jon Epstein. Essentials 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.

- 1** Foundations 1: Introduction, What's in the bible?
- 8** Foundations 2: Authorship and authority
- 15** Foundations 3: Different genres in biblical texts and how they are used
- 22** The Formation of Judaism: Rabbinic Literature - Halachah
- 29** The Formation of Judaism: Rabbinic Literature - Aggadah

Please contact Rabbi Hannah ([hannah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:hannah@alyth.org.uk)) for more information about this programme. New students are always welcome.

### Adult Hebrew

#### Intensive Hebrew Reading Course

*Tuesdays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 November 19:00-19:45*  
An intensive Hebrew course running for eight weeks, aimed to help beginners learn the Hebrew alphabet and the basic decoding skills needed to read. Taught by Alyth member Jan Roseman.

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

#### Hebrew Reading Course

*Tuesdays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 November 20:00-20:45*  
A short course, running for eight weeks, aimed to help those already proficient in Hebrew reading to continue to develop their skills. Taught by Alyth member Jan Roseman.

#### Biblical Hebrew

*Sundays 6, 13, 20, 27 November 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.

### Pardes - Journey to Chanukah Fortnightly from 10 November

Thursdays 10, 24 November & 8 December 13:00-14:00

A special fortnightly series with Rabbi Colin to prepare us for Chanukah.

- 10 Nov** Miracles? Shmiracles. Was there a miracle at Chanukah and if there was, just what was it?
- 24 Nov** A deferred Sukkot? What can Chanukah possibly have to do with Sukkot?
- 8 Dec** How has Chanukah has been depicted in art?

### Rabbi Elliott on Sabbatical

As part of their employment, Alyth clergy are entitled to periods of sabbatical to rest, restore, study and spend time with their families. Rabbi Elliott will be away from Alyth from Sunday 6 November, returning in mid-December (with a brief return for the Weekend Away, too).

We wish him a restorative and meaningful period away.

## Learn With Us

November 2022

### NEW: Thursday Evening Learning

In our Study track on Yom Kippur afternoon, we launched three new learning programmes for 5783. These will run on three Thursday evenings in November, and will continue in January.

The 'Jewish Music for this Moment' programme will take place as part of our Composer in Residence weekend.

### Judaism and the Big Ethical Questions: Should we eat meat?

Thursday 3 November, 19:30-21:30

Join Rabbi Elliott for this new text based learning programme, in which we delve into Judaism and the Big Ethical Questions of our time.

With more of us opting to forgo beef burgers and chicken drumsticks, is it still ethical to eat meat. As Jews, should we move to a vegetarian or vegan diet?

### Alyth Interfaith

#### Issues that divide us and how we find common ground

Thursday 24 November, 19:30-21:30

One of the highlights of the Alyth calendar is our annual Iftar - the opportunity to study with members of other faith traditions, to grapple with our differences, and to speak and eat together. This doesn't only need to happen once a year!

Our new interfaith programme will run throughout the year, with Alyth clergy teaching alongside other faith leaders and speakers to get to the root of difficult and divisive issues and to find the common ground in them. Session themes will include: Land, Salvation/Mission, Gender, Sexuality, Start and End of Life. Each session will be followed by the opportunity to eat and speak together.

As at our annual Iftar, we are delighted to welcome guests from across different faith traditions as well as Alyth members. For more information, contact Rabbi Hannah at [hannah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:hannah@alyth.org.uk). This series has been made possible by a generous donation from Alyth members.

As food will be provided, please let us know that you will be coming by [clicking here](#).

### Winners of the NIF Human Rights Awards 2022

Friday 4 November, 17:15-18:15 and in the Erev Shabbat Service

We are delighted to welcome to Alyth the winners of the 2022 New Israel Fund Human Rights Awards: Palestinian Israeli civil society activist **Nabila Espanioly** and representatives of **Ir Amim**, which works towards a more stable and equitable Jerusalem.

Join us for a special pre-service session from 17:15-18:15, in which they will speak about their work and answer questions after which our guests from Ir Amim will give the D'var torah in our Erev Shabbat service. For more information on our guests, visit <https://hrad.newisraelfund.org.uk/>. More information about Ir Amim can be found on their website: <https://www.ir-amim.org.il/en>

### Weekly and Fortnightly Activities

#### **Monday Club**

*Mondays 7, 14, 21, 28 November 19:00-20:30*

A friendly in-person meeting place for people with learning disabilities. For more information or to let us know that you will be attending, please email [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk).

#### **Alyth Choral Society**

*Tuesdays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 November, 20:00-22:00*

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

#### **Mellow Chair Yoga for All Ages**

*Thursdays 3, 10, 17, 24 November 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 4, 11, 18, 25 November 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.

#### **Choir Rehearsal**

*Saturdays 12 & 19 November, 9:15-10:15*

Rehearsing Alyth's choral repertoire for Shabbat Services.

