

Summary of Community 'Talk Together' Conversations - November 2023

	The Now: Aspects of community life we want to celebrate and preserve.	The Future: Looking to the future, what would you expect to see if you walked into a thriving Alyth, if we're successful?
Inclusivity & Welcome	Both are core principle, with efforts to ensure that everyone feels a sense of belonging, love and acceptance., reflecting the community's commitment to creating a welcoming environment for all.	Continue to prioritise this as a central commitment of Alyth life. Use the new building creatively to foster a sense of belonging and welcome.
Prayer (tefillah)	Regarded as central to communal life, providing meaningful experiences through varied services that cater to different preferences and needs.	A unified desire to increase participation across all age groups, encouraging active involvement in community life. There was strong appreciation for the continued benefits of technology for enhancing community engagement and ensuring wider participation. Must strike a balance of where and how much it is used.
Learning	Widespread appreciation for the role of learning & study in fostering the growth in people's Jewish lives, offering a range of topics from religious texts to contemporary Jewish issues; which could extend to looking at them from a Jewish point of view.	Cultural and Educational Enrichment: Recognized as beneficial for providing diverse learning opportunities and cultural experiences to all age groups. An area that created much debate was members' desire for Alyth to offer a wider range of activities across Jewish study and social & cultural events.
Music	Recognized as a vital enriching aspect of community life, with both traditional and modern melodies that resonate with a diverse range of members. Seek a balance between more traditional and contemporary music, choir and guitar, reflecting diverse generational and cultural backgrounds.	Continue to develop the range of music in Alyth's communal life. Look for opportunities to extend the ways in which Alyth members can participate in music and song, especially in Prayer (tefillah).
Youth & Education Activities	Provision valued for its role in shaping the next generation, which is crucial for community continuity.	Continue to deliver excellence and be innovative, as part of the development of our existing programmes.
Intergenerational Communal Diversity	Alyth was celebrated for bringing varied perspectives and experiences, forms of prayer and range of activities, enhancing the richness of community life.	Increase participation across all age groups, encouraging active involvement in community life. Robust and appealing programs that continue to cater to members' diverse interests and Jewish needs.
Social Justice and Social Action	Acknowledgement of our clear sense of responsibility for ethical and moral action, and calls for members to act accordance with Progressive Jewish values. Alyth's role in social action and community involvement is an area of pride and importance	A shared recognition of the importance of social action and interfaith initiatives for continuing to strengthen the community's identity and impact in broader society. Strong appreciation of and wish for rabbis who are engaged with broader social issues and the wider Jewish community, and Israel; reflecting the community's committed to Progressive Jewish values.
Clergy Roles & Focus	There was strong appreciation expressed for the quality of leadership from our clergy, and the open, approachable way in which they bring themselves to communal life. Their creativity and dedication, their skill as educators, service leaders and in pastoral care.	Balance focus of Clergy roles with different emphases on pastoral care, learning and community engagement. Musical skill in the Clergy Team seen as vital to Alyth life that enhance the spiritual and communal aspects of services and events.
Leadership – Lay, Clergy, Professional	Appreciated for their guidance, knowledge, and ability to connect with members, playing a key role in shaping the community's character.	Recognized as beneficial for providing diverse learning opportunities and cultural experiences to all age groups. Members imagine a range of activities that draw people into the synagogue, including concerts, theatre, and educational programs.
New Building		The physical space of the synagogue is seen as a key component in fostering a sense of belonging and activity. People expressed hope for a variety of services that cater to different preferences while maintaining a sense of being 'one community'.
Role of Rabbinic Team in our future success.	Leadership and Teamwork: Full-time clergy team that is dynamic, collaborative, and capable of working cohesively and collaboratively.	
Qualities and Skills of a future appointment	Diversity of Skills: Understanding that a rabbinic team should possess a diverse set of skills, including educational expertise, pastoral care, and administrative capacity; compassion and articulate communication. Will support existing innovative approach to prayer and programming, keeping Alyth dynamic and relevant.	
	Intellectual Depth: Key requirement for delivering engaging sermons, leading discussions, and providing education across all age groups.	
	Inclusiveness: Clear desire expressed for a rabbinic team that represents and caters to a diverse congregation, with emphasis on the importance of gender and age mix, approachability, and relate well to diverse demographics across the community.	
	Adaptability to Change: Required in a rapidly changing world, the need for rabbis to be flexible and responsive to new challenges and opportunities, especially in the midst of changing demographics.	
	Pastoral Care & Empathy: Fundamental qualities for clergy, enabling them to provide support and guidance to members during both joyous and challenging times.	