

Around Alyth

April 2024



As we approach the month of Nissan, we begin the process of preparing for Pesach. We really hope you will be able to join us to celebrate this season in which we celebrate our freedom and look forward to a better world for all. Please see below, and inside for details of events at Alyth, and please let us know if you would like to be included in a first night seder in someone's home by contacting Lynette (lynette@alyth.org.uk).

Pesach at Alyth

First Day Pesach Services
Monday 22-Tuesday 23 April

Erev First Night Pesach
Monday 22 April 17:00-18:00

First Day Pesach
Tuesday 23 April
Choral Service (10:15)
Pesach Sensory (11:00)

Chol HaMoed Shabbat
Saturday 27 April

Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach
Saturday 27 April, 10:30

Communal S'darim
Tuesday 23 April

Family Seder Tea
16:00-17:30 Click [here](#) to book.

B'Yachad Communal Seder
19:00-22:00 Click [here](#) to book.

For further information, or to book over the phone, contact Deborah on 020 8457 8794.

Seventh Day Pesach
Sunday 28 April-Monday 29 April

Erev Seventh Day Study and Service
Sunday 28 April, 19:00-21:00

Seventh Day Pesach Service
Monday 29 April, 10:15

Please note the start time due to midweek parking restrictions.

Welcome to Rabbi Golan

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Rabbi Golan Ben-Chorin as Alyth's Principal Rabbi. Rabbi Golan joins us with over 25 years of experience serving in communal and wider rabbinic roles. He is the Founding Rabbi of the Rosh Pina Reform Congregation, has served as Director of Israel Programmes for the Leo Baeck College and as Rabbi at Temple Judea in Florida, and is the Founding Rabbi of the Peace Synagogue in Tbilisi, Georgia.

We are tremendously excited for the possibilities that will come to Alyth as he joins the Rabbinic Team alongside Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Elliott.

EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Friday at 18:30

Erev Shabbat Service (*Fridays 5, 12, 19, 26 April*)

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

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

In-Person and Online every Saturday

Saturday 6 April

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Elliott and Rabbi Josh. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Liana Heymann.

Shin Gi: Jewish Prayer in Motion, 10:30

Join Rabbi Golan to experience the fusion of Shin Gi (akin to Tai Chi) and Jewish prayer as a means of gaining new insight into T'filah. Practicing these ancient forms and meditations gives our bodies and souls a new way to understand and participate in prayer. Feel free to bring your tallit. No prior experience or particular expertise required. An open heart, free spirited soul & easy fitting clothes recommended.

Finishing in time to join the Beit Tefillah service for the sermon and conclusion.

Sensory Shabbat, 11:00

Join us for our Sensory Shabbat service. See 'Pray with us for Families' for more information.

Saturday 13 April

Shabbat Morning Choral Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Elliott with the Alyth choir, accompanied by piano and guitar. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Amelia Hyman.

Kolot, 10:30

Our informal, unaccompanied, participatory minyan. Led by Rabbi Golan and Justin Wise

Saturday 20 April

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Student Rabbi Eleanor and Justin Wise, accompanied by guitar. Including the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Bell.

Gesher, 11:00

Our musical service providing a bridge between our youngest family services and the next stage in Alyth families' prayer life.

Saturday 27 April

Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach Morning Choral Service, 10:30

A special Shabbat morning service for Chol HaMoed, the Shabbat during Pesach. Led by Rabbi Elliott with the Alyth Choir.

SUNDAY SHACHARIT

Sundays 7, 14, 21, 28 April (9:00)

Every Alyth week begins with a lay-led minyan with bagel breakfast at Alyth, led by Alyth members. All are welcome. Shacharit on 31 April will take place off-site, see the weekly email for the location.

PRAY WITH US FOR FAMILIES ON SHABBAT

Baby Den

Fridays 5, 12, 19, 26 April (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 Shabbat

Saturday 6 April (11:00)

Our Shabbat service designed to stimulate your babies' senses in the first years of their life. Join the team and the dungareenees in this service where you and your baby can touch, see, smell and hear your way through the service.

Gesher

Saturday 20 April (11:00)

Our musical service providing a bridge between our youngest family services and the next stage in Alyth families' prayer life.

Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron Commemorations

Yom Hashoah Commemoration Concert and Memorial Service (Sunday 5 May, 18:30)

Please join us for a very special evening as the Alyth Choral Society, conducted by Alison Smart Fisher, together with a Children's Choir from Alyth and St Mary-at-Finchley Parish Church, perform "Annelies" by James Whitbourn. First commissioned by the Jewish Music Institute, this piece tells the story of Anne Frank. The performance will take us through a moving vocal and visual journey. After the concert which starts at 18:30, there will be a short evening and memorial service at 20:15 in memory of all those who died during the Shoah. Spaces are limited and we advise you to book in as soon as possible by [clicking here](#).

Yom Hazikaron (Saturday 11 - Sunday 12 May 2024)

This year Yom Hazikaron (the day on which we remember Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism) will be particularly poignant and challenging for many in our community. At Alyth we want to ensure that as many of our members are able to participate in this act of communal remembrance in as many ways as possible. Therefore we will begin our commemoration early on Saturday 11 May at 19:00 with a special ritual that will incorporate music from Cantor Natalie Young, testimony from a survivor of the 7 October attacks, and the completion of a unique artwork that is being constructed by everyone in the community.

Rabbi Golan will then be leading a more traditional ma'ariv and memorial service as Yom Hazikaron comes in on Sunday 12 May at 19:30.

Please join us for this very important and timely weekend of remembrance and contemplation.

Mimouna for Young Adults

Sunday 29 April (19:00-21:00)

Join Rabbi Elliott to conclude Pesach with this traditional Maghrebi practice of gathering for a meal of all the leavened food we have denied ourselves for the last week. Pizza will be provided, but please bring your own glutenous dessert. Please [register here](#) so that we know how many to cater for and let us know if you need gluten free leaven!

Pesach at Alyth

First Day Pesach Services Monday 22-Tuesday 23 April

Erev First Night Pesach (Monday 22 April 17:00-18:00)

An early start Erev Pesach service with Student Rabbi Nicola.

If you would like help to find a seder to attend on the first night, or if you are happy to host someone, please contact Lynette at lynette@alyth.org.uk or 020 8457 8793.

First Day Pesach (Tuesday 23 April)

Choral Service (10:15)

Led by Rabbi Elliott, Rabbi Colin and the Alyth Choir.

Please note the start time due to midweek parking restrictions.

Pesach Sensory (11:00)

A special Pesach version of our service designed to stimulate your babies' senses in the first years of their life. Join the team and the dungareenees in this service where you and your baby can touch, see, smell and hear your way through the service.

Communal S'darim Tuesday 23 April

Family Seder Tea, 16:00-17:30

Join the Youth and Education Hub Team for a family seder, fun, games and activities. Contact hannahwood@alyth.org.uk for more information. This event needs to be booked in advance so that we know how many people to cater for. Click [here](#) to book.

B'Yachad Communal Seder 19:00-22:00

A special seder with song, spirit and all the warmth of Alyth. Includes a three course fish or vegetarian meal. Adults: £30, Children (up to age 16): £16 Click [here](#) to book.

For further information, or to book over the phone, please contact Deborah on 020 8457 8794.

Chol HaMoed and Seventh Day

Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach (Saturday 27 April, 10:30)

Led by Rabbi Elliott with the Alyth Choir.

Erev Seventh Day Study and Service (Sunday 28 April, 19:00-20:30)

Join Rabbi Elliott for our Erev 7th Day study and evening service. The evening will weave study into our traditional Erev Festival service, as we explore the pleasures and the dangers of studying together, through a number of Talmudic texts that address the presence of demons in the House of Study.

Seventh Day Pesach Service (Monday 29 April, 10:15)

A 7th Day Pesach Morning Shacharit service with our full musical repertoire, led by Rabbi Golan with the Alyth Choir. There will be a special supervised kids corner so adults can pray while their children are looked after, with a Family Breakout Service during the Torah service.

Please note the start time due to midweek parking restrictions.

Judaism: the Essentials

Tuesdays, 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 for more information.

2 Not just ritual - Jewish Ethics

9 Preparing for Pesach

We are also delighted to be joined at 19:30 by Janet Elf from the Jewish Book Service, who will be selling a number of Pesach-related books, including Haggadot you may want to include in your seders.

16 Learning Seder

23 No session

30 No session

Essentials returns on 7 May.

Adult Hebrew

Intensive Hebrew Reading Course

Tuesday 30 April, 19:00-19:45

For beginners, to learn the aleph-bet and basic decoding skills.

These sessions are taught by Alyth member Jan Roseman. Contact alythadmin@alyth.org.uk.

Hebrew Reading Course

Tuesday 30 April, 20:00-21:00

For those already proficient in Hebrew reading, to continue to develop their skills.

