

Shabbat Emor

19 Iyyar 5785 / 16-17 May 2025

Erev Shabbat

18:30 ‬‬ ‬Erev Shabbat Service (in the Beit Tefillah)

Led by Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Elliott.

Shabbat Morning

9:15 ‬‬ ‬New Members Breakfast (in the front of the Leo Baeck Hall)

We are delighted that over 50 households have become part of the Alyth family from 2024 until now. Please join us for breakfast to meet one another, members of the Alyth team and clergy, along with our lay leadership.

10:30 ‬‬ ‬Shabbat Morning Service with Guitar (in the Beit Tefillah)

Led by Rabbi Hannah and accompanied by Gideon Lyons on guitar.

The Torah will be read by Felix Lewis.

The Sermon will be given by Rabbi Hannah.

There will be an unsupervised kids corner.

10:30 ‬‬ ‬Kollot (in the Cecil Rosen Hall)

Our informal, unaccompanied, participatory minyan.

Led by Rabbi Elliott.

The Torah will be read by Edward Gold.

The D'var Torah will be given by Joe Grabiner

There will be an unsupervised kids corner.

Additional Songs and Readings for Shabbat

Ya’aloz Sadai

Words: Psalm 96:12 / Music: Yoel Sykes and Navot ben Barak

יַעֲלוּ שְׂדֵי וְכַל־אֲשֶׁר־בוֹ אֲזַ יִרְנְנוּ כָּל־עֵצֵי־יַעַר:

Ya'aloz sadai v'chol asher bo, az y'rann'nu kol atsei ya'ar.

Let the field be glad and all within it, let all trees of the forest sing out

Rom’mu

Words: Psalm 99:9 / Music: Daphna Rosenberg

רוֹמְמוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְהִשְׁתַּחֲווּ לְהַר קֹדֶשׁוֹ

כִּי־קֹדֶשׁ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ:

Rom’mu Adonai eloheinu, v'hishtachavu l'har kodsho, ki kadosh Adonai eloheinu

Exalt the Eternal our God, bow down before God’s holy mountain,

for holy is the Eternal our God.

Bo’i khallah

Music: Lior Ben Hur & Sol Tevel

בוֹאִי כָלָה פָּנֵי שַׁבָּת נִקְבְּלָה, לְכָה דוֹדֵי לְקִרְאָת כָּלָה, לְכָה דוֹדֵי פָנֵי שַׁבָּת

נִקְבְּלָה

Bo'i khallah, bo'i khallah, p'nei Shabbat n'kab'lah, bo'i khallah, bo'i khallah, bo'i khallah

L'chah dodi, l'chah dodi likrat kalla, p'nei Shabbat n'kab'lah

Come, my bride, to welcome in the Shabbat eve.

Come, my friend, to greet the bride, to welcome in the Shabbat eve.

Nachman of Bratslav’s Prayer for Peace

May it be Your will, Eternal God, that war and bloodshed be abolished from the world, that a great and wondrous peace rule forever; that never again shall nation lift up sword against nation, and never again shall they train for war. But may all who dwell on the earth recognize and understand the basic truth: that we have not come into this world for strife and division, nor for hate and jealousy, contrariness and bloodshed; but we have come into this world to recognize and know You, may You be blessed forever.

A Prayer for the Release of Captives

Words: based on the words of Kol Haneshamah Reform Congregation, Jerusalem

God of Abraham, the first who risked his life for the release of captives. God of Moses, Miriam and Aaron, whose words and actions brought us out of slavery. God of Elijah, who was comforted through his deep despair, by Your still small voice. Be with those everywhere who are enslaved and captive. We wait and pray in hope that they will be returned to their loved ones. In this time of uncertainty, grant strength and resilience to them and their families. Give wisdom, courage and conviction to all those working to bring them home. Help us to understand what we too can do to support those in distress.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם מְתִיר אֲסוּרִים:

Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam matir asurim.

Blessed are You our Living God, who frees captives.

Ana El Na

Words: based on Numbers 12:13 / Music: Daphna Rosenberg and Naveh Agmon

אָנָּא אֵל נָא רַפָּא נָא לָהּ

Ana El na, r’fa na la

Please God, please bring healing.

Counting the Omer

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ עַל סִפְרֵית הָעֵמָר:

Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kidd'shanu b'mitsvotav v'tsivanu al s'firat ha-omer.

Blessed are You, our Living God, Sovereign of the universe, whose commandments make

us holy and who commands us to count the Omer.

