

# Around Alyth

October 2025



## HIGH HOLY DAYS IN OCTOBER

### Kol Nidre

Wednesday 1 October

### Yom Kippur

Thursday 2 October

[Click here](#) for the Yom Kippur in detail booklet.

### Erev Sukkot

Monday 6 October

### Sukkot

Tuesday 7 October

### Erev Simchat Torah

Monday 13 October

### Simchat Torah

Tuesday 14 October

Mazel Tov to our Chatan Torah, Jason Kosky, and our Kallat B'reishit, Tracey Kieve. We look forward to celebrating all you have brought to our community over Simchat Torah.

## Holding Liat Sunday 5 October (19:00 -22:00)

### HOLDING LIAT



Holding Liat is a powerful documentary about Liat Atzili's family's struggle for her release from captivity in Gaza, and the aftermath of 7 October from the perspectives of people committed to humanity and peace. Winner of Best Documentary at the 2025 Berlin International Film Festival, the film will be screened in partnership with NIF.

Following the film there will be a discussion with the film makers.

## Launch of Alyth's Lecture Series Thursday 6 November (20:00)



We are delighted to be bringing you a series of lectures throughout November. These will be running on Thursday evenings from 8pm at Alyth. We are very excited that our first lecture will be with actor Elliot Levey who just finished his run in the stage adaptation of Giant in the West End. Elliot played Tom Maschler, the Jewish publisher for Roald Dahl. He won an Olivier Award for best supporting actor for this role. Elliot will be interviewed by our member Annie Marcuson who has just finished her role in Benjamin Button in the West End, about the complexity of playing this role as a practicing Progressive Jew. As Elliot is currently waiting for his filming schedule, this evening is subject to change date, but Elliot is committed to coming and sharing his journey with Alyth. We will be in touch if the date changes. Contact [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) to sign up.

# Pray With Us

October 2025

## Erev Shabbat Services

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

### *Erev Shabbat Service (Fridays 3, 10 17, 24, 31 October)*

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 4 October*

#### **Romm'mu, 10:00**

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. This service will be a shacharit together, followed by a breakout Torah service peulah for our kids. During the peulah, adults are invited to either join our other services, or to study over coffee some of the themes arising from the parasha. Led by Rabbi Hannah, Rabbi Elliott and Eszter.

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

Led by Rabbi Nicola with the Alyth choir including the Bar Mitzvah of Sam Levy.

#### **Sensory Service, 11:00**

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

### *Saturday 11 October*

#### **Sukkot Sleepout Shabbat Morning Service, 9:00**

Led by Rabbi Hannah and the Youth and Education Hub—all welcome for the end of Sukkot Sleepout.

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

Led by Rabbi Elliott and Emeritus Rabbi Josh Levy with the Alyth choir, including the Bat Mitzvah of Iris Chinn.

#### **Kollot, 10:30**

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

### *Saturday 18 October*

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

Led by Rabbi Hannah and Rabbi Elliott including the Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Kustow.

#### **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 Izzie and Eszter.

### *Saturday 25 October*

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

Led by Rabbi Hannah with the Alyth choir.

## Pray With Us for Families on Shabbat

### **Baby Den**

*Fridays 3, 10 17, 24 October (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 4 October (11:00)*

Our Shabbat service designed to stimulate your baby's senses in the first years of their life. Join Rabbi Hannah and the dungareenees in this service where you and your baby can touch, see, smell

## Around Alyth in October

### Young Adult Cocktails and Canopies Sukkah Build Saturday 4 October (drop in between 18:00 and 20:00)

This evening provides a space for our young adults to meet one another for an evening of socialising, eating and drinking whilst contributing to building this year's Sukkah for Sukkot, which begins on the evening of Monday 6 October. With Rabbi Elliott, Rabbi Hannah and Sam.

### Holding Liat Sunday 5 October (19:00 – 22:00)

Holding Liat is a powerful documentary about Liat Atzili's family's struggle for her release from captivity in Gaza, and the aftermath of 7 October from the perspectives of people committed to humanity and peace. Winner of Best Documentary at the 2025 Berlin International Film Festival, the film will be screened in partnership with NIF.

Following the film there will be a discussion with the film makers.