### Monthly Activities

#### **Shabbat b'Yachad Lunch**

*Saturday 19 November, 12:30*

As part of the Alyth Friendship Project we are pleased to welcome you for a Shabbat lunch after the service. Join us following the morning Service for a delicious lunch and good company.

#### **Alyth Book Club**

*Monday 7 November, 18:30-19:30*

This month's book is "Job: the story of a simple man" by Joseph Roth, [click here](#) for information about the book.

The date of the next book club is 5 December.

#### **Alyth Cycling Community Bike Ride**

*Sunday 13 November, 08:15*

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

#### **Singing for Pleasure**

*Sunday 27 November, 15:30-16:30*

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.



### The Alyth Social Mondays at 14:00 – 16:00

Our Monday afternoon social.

Join us for an afternoon of entertainment, discussion, lovely homemade tea and great company!

Annual Membership: £25 per person members; £30 per person non-members; Weekly donation: £3.50 per person members; £5.00 per person non-members.

Contact Lynette for more information.

**7 November The Favonius Trio – SunHye Shin, Jeff Yunzhe & Frederick Winterson**

This trio was formed at The Guildhall School of Music in January 2022. They are all experienced performers and will play Debussy, Suk, Turina and Shostakovich.

**14 November General Knowledge Quiz – The Arts**

Come and test your knowledge on questions about stage, screen, art and music.

**21 November Mo Suet & Karen Wong Piano & Flute Duo**

Once again, we are delighted to welcome music students from The Guildhall School of Music.

**28 November Get the Children Out; Unsung Heroes of the Kindertransport”**

Mike Levy is a respected Holocaust historian and educator, currently working as a researcher for the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. He holds a fellowship with the Imperial War Museum and is chair of the Harwich Kindertransport Memorial appeal. Mike will come and talk about his recently published book.

## Volunteering Opportunities and Ways you can Help

### WANTED: Mini Bus Drivers

Would you like to help Alyth members to come to our Shabbat services and other events?

We are looking for more volunteers to join our existing team driving the Alyth mini bus, providing transport for often isolated members at different times of the week.

Our next training is on **Wednesday 9 November, 09:00 to 12:30** including a test drive in the bus.

If you would like to be a part of this team and are available to join on this day, please contact Lynette on 020 8457 8793 or [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) for more details.

### NEEDED: Storage Space

As we near the start of our building project we are reaching out to ask if members can help with practical matters. This month we are asking about storage space as we are clearing the building for the period of the build, and have a number of items that need to be stored off-site during the work.

Do you have any spare, secure and weatherproof storage that we could utilise?

Do you have any space in your garden to house one of our outdoor benches or seats.

Do you have any spare space for an upright piano?

If the answer is 'Yes' or you have any wonderful suggestions, please get in touch with Sarah Langford on 020 8457 8787 or send an email to [sarah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sarah@alyth.org.uk).

### Weekly Learning

#### SMG

*Sundays 6, 13, 20, 27 November (10:00-12:00)*  
Our 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, key Jewish behaviour and rituals and Jewish texts.  
**On 20 November, SMG will include our special programme for Mitzvah Day. See the weekly email for more details.**

#### Ruach 1 - 4

*Fridays 4, 11, 18, 25 November (17:15-19:30)*  
Ruach is our pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah programme delivered by our wonderful team of madrichim (youth leaders). Participants explore their Jewish identity through the lens of community.  
Participants can come from 16:30 for Drop-In and are expected to stay for the Erev Shabbat Service, finishing at 19:30.

### ThursWAY: MitzvahSway Special

Thursday 17 November, 16:00-17:00

We begin the journey to Mitzvah Day, which is Sunday 20 November, with a special Mitzvah Day ThursWAY. See the weekly email for more details.

### Year 10 Hadracha

Tuesdays 8, 15, 22, 29 November

Continuing our leadership programme for Year 10 madrichim.  
Contact [ella@alyth.org.uk](mailto:ella@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

### Drama Activities

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

*Thursdays 10, 17, 24 November (17:00-18:15)*  
Our drama group for Primary School aged children. The group rehearse all year and then perform the show in June 2023.  
[Click here](#) to register.

#### Academy of Performing Arts

*Sundays 6, 13, 20, 27 November (18:00-20:00)*  
Academy has been a feature of the Alyth calendar for Secondary School aged children for over 20 years. The end of year production takes place over the early May bank holiday weekend.  
[Click here](#) to register.

### Youth and Education Announcements

We are delighted to announce that **Abi Brunner** will be joining the Youth and Education Hub as one of our Educators from 1 November. Abi will be known to many members as she has helped with our technology on Shabbat and over the High Holy Days, and has previously led on our trip to Budapest.

Do you have a child in Year 5? If so, you should be invited in the coming weeks to our annual **Bar/Bat Mitzvah date booking meeting** which will take place on Monday 30 January 2023. If you do not receive an invitation by the end of this month, please contact Sam at [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk)