

# Around Alyth

January 2023



January is another month full of diverse and rich activities - a month of prayer and learning, discussion and music, volunteering and being together.

We invite you to look into the programme in this events sheet - and to step back into Alyth life.

If you would like to speak with us about how you can find your way into our programme, please do not hesitate to contact one of the clergy team.

Among the highlights of our January programme, please join us for:

## 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 runs 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.

See the Learn with us page for more information about the January session.

## Annual Meeting of Congregants 2023

Monday 30 January (19:30)

You will receive the notice and papers for our AMC via email in early January. Copies of which can also be found at [alyth.org.uk/aboutus/our-governance](http://alyth.org.uk/aboutus/our-governance)

If you are interested in stepping into a leadership role at Alyth, please send an email to: [vicechair@alyth.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@alyth.org.uk). Please mark your email FAO Nicky Minter-Green, to arrange an initial conversation about the skills/experience we are currently seeking for the Trustee Board and Advisory Groups, and what these positions entail.

And coming up early in February:

## The Alyth (Tu B'Shvat) Supper Quiz

Sunday 5 February, 19:00-22:00

The return of an Alyth institution! After two years in which we could not gather to eat, laugh and quiz together, we are delighted to announce the return of the Alyth Supper Quiz on Sunday evening 5 February. Celebrate TuB'Shvat with us and the start of Alyth's 90th birthday celebrations.

£25 per person (includes supper) in support of the Alyth Building Project.

Tables of 10 - make up your own table or we can allocate you to a table

[Click here](#) to sign up or call Deborah on 020 8457 8784 or email [alythadmin@alyth.org.uk](mailto:alythadmin@alyth.org.uk).

### EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Friday at 18:30

#### Erev Shabbat Service

*(Fridays 6, 13, 20, 27 January)*

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

#### **NEW FOR 2023: Special Divrei Torah on Erev Shabbat. Starting 27 January.**

During 2023, one Erev Shabbat D'var Torah each month will be given by a member of Alyth who will speak about a Jewish passion or something to which they commit as an expression of their Jewish identity or values. Some of these will be trustees or professionals of Jewish organisations, and others members who volunteer or live their Judaism in a special way.

**On Holocaust Memorial Day, our first D'var Torah in this series will be given by Ruth Wellin who is one of three Alyth members who is a trustee of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.**

If you would like to offer a D'var Torah, please contact Rabbi Josh at [josh@alyth.org.uk](mailto:josh@alyth.org.uk)

### SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Saturday

#### *Saturday 7 January*

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

Led by Cantor Tamara and Rabbi Elliott with the Alyth choir. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Yasmin Amitai-Hecht.

##### **Sensory Havdalah, 16:00**

See 'Pray with us for Families' for more information.

#### *Saturday 14 January*

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

An informal, participatory minyan led by Rabbi Josh, with guitar.

Including the Bar Mitzvah of Harry Bayfield.

This service will include a supervised kids corner so parents can join in the service.

##### **Torah Breakout: During the Torah Service The Burning Bush and The Art of Noticing**

The story of the burning bush is one of the most memorable in the Torah, but our Sages teach us that it contains hidden meanings and deeper lesson for our own lives as well.

Join Cantor Tamara for a Torah breakout to dive deeper into this familiar text.

#### *Saturday 21 January*

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

Led by Rabbi Josh with the Alyth choir.

Including the Bar Mitzvah of Louis Bloom.

This Shabbat is also the annual Mental Health Shabbat. Please see the Weekly Email in January for more details.

##### **Gesher Service, 11:00, 11:00**

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

#### *Saturday 28 January*

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

Led by Rabbi Elliott with the Alyth choir.

Including the Bar Mitzvah of Milo Griffiths.

##### **Imrei Finu, 10:30**

An informal Shabbat morning service with guitar, including the singing of new and familiar melodies. Led by Rabbi Josh and Cantor Tamara.



To pray. To learn. To live. Together.

## Pray With Us

January 2023

## Pray With Us for Families

### Baby Den

*Fridays 6, 13, 20, 27 January (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.

### Sensory Havdalah

*Saturday 7 January (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!

### Gesher Service

*Saturday 21 January (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.

## SUNDAY SHACHARIT

Sundays 8, 15, 22, 29 January (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 January will take place off-site.



To pray. To learn. To live. Together.