הַיּוֹם אַרְבָּעָה וּשְׁלֹשִׁים יוֹם שֶׁהֵם אַרְבָּעָה שָׁבוּעוֹת וְשֵׁשָׁה יָמִים לַעֲמֹר

Hayom arba'ah u-shloshim yom, sh'hem arba'ah shavuot v'shishah yamim la'omer.

Today is the thirty-fourth day, making four weeks and six days of the Omer.

Hineh Ma Tov

Words: Psalm 133:1 / Music: Elana Arian

הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב וּמַה־נָּעִים שַׁבָּת אַחִים גַּם־יַיַּחֵד:

Hineh ma tov uma na'im shevet achim gam Yachad

How good it is (How good it is);

How sweet it is (How sweet it is);

To be together on this day

Shalom aleichem, salaam aleikum

How good it is and how pleasant when brothers live in unity together.

Torah Portion for Shabbat Emor

Leviticus 21:1-15

^א וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אָמַר אֶל־הַכֹּהֲנִים בְּנֵי אַהֲרֹן וְאֶמְרַת אֲלֵהֶם לִנְפֹשׁ לֹא־יִטְמָא בְּעַמְּיוֹ: ^ב כִּי אִם־לְשֹׂארוֹ הִקְרַב אֵלָיו לְאָמֵן וּלְאָבִיו וּלְבִנּוֹ וּלְבִתּוֹ וּלְאִחֵיו: ^ג וְלֹא־חָתָן הִבְתּוּלָה הִקְרוּבָה אֵלָיו אֲשֶׁר לֹא־הָיְתָה לְאִישׁ לָהּ יִטְמָא: ^ד לֹא יִטְמָא בָּעַל בְּעַמְּיוֹ לְהַחֲלוֹ:

¹God said to Moses: Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: None shall defile himself for any [dead] person among his kin, ²except for the relatives that are closest to him: his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, and his brother; ³also for a virgin sister, close to him because she has not become someone's [wife], for her he may defile himself. ⁴But he shall not defile himself as a kinsman by marriage, and so profane himself.

^ה לֹא־יִקְרַחַהּ [יִקְרַחַתּוּ] קְרַחָהּ בְּרֹאשׁם וּפֹאֵת וְזָקֵם לֹא יִגְלַחוּ וּבִבְשָׁרָם לֹא יִשְׁרְטוּ שְׂרָטָת: ^ו קֹדֶשִׁים יִהְיוּ לֹא־לְהִיָּהֶם וְלֹא יַחֲלִלוּ שֵׁם אֱלֹהֵיהֶם כִּי אֶת־אִשִּׁי יִהְיֶה לָחֶם אֱלֹהֵיהֶם הֵם מְקַרְיָבִם וְהָיוּ קֹדֶשׁ: ^ז אִשָּׁה זִנָּה וַחֲלָלָה לֹא יִקְחוּ וְאִשָּׁה גְרוּשָׁה מֵאִישָׁה לֹא יִקְחוּ כִּי־קֹדֶשׁ הוּא לֵאלֹהֵיו: ^ח וְקִדַּשְׁתּוּ כִּי־אֶת־לָחֶם אֱלֹהֵיךְ הוּא מְקַרְיָב קֹדֶשׁ יִהְיֶה־לְךָ כִּי קֹדֶשׁ אָנִי יְהוָה מְקַדְשְׁכֶם: ^ט וּבַת אִישׁ כִּהֵּן כִּי תַחַל לְזִנוּת אֶת־אָבִיהָ הִיא מַחֲלֵלַת בָּאֵשׁ תִּשְׂרָף:

⁵They shall not shave smooth any part of their heads, or cut the side-growth of their beards, or make gashes in their flesh. ⁶They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God; for they offer God's offerings by fire, the food of their God, and so must be holy. ⁷They shall not take [into their household as their wife] a woman defiled by harlotry, nor shall they take one divorced from her husband. For they are holy to their God ⁸and you must treat them as holy, since they offer the food of your God; they shall be holy to you, for I God who sanctify you am holy. ⁹When the daughter of a priest defiles herself through harlotry, it is her father whom she defiles; she shall be put to the fire.