Biblical Hebrew

Sundays, 11:15-12:30 and Wednesdays 18:00-19:15

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. Sundays class is "Prayer Book Hebrew: studying the Hebrew and how it is translated" and Wednesdays class is "Biblical Hebrew: Studying the Weekly Parashah".

Pardes: One sentence of Mishnah, three weeks of Passover prep

Thursdays 4, 11, 18 April, 13:00-14:00

Can the Passover process, and possibly Judaism itself, be epitomised in one sentence? If you are curious about this and want to delve into the questions of commitment, the role of tradition and ethical dilemmas in this year's Pesach celebration join Rabbi Golan for soul searching, study and lively discussion.

4 What is tradition and where do we stand in it?

11 Do we commit? What then is liberty and the value of self reflection?

18 Ethical dilemmas in this year's Seder

The Alyth Chavruta Project

Thursdays 4 & 11 April (19:00)

The Alyth Chavruta Project returns in April and April for a six-week course in which we dive into a sugya of the Talmud that contains the famous teaching that Hillel does standing on one leg. Chavruta is a classical form of Jewish study, in which two people grapple with a text together. The Talmud declares, "Two students learning together sharpen one another". As well as the all-important "Golden Rule", this section contains a number of intriguing and often mystifying traditions and parables. Join us as we explore this most enigmatic and enriching text. All levels of experience are welcome. If you have someone in mind who you would like to study with, or if you would like us to try to find a study partner for you, please let us know. Text packs will be sent out on a Friday, and then we will join together as a group on Thursday evenings as a whole group. If you would like to receive the first text pack, please email Rabbi Elliott at elliott@alyth.org.uk, or check the Alyth website at alyth.org.uk/chevruta.

Shabbat Shiurim

Saturdays 6 & 20 April, 9:15-10:15

Are commandments & matza interchangeable?

Saturday 6 April

Prepare for your Seder through study of this week's additional Torah reading of Shabbat Hachodesh.

With Rabbi Golan.

Shabbat HaGadol: The Great Shabbat

Saturday 20 April

The Shabbat before Pesach is called 'Shabbat HaGadol,' 'The Great Shabbat.' But just what is it that makes this Shabbat, in particular, so 'great'?

With Rabbi Colin.

Imperial War Museum Outing

Sunday 21 April, 10:00-12:30

In advance of Yom HaShoah, a visit to the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. This will be an opportunity to learn about the history of the Shoah accompanied by some of our members with Holocaust stories.

This trip is primarily for members of the Essentials class but is open to all members of the community. To register [click here](#).

Board of Deputies for British Jews Elections 2024 – 2027 Triennium

Monday 15 April (19:15)

The Board of Deputies are a voice for the UK Jewish Community and are the first port of call for anyone seeking to understand its interests and concerns. Their Deputies power the work of the Board – from addressing and engaging with the issues of the day to contributing to policy development, locally, nationally and internationally. If you would like to stand to represent Alyth and be a Deputy, please [click here](#) and complete the Nominations Form so that we can have a conversation with you. Forms need to be returned by Monday 8 April. The election for Deputies will take place on Monday 15 April 2024 at 19:15 at a Special Meeting convened for this purpose. The meeting will be held on Zoom. [Click here](#) to see the Notice of the meeting.

Weekly

Monthly

Monday Club

Mondays 8 & 15 April 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.

Returns on 13 May.

Alyth Choral Society

Tuesdays 20:00-22:00

New members are always welcome to join the choir. We have two or three concerts a year, one with full orchestra. [Click here](#) or email alythchoralsociety@gmail.com if our future programme inspires you.

Mellow Chair Yoga for All Ages

Thursdays 4, 11, 18, 25 April 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 Rehearsals

Saturdays 13 & 27 April, 9:15-10:15

Rehearsing Alyth's choral repertoire for Shabbat Services.

Alyth Book Club

Monday 8 April, 18:30

Join us in-person at a members house with Miriam Halahmy, the author of "A Boy from Baghdad" and Alyth member. It is 1951 - Jews are forced to leave Iraq. 12 year old Salman Shasha is part of that exodus, thousands leaving homes and comfortable lives in Baghdad to settle in Israel. Jews went from a life of comfort and plenty in Iraq to one of discomfort, economic difficulty, Ashkenazi suspicion and discrimination in newly-established Israel. The Promised Land is not quite so full of promise. If you wish to come, please contact 07860 907779 for the address.