## Learn With Us

January 2023

## BACK FOR 2023: The Alyth Chavruta Project

Mondays in January and February, 19:00-20:30

The Alyth Chavruta project was launched in January 2021 and quickly became one of the learning highlights in our community programme. Text packs are sent out on a Tuesday morning so that chavruta pairs can study together in whatever way feels right for them, before we come together on Monday evenings at 19:00 to share our learning and questions as a whole group.

No previous study is necessary. If you have a chavruta partner already, that's great. If not, we will pair you up with someone. You are also welcome to join individually for the Monday evening sessions.

In this series, we will dive into one of the most famous stories of the Babylonian Talmud: that of Rabbi Eliezer and his excommunication by the other rabbis.

**This series runs on Mondays: 16 and 23 January and 6, 13, 20 February.**

Sessions will be in person and on Zoom, and will be recorded.

Email [acp@alyth.org.uk](mailto:acp@alyth.org.uk) for more information and to register your interest.

## Learn With Us

January 2023

### Judaism the Essentials

Tuesdays in January, 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. Please contact Rabbi Elliott ([elliott@alyth.org.uk](mailto:elliott@alyth.org.uk)) for more information.

- 10 Epoch Changing Moments in Jewish history
- 17 18 Figures in Jewish History of whom you should have heard
- 24 Anglo Jewish History
- 31 Tu B'Shvat and Jewish Environmental Ethics

*Essentials participants are also encouraged to attend the trip to the British Museum - see below.*

### Jewish History in the British Museum

Sunday 22 January, 10:30-12:00

Some of the most important extra-biblical artefacts from the ancient near-East can be seen in the heart of London. In this annual 'Essentials' trip, open to all, we use the evidence found in the British Museum to piece together ancient Jewish history.

Please email [josh@alyth.org.uk](mailto:josh@alyth.org.uk) to let us know you are coming and for the meeting point.

### Adult Hebrew

#### Intensive Hebrew Reading Course

Tuesdays 24 & 31 January 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

Tuesday 24 & 31 January 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 8, 15, 22, 29 January 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 - Come and Meet the Medieval Commentators

Thursdays 12, 19, 26 January 13:00-14:00

So often when we read the Torah, we do so alongside scholars from the past. Over seven weeks, join Rabbi Elliott as we meet these biblical commentators, studying their lives and their contemporary contexts, as well as delving into some of their commentaries and discovering how they can alter our understanding of the biblical text. Continuing in February.

12 Jan Rashi

19 Jan Rashbam

26 Jan Ibn Ezra

## Learn With Us on Thursdays

January 2023

### Jewish Music for this Moment: Making Sense of the Squiggles

Thursday 12 January 19:30-21:00

Following on from their introductory session on leyning on the Weekend Away, join Cantor Tamara and Lynette to deepen your understanding of the history and variety of Torah chanting. We'll explore the history of leyning, the sound of the different cantillation systems, and their applications throughout the year.

You do not need to have come to the Weekend Away session. All are welcome.

### 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](mailto:hannah@alyth.org.uk)

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

### Judaism and the Big Ethical Questions: Inequality

Thursday 26 January, 19:30-21:00

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

The reality is that humans live in a state of inequality, with some having more, others less. But is this how it should be? Should we be working to create a society in which all have and are treated the same, or is inequality part of the divine plan for the world?

Together we will explore how our textual tradition approaches this big ethical question, hearing diverse voices from the bible, rabbinic literature, medieval thinkers and modern sources.



### Weekly and Fortnightly

#### Monday Club

*Mondays 23 & 30 January 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 10, 17, 24, 31 January, 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 5, 12, 19, 26 January 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.

#### Choir Rehearsal

*Saturday 7 January 9:15-10:15*

Rehearsing Alyth's choral repertoire for Shabbat Services.

### Monthly

#### Alyth Book Club

*Monday 9 January, 18:30-19:30*

This months book "Lovers and Brothers" by Diana Brahams.

[Click here](#) for information about the book..

The date of the next book club is 6 February.

#### Alyth Cycling Community Bike Ride

*Sunday 8 January, 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 22 January, 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 6, 13, 20, 27 January 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.