י וְהִכְהֵן הַגְּדוֹל מֵאָחָיו אֲשֶׁר־יּוּצֵק עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ שֶׁמֶן הַמִּשְׁחָה וּמִלֹּא אֶת־יָדוֹ לְלִבֵּשׁ אֶת־הַבְּגָדִים אֶת־רֹאשׁוֹ לֹא יַפְרֹעַ וּבִגְדָיו לֹא יַפְרֹם: ^א וְעַל כָּל־נִפְשָׁת מֵת לֹא יָבֵא לְאָבִיו וּלְאָמֵן לֹא יִטְמָא: ^ב וּמִן־הַמְּקֹדֶשׁ לֹא יֵצֵא וְלֹא יַחֲלִל אֶת מְקֹדֶשׁ אֱלֹהָיו כִּי נִזָּר שֶׁמֶן מִשְׁחַת אֱלֹהָיו עָלָיו אָנִי יְהוָה: ^ג וְהָיָא אִשָּׁה בִּבְתוּלָיָה יִקַּח: ^ד אֲלֻמְנָה וּגְרוּשָׁה וַחֲלָלָה זִנָּה אֶת־אִלָּהּ לֹא יִקַּח כִּי אִם־בְּתוּלָה מִעַמְּיוֹ יִקַּח אִשָּׁה: ^ה וְלֹא־יַחֲלִל וְרָעוּ בְּעַמְּיוֹ כִּי אָנִי יְהוָה מְקַדְּשׁוֹ:

¹⁰The priest who is exalted above his fellows, on whose head the anointing oil has been poured and who has been ordained to wear the vestments, shall not bare his head or rend his vestments. ¹¹He shall not go in where there is any dead body; he shall not defile himself even for his father or mother. ¹²He shall not go outside the sanctuary and profane the sanctuary of his God, for upon him is the distinction of the anointing oil of his God, Mine God's. ¹³He may take [into his household as his wife] only a woman who is a virgin. ¹⁴A widow, or a divorced woman, or one who is degraded by harlotry—such he may not take. Only a virgin of his own kin may he take as his wife— ¹⁵that he may not profane his offspring among his kin, for God I have sanctified him.

Haftarah

Ezekiel 44:15-24

But the levitical priests descended from Zadok, who maintained the service of My Sanctuary when the people of Israel went astray from Me—they shall approach Me to minister to Me; they shall stand before Me to offer Me fat and blood—declares the Eternal God. ¹⁶They alone may enter My Sanctuary and they alone shall approach My table to minister to Me; and they shall keep My charge. ¹⁷And when they enter the gates of the inner court, they shall wear linen vestments: they shall have nothing woolen upon them when they minister inside the gates of the inner court. ¹⁸They shall have linen turbans on their heads and linen breeches on their loins; they shall not gird themselves with anything that causes sweat. ¹⁹When they go out to the outer court—the outer court where the people are—they shall remove the vestments in which they minister and shall deposit them in the sacred chambers; they shall put on other garments, lest they make the people consecrated by [contact with] their vestments. ²⁰They shall neither shave their heads nor let their hair go untrimmed; they shall keep their hair trimmed. ²¹No priest shall drink wine when he enters into the inner court. ²²They shall not marry widows or divorced women; they may marry only virgins of the stock of the House of Israel, or widows who are widows of priests. ²³They shall declare to My people what is sacred and what is profane, and inform them what is clean and what is unclean. ²⁴In lawsuits, too, it is they who shall act as judges; they shall decide them in accordance with My rules. They shall preserve My teachings and My laws regarding all My fixed occasions; and they shall maintain the sanctity of My sabbath.

Coming up at Alyth

WHAT I HEARD AT SINAI

A TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

SUNDAY 1 JUNE, ALYTH SYNAGOGUE

JOIN OUR COMMUNITIES TO STUDY THROUGH (MOST OF) THE NIGHT, AS WE EXPLORE THE TOPICS THAT FACE US IN OUR WORLD, AND THE LESSONS WE LEARNED ABOUT THEM AT SINAI.

16:00 - FAMILY ACTIVITIES

19:00 - LEARNING SESSIONS BEGIN

19:45 - DINNER (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

20:45 - KEYNOTE SPEAKER, RABBI DAHLIA SHAHAM

21:15 - EREV SHAVUOT SERVICE AND LEARNING SESSIONS CONTINUE IN PARALLEL

00:00 - COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN



Shavuot Morning

- Monday 2 June
- After a full evening of study, please join us for a morning of learning and prayer
- 07:45 Heathboddedit
 - 09:15 Chavruta over breakfast
 - 10:15 Shavuot Morning Choral Service
 - 10:50 Blessing our children
 - 11:00 Sensory Shavuot

Join Us for a Conversation About Fundraising at Alyth...

Sunday 1 June, Sunday 8 June & Tuesday 10 June

As we move forward with fundraising to fill and fund our beautiful new building, we'd love to hear your thoughts.

