

Around Alyth

December 2022



Chanukah 5783 Highlights

Toddler Toy Sale

Sunday 11 December (11:30 – 12:30)

A second-hand toy sale for anyone who might be looking for a new gift for a little one this Chanukah. To donate old toys to be sold, please contact ella@alyth.org.uk.

Chanukah for families

Sunday 18 December

A day of activities for our younger members for Chanukah:

11:00 – 12:00 Chanukah Sensory Den

12:00 – 12:30 Latke Lunch for all the family

12:30 – 12:45 Candle lighting

12:45 – 14:00 Chanukah party for Primary School aged children

Chanukah Film Club

Monday 19 December (19:00)

The Alyth Film Club returns with a special Chanukah screening of Israeli award-winning 'Broken Wings' (2003). Daphne and her four children try to cope with the abrupt death of her husband and their father. As the family seems to fall apart, a sudden incident gives them a chance to heal their 'broken wings'. Followed by discussion with Rabbi Elliott. The screening will be preceded by candle lighting, and tea, coffee, and donuts will be provided.

Chanukah Heritage Sharing

Tuesday 20 December (19:30)

Members of our community will share Chanukah recipes, passing culinary traditions from generation to generation. Dinner, donuts and mulled wine will be provided.

We especially invite young adults in our community to come to learn from generations that have come before them.

Chanukah in the home

Thursday 22 December

If you live in Borehamwood, Muswell Hill, or Barnet and would like to invite members into your home for a chanukah lighting, please contact hannah@alyth.org.uk to offer to host.

Alyth

Weekend Away 2022

We wish all those attending the Alyth Weekend Away from 2-4 December, a weekend of joyful prayer and learning, song and friendship.

To see the Weekend Away programme, [click here](#).

Pray With Us

December 2022

EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Friday at 18:30

Erev Shabbat Service

(Fridays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 December)

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

On 23 December, our Erev Shabbat Chanukah service will include candle-lighting and donuts!

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Saturday

Saturday 3 December

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Josh. This service will have guitar accompaniment.

Including the Bar Mitzvah of Tobey Samuel.

Saturday 10 December

Kollot in the Beit Tefillah, 10:30

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

This week taking place in the Beit Tefillah.

Gesher Service, 11:00

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 17 December

Big Bang Style Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Hannah. Including the Bar Mitzvah of Oscar Lyons. Taking place in the Beit Tefillah.

Shabbat Morning Choral Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Josh and Cantor Tamara with the Alyth choir. Taking place in the new upstairs Prayer Space.

Saturday 17 December

(afternoon)

Shabbat Mincha Service, 15:00

Led by Cantor Tamara including the Bar Mitzvah of Ariel Zimmerman.

Saturday 24 December

Shabbat Chanukah

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Cantor Tamara and Student Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang, including Hallel for Chanukah.

Saturday 31 December

Shabbat Morning Choral Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Elliott and Katie Hainbach with the Alyth choir.

Followed by a special New Year B'Yachad Lunch.

SUNDAY SHACHARIT

Sundays 4, 11, 18, 25 December (09:00)

Every Alyth week begins with a lay-led minyan with bagel breakfast at Alyth, led by Alyth members. All are welcome. Shacharit on 25 December will take place off-site.

Pray With Us

December 2022

Pray With Us for Families

Baby Den

Fridays 9 & 16 December (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 10 December (11:00)

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.

Learn With Us

December 2022

Judaism the Essentials

Tuesdays in December, 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. New students are always welcome.

6 Aggadah- how the Rabbis told stories; and what happened after the Talmud?

13 Preparing for Chanukah

20 Chanukah Heritage Sharing - Chanukah together

Please contact Rabbi Hannah (hannah@alyth.org.uk) for more information about this programme.

Essentials returns on 10 January with our short course on Jewish History.

Adult Hebrew

Intensive Hebrew Reading Course

Tuesday 6 December 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 for more information.

Hebrew Reading Course

Tuesday 6 December 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 11, 18 December 11:00-12:00

A programme for those with high level Hebrew reading ability. Email edwardjgold@hotmail.com if you would like to join this class so that you can be sent the link and materials in advance.

Learn With Us

December 2022

Pardes - Journey to Chanukah

Thursday 8 December 13:00-14:00

Join Rabbi Colin for the final session in this fortnightly series of Pardes classes designed to prepare us for Chanukah. This week:

8 Dec How has Chanukah has been depicted in art?

Pardes returns in January

Shabbat Shiur: Waiting for the Messiah every Shabbat

Saturday 17 December 9:15-10:15

A special pre-service shiur, taught by Rabbi Colin to mark the earliest Havdalah of the year. What does Havdalah have to do with our messianic yearnings?

Save the Date in January

Alyth Interfaith: Issues that divide us and how we find common ground: "Gender and Sexuality"

Thursday 19 January, 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. Each session will be followed by the opportunity to eat and speak together.

In January, we are delighted to welcome **Revd. Dr Ayla Lepine** and **Amani Saeed**. Ayla is the Ahmanson Fellow in Religion and Art at the National Gallery in London. Her work includes teaching the King's College London and National Gallery collaborative MA in Christianity and the Arts, and building diverse new networks within arts organisations and faith communities. Amani Saeed is an international writer whose work brings the big issues to your kitchen table. She explores the crisis cultivated by living between sometimes (but not always) contradictory cultures, treading the line between masjid and mini skirt.

For more information, contact Rabbi Hannah at hannah@alyth.org.uk

This series has been made possible by a generous donation from Alyth members.