### Blessing for our B'nei Mitzvah class of 2024-2025 Friday 10 October (18:30)

For those of you that have had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah between just before Sukkot 2024 and Sukkot 2025, we invite you to join us for the Erev Shabbat Service on Friday 10 October at 18:30. There will be a special blessing in the service and a gift for everyone. Contact [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk)

### How to talk with your children/parents about the Big Stuff: A Spotlight on Social Media Thursday 23 October (19:00)

Two parallel sessions, one for children in Years 5 - 7 and one for their adults, on how to talk and listen when the conversation gets onto the 'big stuff'. As your children enter a transitional phase of their lives, leading up to secondary school and b'nei mitzvah, we hope this session will empower you all to face some of those difficult conversations. Email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

### SUNDAY SHACHARIT Sundays 5, 12, 19, 26 October (9:00)

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

### B'YACHAD Saturday 4 October (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](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk). Voluntary donation of £5.

# Sukkot and Simchat Torah 5786

## Young Adult Sukkah Build: Cocktails and Canopies

Saturday 4 October, 18:00-20:00

## Erev Sukkot Service

Monday 6 October, 18:30

## Sukkot First Day Services

Tuesday 7 October, 10:15

Intergenerational Guitar led Service (10:00)

Choral Service (10:15)

Sensory Sukkot (11:00)

## Sukkot Baby Den

Friday 10 October, 10:30

## The 34<sup>th</sup> Alyth Sukkot Sleepout

Friday 10 – Saturday 11 October

## Simchat Torah

We know that Simchat Torah will be hard for many in our community. We hope to dance and celebrate as we always do, but there will also be reflective points in the service. As well as a family break-out, there will also be a parallel space for quiet reflection and study.

## Erev Simchat Torah Services

Monday 13 October, 18:30

## Simchat Torah Morning Services

Tuesday 14 October, 10:15

**Mazal Tov to our Chatan Torah, Jason Kosky, and our Kallat B'reishit, Tracey Kieve.**

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

Coming in November and 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).

## 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](mailto:elliott@alyth.org.uk) for more information. As Sukkot and Simchat Torah fall on a Tuesday, there will just be one session in October on **Tuesday 21**, in which we will debrief from the High Holy Days. Then we take a break for half term, after which we return in November for a new course on the Jewish Textual Tradition.

## Adult Hebrew

### Intensive Hebrew Reading Course

Tuesday 21 October (19:00)

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

### Hebrew Reading Course

Tuesday 21 October (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](mailto:elliott@alyth.org.uk).*

### Translating the Siddur

Sundays 5, 12, 19, 26 October (11:15-12:30) and Wednesdays 8, 15, 22, 29 October (8:00-19:15)

A programme for those with high level Hebrew reading ability. Email [edwardjgold@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Shiurim

Saturdays 4 and 18 October (9:15 - 10:15)

### Saturday 4 October

As we approach the anniversary of 7th October, please join Rabbi Colin for this morning's Shiur: Readings, songs, poetry and reflection - two years on.

### Saturday 18 October

**Lilith: Queen of the Demons:** You've heard of Eve... but did you know that Adam had a wife before her? One who refused to be submissive, and decided on a life of independence instead? Some say that she is a monster, guilty of infanticide, preying on men in their sleep and threatening pregnant women. Others say that she is a feminist icon, the foremother of women who refused to be subservient to men. Meet Lilith, Queen of the Demons, who has embodied the fears of men and women alike, but also served as inspiration for the rebellious amongst us. With Student Rabbi Yael Tischler.

## Pardes:

Thursdays 16 and 23 October (13:00-14:00)

Pardes returns 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. We will start straight after Simchat Torah on Thursday 16 October with Bereshit, the first parashah of a new year. Please join us for this exciting new year-long project



## Weekly

### Monday Club

*Mondays 20 and 27 October 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](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk).

### Alyth Choral Society

*Tuesday 21 October 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](mailto:acs@alyth.org.uk) if our future programme inspires you.

## Monthly

### Alyth Cycling Community Bike Ride

*Sunday 12 October, 8:15*

Bringing riders of all abilities together to enjoy cycling and conversation. For more information, please contact [laurancemendoza@aol.com](mailto:laurancemendoza@aol.com).

### Rainbow Lunch

*Sunday 12 October, 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](mailto:elliott@alyth.org.uk).

### Refugee Choir

*Sunday 12 October, 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 12 October, 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](mailto:colin@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## The Alyth Social Mondays in October (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](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) for more information. All are welcome.