We're inviting members of the Alyth family to join small group conversations to hear about our fundraising to date, share thoughts on what we're doing and ideas on what we should do as we move forward. Your voice and perspective will be incredibly valuable. Join us at one of three groups which will take place on Sunday 1 June (10:30), Sunday 8 June (10:30) and Tuesday 10 June (19:30) at Alyth. To join in the conversation, please email Sarah on sarah@alyth.org.uk or call 020 8457 8787.

Alyth’s Israel Education Programme

Thursdays 5, 12, 19 June & 3 July

We are delighted to offer our community the opportunity to learn from a number of individuals and organisations in Israel about the reality on the ground and understand the situation from within, hearing from a number of different perspectives.

Secret Cinema

Saturday 7 June 15:00 - 18:00

Please join us for an afternoon of games, adventures, snacks and immersive cinema all right here at Alyth. This is an exclusive social event for school years Reception, 1 and 2. Expect to see friends old and new. Please contact izzie@alyth.org.uk for more information.

Registration For Alyth Academy of Performing Arts 2026 Is Open!

Academy is our famous drama group which has been running for 32 years. Every year we work towards putting on a musical, hiring lights and staging, with a professional Musical Director and director/choreographer. Past productions include Bugsy Malone; Little Shop of Horrors; High School Musical; Some Like it Hot; Me and My Girl; Anything Goes; Guys and Dolls and Legally Blonde, to name just a few! The group is excellent for teenagers’ social lives and is a hugely important part of character and confidence building, as well as a great addition to any CV. Term starts on Sunday 14 September and runs every Sunday during term time from 6-8pm for years 8-13. The deadline for signing up is **Friday 15 August** and we welcome everyone (members and non-members). Please contact abi@alyth.org.uk to register.

Community News

Alyth is built on a foundation of mutual care, in which we share one another’s joys and sorrows, and accompany one another through our life journeys.

On this Shabbat we celebrate with:

Felix Lewis, who is reading Torah for the first time in our Shabbat morning service to celebrate becoming Bar Mitzvah

Jessica Saffer and Daniel Greene, on the baby blessing of their son Lior, a brother for Coby

Lucy Roiter and Josh Singer, who are reading haftarah to celebrate their recent marriage and celebrate her 40th birthday

Daniella and Jonathan Blausten, on the birth of their son, Theo Joshua, a grandson for Caroline and Simon Blausten

Adam and Hannah Savinson, on the birth of their son, a brother for Max and grandson for Paul and Sarah Langsford

Gloria Abramoff, for her Emmy award nomination for The Commandant’s Shadow

Lucie Kon, for her Emmy award nominations for We Shall Dance Again

We regret to announce the death of:

Mayer Melihy, father of Eric Melihy, Noga Klinghoffer, Janette Brazil, Yvonne Melihy and Ronnie Melihy

Ivor Richards, father of Mark, Paul, Judi and David

We join with those marking the anniversary of the death of a loved one:

Gerald Abrahams, father of Barry Abrahams

Sydney Brown, father of David Brown

Tatyana Burina, mother of Olga Sherman

Dorrie Cohen, mother of Eve Goldstein

Jacob Erban, grandson of Eunice Kossoff

Gaston Henry Florin, father of Andrew Pomiankowski

Sam Gerber, father of Deanna Francken

William Gold, father of Paul Gold

Peter Gordon, stepfather of Lucie Kon

Michael Jaffa, son of Ronald Jaffa and Lorna Jaffa

Sheila Kaye, mother of Geraldine Saunders

Alan Lee, father of Sarah Lennard

Brian Levi, father of Antony Levi

Seymour Lewis, father of Laurence Lewis

Wilfred Merkel, father of Bernard Merkel

Roy Morris, father of Judy Blendis and Anthony Morris

Michael Myers, father of Deborah Kahn-Harris

Joseph Orden, father of Lucille Leader

Freda Parnes, mother of Steven Parnes

Donald Philips, brother of Sheila Curtis

Stanley Pinner, father of Claire Raphael

Misha Raitzin, father of Marina Newington

Werner Teichner, father of Frances Heymann

Pearl Tham, mother of Nira Stern

Sam Twivy, father of Paul Twivy

Patricia Weston, mother of Suzanne Simpkin

Daisy Zilouf, mother of Darla Rosen

Contact Us

Adam Martin	Community Director adam@alyth.org.uk; 020 8457 8789
Lynette Chazen	Head of Community Care and Life Cycle Designated Safeguarding Lead lynette@alyth.org.uk; 020 8457 8793
Sam Heller	Head of Member Engagement sam@alyth.org.uk; 020 8457 8796
Rabbinic Team	Rabbi Hannah Kingston, Rabbi Elliott Karstadt, Rabbi Colin Eimer, Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang Rabbi Josh Levy (Emeritus)