## The Alyth (Tu B'Shvat) Supper Quiz

Sunday 5 February, 19:00-22:00

The return of an Alyth institution! After two years in which we could not gather to eat, laugh and quiz together, we are delighted to announce the return of the Alyth Supper Quiz

£25 per person (includes supper) in support of the Alyth Building Project.

Tables of 10 - make up your own table or we can allocate you to a table

[Click here](#) to sign up or call Deborah on 020 8457 8784 or email [alythadmin@alyth.org.uk](mailto:alythadmin@alyth.org.uk).

### 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.

**9 Concert: Tom Morss and Katie Hainbach**

Join professional singers Tom Morss, Katie Hainbach and pianist Laurie Turville as they perform songs from the musicals, opera and more.

**16 Debbie Chazen One Woman Show**

Actress, Debbie Chazen, presents a reading of Sarah Sigal's one woman play "Stills".

**23 Gordon Higgott presents: 'Celebrating Inigo Jones and Sir Christopher Wren'**

Dr Gordon Higgott is an Alyth member and an architectural historian who has specialised in the work of these two great architects. For much of his career Gordon was an Inspector of Historic Buildings and a Senior Investigator at English Heritage. He will explain how archaeological discoveries at St Paul's in 1996 led him to research the history of the repair and reconstruction of the cathedral from the 1560s to the 1710s.

**30 Quiz**

Put your brain in gear and come along to answer questions on all sorts of subjects!

### Volunteering Opportunities

#### The Night Shelter

After a 2 year Covid-enforced break, the Together in Barnet Night Shelter is returning to its previous format, moving between communities over the course of the week for 6 months. We will host the Shelter, together with Golders Green Parish Church, on Tuesday nights from 28 February to 18 April 2023, at the Church (opposite Golders Green bus station).

Volunteering opportunities include:

- Welcoming our guests and being their hosts for the evening;
- Cooking a course for their evening meal;
- Sleeping overnight with our guests, ensuring their safety at night;
- Providing a light breakfast and saying a warm goodbye;
- Driving their sleeping bags and mats to where they will spend the next night;
- Helping to coordinate the volunteers who generously give their time and support to the Night Shelter.

If you are interested in helping with any of these roles, please can you email the Coordinators at [alythgnightshelter@gmail.com](mailto:alythgnightshelter@gmail.com)

*Given the cost of living problems we will all be facing this winter and the huge pressures on social services and housing departments, this provision will be more vital than ever. Please consider giving a few hours of your time.*

#### Alyth's Monday Club

For over 40 years, Alyth's Monday Club has offered 12-16 members, of all ages, faiths, cultures and abilities, the chance to meet with their friends. It is an invaluable opportunity for friends to socialise in a safe environment.

There is a weekly programme of activities provided by professional facilitators. This includes art and crafts; drama; singing and music; storytelling; film night; exercise and music. Our guests meet in a safe and friendly environment, experience joy and are valued as an integral part of something special.

We would like to welcome more volunteers to ensure its continuing success.

There are two main ways in which you can volunteer:

- Assisting guests take part in the weekly club night; Mondays in term time (19:00-20:30)
- Driving our guests to and from Alyth from Edgware, Whetstone and Friern Barnet.

Please email [alythadmin@alyth.org.uk](mailto:alythadmin@alyth.org.uk) for more information or if you are interested in helping

**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.



### Weekly Learning

#### SMG

*Sundays 15, 22, 29 January (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.

#### Ruach 1 - 4

*Fridays 13, 20, 27 January (17:15-19:30)*

Our pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah programme delivered by our wonderful team of madrichim. 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.

### Drama Activities

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

*Thursdays 12, 19, 26 January (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 8, 15, 22, 29 January (18:00-20:00)*

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.

### Leadership Training

#### Year 9 Hadracha

*Tuesdays 10, 17, 24, 31 January (17:00-18:15)*

The start of our two year leadership programme for those in Year 9.

#### Mentor training

*Monday 9 January (17:30)*

Please email [ella@alyth.org.uk](mailto:ella@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

### Year 5 Bar/Bat Mitzvah date booking evening

**Thursday 26 January (20:00)**

Email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:abi@alyth.org.uk) for more information or [click here](#) to sign up.

### Feb Fun for Young Ones

**Monday 13 - Friday 17 February**

Feb Fun is for children aged 2 to 4. It will bring together all our members and is a chance to see friends from Alyth and to meet new people too.

Please [click here](#) for more information and to sign up.