

Around Alyth

November 2025



Meet the NIF Winners

Friday 31 October (17:15)



We are delighted to welcome one of this year's UKNIF Human Rights Award recipients, Hanan Alsanah - Director of Itaach Maaki - Women Lawyers for Social Justice, multi-award winning (including recently from Israel's President Herzog) and a Bedouin activist with a range of experience with Palestinian NGOs (within Israel).

Launch of Alyth's Lecture Series

Starting Thursday 13 November (20:00)



Speakers include:

Thursday 13 November: Tim Franks in conversation with Peter Hyman

Thursday 20 November: Laura Marks, founder of Mitzvah Day.

Thursday 27 November: Nigel Leskin and Sonia Routledge from Birnberg Pierce Solicitors

Thursday 4 December: Criminal Law Barrister Carolina Guiloff
For further information, please see inside Around Alyth.

Rabbi Ron Kronish

Friday 14 November (17:15)



We look forward to welcoming Rabbi Ron Kronish, who will be our guest on Friday 14 November. Founding Director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI), Ron Kronish is now an independent scholar, educator, speaker and writer. He has lived in Jerusalem since 1979. His most recent book is *Profiles in Peace* (2022). There will be an opportunity to meet Rabbi Ron before the service at 17:15, and he will give the Dvar Torah in our Erev Shabbat service.

Mitzvah Day

To celebrate Mitzvah Day's 20th anniversary, we are excited to announce a week of activities in the lead up to Sunday 23 November.

We start the week with a concert on **Sunday 16 November** at 15:00 celebrating all the Alyth choirs (including the Community Choir, Singing for Pleasure, Refugee Choir, AYS Alumni and Interfaith Choirs from St Mary's and the Ismailis community ensemble, as well as performances from our drama groups). Throughout the week there will be opportunities to donate to a food bank and cooking for our Winter Shelter. Culminating on **Sunday 23 November** with an intergenerational morning bake-in.

New Member's Breakfast

Saturday 15 November, 9:15

We are delighted to have welcomed over 100 new members since January 2025. Thank you for being with us. If you have recently joined the community, please join us for breakfast before the service on Shabbat morning 15 November. This will be an opportunity to meet one another and members of the Alyth team and lay leadership. Please let sam@alyth.org.uk know you are joining.

Pray With Us

November 2025

Erev Shabbat Services

In-Person and Online every Friday (18:30)

Erev Shabbat Service (Fridays 7, 14, 21, 28 November)

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 1 November

Romm'mu, 10:30

A space where our kids and parents can get to know one another as they prepare to enter the next stage of their children's lives at Alyth - the lead up to B'nei Mitzvah. Led by Rabbi Hannah and Hannah Kieve.

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Elliott including the Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Rose.

Sensory Havdalah Service, 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 the dungareenees for Havdalah where our youngest members can wave goodbye to Shabbat and prepare to start the week anew. Feel free to wear your PJs!

Saturday 8 November

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Hannah and Hannah Kieve with guitar, including the Bat Mitzvah of Stella Portner.

Kollot, 10:30

Our informal, unaccompanied, participatory minyan. Led by Rabbi Elliott and Justin Wise, with members of the community reading and teaching Torah.

Saturday 15 November

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Hannah with Gideon Lyons, with guitar, including the Bar Mitzvah of Ziggy Brodtkin.

Wellbeing Shacharit, 10:30

Our occasional service in which we have the opportunity to reflect on our own wellbeing with prayer, song, and readings. Led by Lynette Chazen.

Gesher, 11:00

Our musical service providing a bridge between our youngest family services and the next stage in Alyth families' prayer life. Led by Rabbi Elliott, Izzie and Eszter.

Saturday 22 November

Shabbat Morning Service, 10:30

Led by Rabbi Elliott with the Alyth Choir including the Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Winner.

Imrei Finu, 10:30

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

Saturday 29 November

Led by Rabbi Nicola with the Alyth choir, with members of the community.

Eco Shabbat

Saturday 15 November, 9:15

Alyth is a proud member of Eco Judaism, leading the Jewish Community's response to climate change. Eco Shabbat runs on the weekend of COP30 and is an opportunity for our community to engage in the conversation, to learn, discuss and commit to improving our sustainability. This shabbat will be marked with a guest sermon from a member of the Alyth Green team and a special kiddush.

Around Alyth in November

A New Opportunity to Study—in Partnership with Leo Baeck College

Monday Evenings in November and December (19:00-20:30)

Mondays 10, 17, 24 November and 1, 8, 15 December

We are partnering with the Leo Baeck College Lehrhaus to offer a new course, going into depth into a section of Talmud. Meeting on Monday evenings, online, there will be the chance to study in pairs or small groups. For those who are part of our chavruta group, this will be familiar, but there is no expectation that you will study the texts between sessions.