Alyth Cycling Community Bike Ride

Sunday 14 April, 8:15

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

Refugee Choir

Sunday 21 April, 13:30-14:30

This multi-faith, multicultural choir is open to refugees, Drop-in volunteers and the wider Alyth community.

Singing for Pleasure

Sunday 21 April, 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

Fridays 19 & 26 April, 17:00-18:00 (Online only)

JMM helps us to open our hearts and find peace through our spiritual heritage.

Fridays 5 & 12 April, 17:00-18:00 (hybrid)

The sessions on 5 & 12 April will be run from Alyth. Please join us in-person or online if you are unable to make it to the building [Click here](#) to make a donation towards the costs of employing the facilitators.

Songs & Scones: Monday Club Concert

Sunday 7 April 15:00-17:00

Join Janine Clements and friends for this special concert celebrating Alyth's Monday Club which has been providing a social space for adults with learning and other disabilities for over 40 years.

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

Part of the Alyth Friendship Project. Join us for an afternoon of entertainment, discussion, tea and great company! Annual Membership: £25 per person members; £30 per person non-members; Weekly donation: £3.50 members; £5.00 non-members. Contact Lynette for more information. All are welcome.

8 Piano and Violin Concert

Jeremy Chan, piano and Victoria Farrell-Reed, who is violinist with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra will perform amongst other pieces Beethoven.

15 Richard Cohen – Life and Times of Winston Churchill

Following his talk on the story of Tesco, Richard makes a return visit to talk about the Life and Times of Winston Churchill.

B'Yachad Lunch

Saturday 6 April

As part of the Alyth Friendship Project, a special lunch after the shabbat service. For catering purposes, please let Lynette know you are coming at lynette@alyth.org.uk or 020 8457 8793.

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

The Alyth Ramblers

Bank Holiday Ramble: Ardeley, Bennington and Walkern

Monday 1 April (10:00-15:00)

Pleasant and undemanding 7 mile walk through the Beane valley, mainly across fields and woodland passing through three attractive villages. Please bring packed lunch.

Matzah Ramble: Greys Court (near Henley)

Sunday 28 April (10:00-16:00)

An undulating 7 mile walk through beech woodlands and arable farmland. Including a visit to the glorious gardens of Grey's Court. Please bring a packed Pesadik lunch.

Alyth Ramble Weekend: South Downs and Chichester Harbour

14-17 May

For information or to register for any of our rambles, email vivienne.bellos@btinternet.com. Please give Viv your mobile number in case of cancellation or change of plans.

Composer-in-Residence in May: Cantor Natalie Young 10-12 May 2024

We are delighted to welcome Cantor Natali Young for an extended weekend of learning and singing together. Cantor Natalie is an internationally renowned composer and spiritual leader. The weekend will include: a special **Sing With Us** preceding the Erev Shabbat Service to learn new melodies to our traditional liturgy; a special **Erev Shabbat service** with songs and melodies that we already know, interwoven with Cantor Natalie's own compositions; a special **Shabbat morning service**, as we celebrate our choral musical tradition; and a **Saturday afternoon concert**, which will lead into our special **Yom Hazikaron memorial event**, for which Cantor Natalie will contribute to the music.

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

Weekly Learning

SMG

Sundays 21 & 28 April (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 19 & 26 April (17:15-19:30)

Our pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah programme delivered by our wonderful team of madrichim. 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 18 & 25 April (17:00-18:15)

Our drama group for Primary School aged children. The group rehearse all year and then perform the show in June 2024.

Academy of Performing Arts

Sunday 21 April (18:00-20:00)

A feature of the Alyth calendar for Secondary School aged children for over 20 years.

Please contact abi@alyth.org.uk to sign up or for any of our drama groups

Mentor Training

Tuesday 16 April (17:00-18:30)

Training our recent Bar and Bat Mitzvah cohort to be mentors at Ruach.

Contact abi@alyth.org.uk for more information.

SpringWAYS

Monday 8 - Wednesday 10 April (9:00-15:30)

SpringWAYS is our fantastic Primary aged Spring holiday scheme, bringing together all of our members from Reception to Year 6. SpringWAYS is a great introduction to Alyth's fun activities and a perfect way to spend the school holiday. Situated at Alyth, the scheme has a safe and homely environment, while giving us the flexibility to use our space in exciting and innovative ways. We'll be running a range of activities, from arts to sports, stories to songs and drama to games (and much, much more!). [Click here](#) to register and email hannahwood@alyth.org.uk for more information.