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 is away from Alyth, returning in mid-December (with a brief return for the Weekend Away, too). We wish him a restorative and meaningful period away.

Weekly and Fortnightly

Monthly

Monday Club

Mondays 5 & 12 December 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.

Alyth Choral Society

Tuesday 6 December, 20:00-22:00

For Choral Society Members only. Go to www.alythchoralsociety.org for more information.

Mellow Chair Yoga for All Ages

Thursdays 1, 8, 15, 22 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.

Alyth Book Club

Monday 5 December, 18:30-19:30

This months book "All for Nothing" by Walter Kempowski. [Click here](#) for information about the book. The date of the next book club is 9 January where the book will be "Lovers and Brothers" by Diana Brahams. [Click here](#) for information about the book.

Alyth Cycling Community Bike Ride

Sunday 11 December, 08:15

Bringing riders of all abilities together to enjoy cycling and conversation. For more information contact laurancemendoza@aol.com.

Singing for Pleasure

Sunday 18 December, 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.

Jewish Mindfulness and Meditation (online)

Fridays 2 December 17:30-18:15

Fridays 9, 16, 23 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.

Shabbat B'Yachad New Year Lunch

Saturday 31 December, 12:30

As part of the Alyth Friendship Project, please join us for our Shabbat Morning Service at 10:30, followed by a New Year's Celebratory Meal. For catering purposes, please let Lynette know you are coming at lynette@alyth.org.uk or 02084578793.

There is no charge for this but donations are always appreciated.

OFFICE OPENING OVER THE WINTER BREAK

The Alyth office is open on Friday 23 December as normal. It is closed on 25, 26 and 27 December and 1 and 2 January.

On 28, 29 December, the building will be closed to visitors, but the main office number will be answered between 10:00 and 16:00. Normal office opening applies on 30 December.

At all other times, please use the emergency number in case of emergencies.

Save the Date:

The Alyth (Tu B'Shvat) Supper Quiz
Sunday 5 February, 19:00

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.

5 December Roy Blass

Popular musical entertainment, come and sing along.

12 December Piano Concert: Kwanyee Chan

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Kwanyee Chan, was awarded a Scholarship to study Artis Masters programme at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Kwanyee will play the piano with pieces by Schumann, Lizst and Debussy.

19 December Chanukah Party

Join us for a special afternoon of fun entertainment and Chanukah delights – with a few surprises thrown in!! Everyone is welcome – please let Lynette know you are coming for catering purposes lynette@alyth.org.uk or 020 8457 8793.

The Alyth Social returns on 9 January.

Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteers for our Refugee Project

The Alyth Refugee Project helps refugees, who have come from differing countries, to adjust and thrive in London. We help people to socialise with different cultures, get to know London, learn things, and make small changes to their own lives. It is run by volunteers who organise choirs, outings, events, talks and workshops.

We meet an average of twice per month (one outing and one choir), and would hope for a volunteer to be with us around 6 times in the year, as well as attending 1-2 volunteer meetings. Previous experience is not necessary but a warm spirit of connecting with others in a mutually supportive capacity is required.

We have vacancies for 3 different volunteer roles:

- Choir: Lunch and on the day co-ordinator
- Choir: Singers
- Outings: Helpers

Please go to www.alyth.org.uk/alyth-refugee-drop-in for more details about the project and contact Cheryl Brodie at alythdropin@gmail.com or Rabbi Elliott at elliott@alyth.org.uk if you would like to volunteer.

Save the Date:

The Alyth (Tu B'Shvat) Supper Quiz
Sunday 5 February, 19:00

Purcell

DIDO AND AENEAS

Whitacre

FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS

**The Alyth Ensemble
playing Rossi and Purcell**

**7.30pm SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2022
Alyth Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, NW11**

**DIDO: KATIE HAINBACH
AENEAS: NATHAN VALE
BELINDA: EMILY PHILLIPS
SECOND WOMAN: LYNETTE CHAZEN
SORCERESS: NATALIE COURY
FIRST WITCH: AMY RACS
SECOND WITCH: JANINE CLEMENTS
SAILOR: DANIEL GRIFFITH
CONDUCTOR: ALISON SMART FISHER
ALYTH CHORAL SOCIETY
THE ALYTH ENSEMBLE
CONTINUO: TIM HOOPER**

Tickets: £20

Buy on the ACS website

alythchoralsociety.org

Under 16s free

Info: alythchoralsociety@gmail.com

Refreshments included

**making
music**

**Alyth
Choral
Society**
Registered Charity No. 293529

Weekly Learning

SMG

Sunday 11 December (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.

SMG returns on 15 January.

Ruach 1 - 4

Friday 9 December (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.

Ruach returns on 13 January.

Year 10 Hadracha Tuesdays 6 & 13 December

Continuing our leadership programme for Year 10 madrichim.

Concluding with a special graduation dinner after the session on 13 December.

Drama Activities

Alyth Children's Theatre (ACT)

Thursdays 1, 8 December (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 4 & 11 December (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.

Save the Dates

Mentor training

Monday 9 January (17:30)

Please email ella@alyth.org.uk for more information .

Year 5 Bar/Bat Mitzvah date booking evening

Thursday 26 January (20:00)

Please email sam@alyth.org.uk if you haven't received any communication and you have a child in year 5.

Year 5 and 6 Secret Cinema

Saturday 28 January (17:00)

The Alyth Secret Cinema is back! Join us for a fantastic night of immersive cinema, foxy food and fun with friends.

Email abi@alyth.org.uk for more information or to sign up.