Together we will be considering a section from the Babylonian Talmud that poses the questions: *Is there such a thing as a Jewish dogma? Is there anything I must believe to be Jewish?* Join Rabbi Elliott to delve into a section of the Talmud that tackles these question, and gives us some surprising answers.

Alyth members will be able to access the course for free, but you are asked to register [here](#) (this is particularly important if you want to attend online as only registered participants will receive the Zoom link).

November Lecture Series Starting 13 November (20:00)

We are delighted to be bringing you a series of lectures throughout November, launching on 13 November.

Thursday 13 November: **Tim Franks** is the presenter of Newshour on the flagship news and current affairs programme on BBC World Service radio. His new book is *The Lines we Draw: The Journalist, the Jew, and an Argument about Identity*, and tells the story of his Jewish ancestors through the lens of what he has learned through journalism. Tim will be interviewed by Alyth member Peter Hyman.

Thursday 20 November: **Laura Marks CBE** is the founder of Mitzvah Day, which celebrates its twentieth year in 2025. She co founded Nisa-Nashim and the Women's Faith Forum both of which focus on bridge building, as well working on an independent commission on Community and Cohesion which is arguably at rock bottom. She was chair of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust 2016-2025.

Thursday 27 November: **Nigel Leskin and Sonia Routledge** from Birnberg Pierce Solicitors to host a Q&A session around immigration and the myths surrounding the subject.

Thursday 4 December: **Carolina Guilloff** is a barrister who specialises in Criminal Defence. Called to the Bar in 1996, she is ranked as a leading individual in Legal 500, Crime.

Actor Elliot Levey will join us in the New Year to talk about his role in the West End Play, Giant.

Please let Sam (sam@alyth.org.uk) know if there are any speakers you would like to hear from or for more information.

Judaism: the Essentials

Tuesdays (20:00-21:30ish)

Our regular introduction to Judaism class taught by our clergy. 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.

Essentials in November will be focused on a new course on the Jewish Textual Tradition.

04/11
11/11
18/11
25/11

NO ESSENTIALS
Introduction, What's in the bible?
Authorship and authority
Different genres in biblical texts
and how they are used

Adult Hebrew

Intensive Hebrew Reading Course

Tuesdays 11, 18, 25 November 19:00)

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

Hebrew Reading Course

Tuesdays 11, 18, 25 November (20:00)

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

These two courses are taught by Alyth member Jan Roseman. Contact elliott@alyth.org.uk.

Translating the Siddur

Sundays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 November (11:15-12:30) and Wednesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 November (8:00-19:15)

A programme for those with high level Hebrew reading ability. Email edwardjgold@hotmail.com if you would like to join. Sunday's class is "Prayer Book Hebrew: studying the Hebrew and how it is translated" and Wednesday's class is "Biblical Hebrew: Studying the Weekly Parashah".

Shabbat Shiur: "A Lot of Trouble"

Saturday 8 November (9:15 - 10:15)

Please join Rabbi Nicola for this morning's Shiur where we will discuss the story and character of Lot, Abraham's nephew.

Pardes:

Thursdays 6, 13, 20, 27 November (13:00-14:00)

Pardes returned in October with a new and exciting venture: with our Alyth rabbis and other visiting clergy, we will be working our way through the Torah week-by-week, delving into the parashah from a number of different perspectives. As part of this study we will also consider how the Torah reading relates to the weekly haftarah reading from our Progressive Calendar of Readings. Please join us for this exciting new year-long project. This month, Pardes will be taught by Rabbi Elliott, Rabbi Nicola and Rabbi Colin.

SUNDAY SHACHARIT

Sundays 2, 9, 16, 23, 29 November
(9:00)

Every Alyth week begins with a lay-led minyan with bagel breakfast at Alyth, led by Alyth members. All are welcome.

Weekly

Monday Club

Mondays 3, 17, 24 November 19:00-20:30

A friendly in-person meeting place for people with learning and other disabilities. For more information or to let us know you will be attending, please email lynette@alyth.org.uk.

Alyth Choral Society

Tuesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 November 19:30-21:30

We have two or three concerts a year, one with full orchestra. New members always welcome. [Click here](#) or email acs@alyth.org.uk if our future programme inspires you.

Monthly

Alyth Cycling Community Bike Ride

Sundays 2 and 9 November, 8:15

Bringing riders of all abilities together to enjoy cycling and conversation. For more information, please contact laurancemendoza@aol.com. Sunday 9 November is the annual remembrance Sunday ride meeting at West Hampstead fire station at 8.20am.

Rainbow Lunch

Sunday 9 November, 12:30-14:30

A lunch for LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers, where they are offered food, friendship and a safe place to be themselves. If you would like to learn more about volunteering for the Rainbow lunch, email elliott@alyth.org.uk.

Refugee Choir

Sunday 2 November, 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 2 November, 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.

Monthly JMM

1st Friday of the month 17:00-18:00

Welcome in Shabbat with us in a peaceful and reflective environment. Free of charge. All welcome.