### 6 Neurobics with Steve Wax

Following the success of his six week courses on Neurobics, Steve will join us for a one-off session to show us how we can improve both mind and physicality to stay on the ball and agile.

### 13 Simchat Torah

As we approach Simchat Torah, Rabbi Nicola will show the Torah scroll and share some very interesting facts about what lies there.

### 20 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: High Holy Days

### 20 Rick Blaskey Returns

Record company legend, songwriter, producer and founder of The Music & Media Partnership (TMMP), Rick makes a return visit to play us more music which he has been involved with and give us fascinating insights and anecdotes from the music industry.

### 27 Sara Sayers Plays

Alyth member, Sara accompanied by pianist, Geoffrey Whitworth brings her violin skills to The Alyth Social. Having studied at the Royal College of Music, Sara currently leads the Conductors' Orchestra at Morley College and will play Schindler's List Hebrew Melody and Bartok Romanian dances amongst other pieces.

## 27-32 Year Olds Focus Group @ the pub Tuesday 21 October (18:00 – 19:00)

We're delighted to invite you to a roundtable for those in their late 20s and early 30s with Rabbi Hannah, Sam and Sally Patterson. There's often a gap in Jewish life for this age group - after student and young professional programmes but before family-focused activities. This evening is about looking at how we can fill that gap together, in a way that feels authentic, useful and meaningful. We hope you'll leave with fresh ideas, new connections and a sense of possibility about what Jewish community could look like at this stage of life. Contact [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## NEW: Alyth Productions Tuesday 21 October (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 a dedicated musical director. Cost: £450 for Alyth members for September—March. Show date is Sunday 22 March 2026. Email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:clergyfund@alyth.org.uk) confidentially.

# Learn With Us: Youth and Education

October 2025

## Weekly Learning

### SMG

*Sundays 5, 12, 19 October (10:00-12:00)*

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

### Ruach 1 - 4

*Fridays 3, 17, 24 October (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 9, 16, 23 October (17:00-18:15)*

Our drama group for primary school aged children. [Click here](#) to register.

### Academy of Performing Arts

*Sundays 5, 12, 19 October (17:00-20:00)*

Academy is our famous youth drama group which has been running for 32 years. We work towards putting a musical on every year, hiring lights and staging and we work with professionals. Running on Sunday evenings from 6-8pm for years 8-13. Please [click here](#) to register.

Contact [Izzie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:Izzie@alyth.org.uk) for more information about either group.

## Sukkot Sleepout

Friday 10—11 October

We can't wait for our Sukkot Sleepout 10–11 October!

Join us for the Erev Shabbat service, then leave your children to enjoy a jam-packed evening of fun activities, before settling down for (hopefully!) a cozy night's sleep under Alyth's sukkah.

Please [click here](#) to sign up and contact [Izzie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:Izzie@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Year 8 Budapest trip

Monday 27—Thursday 30 October

We hope the 13 year 8s going to Budapest as part of their B'nei Mitzvah journey have the best time!

## 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 an 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(ren) to participate. Contact [eszter@alyth.org.uk](mailto:eszter@alyth.org.uk) for more information.



## Coming up in November

### November Lecture Series

Starting 6 November, 20:00

We are delighted to be bringing you a series of lectures throughout November, launching on 6 November.

Thursday 6 November: Actor **Elliot Levey** who has just completed his run in the stage adaptation of *Giant* in the West End, playing Tom Maschler, Roald Dahl's Jewish publisher, a role which won him an Olivier. Elliot will be interviewed about the complexity of playing this part as a practicing Progressive Jew. As Elliot is currently waiting for his filming schedule, this evening is subject to change, but Elliot is committed to coming and sharing his experiences with Alyth. Elliot will be interviewed by our member Annie Marcuson who has just finished her role in *Benjamin Button* in the West End.

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 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. **Please note this has now changed to 4 December**

For further information, please email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk).

### 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.

### Mitzvah Day

Sunday 16 - Sunday 23 November

To celebrate Mitzvah Day's 20<sup>th</sup> 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 as well as performances from our drama groups). Throughout the week there will be opportunities to donate to a food bank, cooking for our Winter Shelter, and an interfaith outing. Culminating on Sunday 23 November with intergenerational activities.