Alyth Book Club

Monday 3 November (18:30)

The Guardian weekend section has a page - "The Books of My Life" - where an author responds to various questions.

For our November meeting we hope we can have a similar session.

These are the questions:

- My earliest reading memory
- My favourite book growing up
- The book that changed me as a teenager
- The book or author I came back to
- The book I reread

- The book I could never reread
- The book I discovered later in life
- The book I am currently reading
- My comfort read

We hope you will be happy to reflect with us on some - or all - of those questions.

Contact Rabbi Colin: colin@alyth.org.uk for more information.

December's book club is on 1 December at 18:30. The book: "The End of Days" by Jenny Erpenbeck. Winner of the 2015 Independent Foreign Fiction Prize.

The Alyth Social

Mondays in November (14:00 – 16:00)

Part of the Alyth Friendship Project. Join us for an afternoon of entertainment, discussion, tea and great company! Contact lynette@alyth.org.uk for more information. All are welcome.

3 Louise Heilbron has the Answer!

Do you have a passport? How much do you know about it? You may be surprised by what you don't know. Louise returns with some very interesting facts.

10 The Titanic—Fascinating Stories Behind the Maritime Disaster

John Plews is a self-confessed Titanic rack and has researched the White Line's infamous tragedy in depth. He will share some of his findings with us.

17 Salome Jordania

Award-winning Georgian pianist, Salome played for us at one of our Music afternoon's earlier this year and left everyone overawed with her talent.

24 Bringing Generations Together 13:15

We know that the younger generation can learn from their elders, but those of more advanced years can also benefit hugely from spending time with children. Alyth Social has joined forces with Alyth Kindergarten to bring the generations together to have fun and learn together. This Month: Trees

24 Debra Brunner Returns

Further to her talk earlier this year, Debra from The Together Plan, will talk more about her invaluable work in Belarus and the recently established Memorial to the Jews who lived there and what the future holds.

B'YACHAD

Saturday 1 November (12:30—14:00)

Join us for the Shabbat morning service followed by lunch together. For catering purposes and to book, please contact lynette@alyth.org.uk. Voluntary donation of £5.

Last Chance to Book: Alyth Trip to Poland

Wednesday 29 April—Sunday 3 May 2026

We are running a four day educational and meaningful trip to Krakow and its surrounding areas. Offered in partnership with J-Roots and the Krakow Progressive Jewish Community, we will visit a number of sites, including a day in Auschwitz. Four star accommodation, full coach travel, educator and guide all included - Cost for 20 - 25 people £1,650pp; 25 - 30 people £1,550pp. Excludes flights and travel insurance. For further details and to sign up, please email: lynette@alyth.org.uk.

Alyth Productions

Tuesdays 4, 11, 18, 25 November (20:00 – 22:00)

We are delighted to be launching: Alyth Productions—an adult amateur dramatic group at Alyth. We will be working with our member and director Ellen Scannell and our Head of Music Hannah Kieve. Cost: £450 for Alyth members for September—March. Show date is Sunday 22 March 2026. Email sam@alyth.org.uk for more information and [click here](#) to sign up. If you need financial assistance, please email the Clergy Participation Fund: clergyfund@alyth.org.uk confidentially. This years show is Stepping Out!

Learn With Us: Youth and Education

November 2025

Weekly Learning

SMG

Sundays 9, 16, 23, 30 November (10:00-12:00)

Our Jewish education programme for Reception to Year 6. [Click here](#) to enrol into SMG.

Ruach 1 - 4

Fridays 7, 14, 21, 28 November (17:15-19:30)

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

Drama Activities

Alyth Children's Theatre (ACT)

Thursdays 6, 13, 20, 27 November (17:00-18:15)

Our drama group for primary school aged children. [Click here](#) to register. This year's show is Matilda!

Academy of Performing Arts

Sundays 9, 16, 23, 30 November (17:00-20:00)

Academy is our famous youth drama group which has been running for 32 years. For years 8-13. Please [click here](#) to register. This year's show is Bye Bye Birdie.

Contact izzie@alyth.org.uk for more information about either group.

Baby Den

Fridays 7, 14, 21, 28 November (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. Email hannah@alyth.org.uk for more information.

Year 5-6 Secret Cinema

Saturday 15 November (17:00 - 20:00)

Join us for an evening of games, adventures, dinner, and immersive cinema. This is a social event where you can expect to see friends old and new. The movie is a secret for now, but look at the flyer to get some clues and sign up using this [link](#) if you would like your child to participate. Contact eszter@alyth.org.uk for more information.

Year 7 Bowling

Saturday 29 November (16:00)

Our annual bowling trip for year 7's as they bond and socialise ahead of their B'nei Mitzvah. Contact eszter@alyth.org.uk for more information.

Save the Date: Year 6 Chavurah Supper

Friday 16 January 2025

An opportunity for year 6's and their families to meet each other at the start of their B'nei Mitzvah journey. Contact eszter@alyth.org.uk for more information.