

Shabbat Ha’azinu

12 Tishri 5786 / 3 & 4 October 2025

Erev Shabbat

17:15 Reflective Space (in the Leo Baeck Hall)

A space for members to come meet, share and reflect on recent events.

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

Led by Rabbi Elliott and Rabbi Hannah.

In light of the Prime Minister’s commitment to support and protect communities affected, this evening we welcome Alyth member and **UK Attorney General, Lord Richard Hermer**, who will give the D’var Torah in our Erev Shabbat Service.

Shabbat Morning

We are delighted to be joined by **MP for Finchley and Golders Green and Minister for Courts and Legal Services, Sarah Sackman**.

9:15 Shabbat Morning Shiur (in the Leo Baeck Hall)

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

10:00 Romm’mu Shabbat Service (in the Cecil Rosen Hall)

A space where our kids and parents can get to know one another in the lead up to B’nei Mitzvah years. This service will begin with 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. Adults and children will then join back together to conclude the service and for kiddush. Led by Rabbi Elliott, Rabbi Hannah and Eszter.

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

Led by Rabbi Nicola and the Alyth Choir.

The Torah will be read by Sam Levy and Rabbi Nicola.

The Sermon will be given by Rabbi Colin.

There will be an unsupervised kids corner.

11:00 Sensory Shabbat Service (in the Cecil Rosen Hall)

Our Shabbat Service designed to stimulate your babies’ senses in the first years of their life. An opportunity for our youngest members to touch, listen, see and taste their way through a Shabbat Morning Service. Led by Rabbi Hannah and the Dungareenees.

12:30 Shabbat B’yachad Lunch (in the Leo Baeck Hall)

Please join us for our monthly lunch open to all the community following kiddush.

Shabbat Afternoon

18:00 Young Adults Cocktails & Canopies Sukkah Build

An opportunity for our young adults to meet for an evening of socialising, eating and drinking, whilst contributing to building this year’s Sukkah, ready for Sukkot which begins on the evening of Monday 6 October. Drop-in between 18:00 and 20:00 and join Rabbi Hannah, Rabbi Elliott and Sam for a fun evening. Please contact sam@alyth.or.uk to let her know you are coming.

Sukkot

Erev Sukkot

Monday 6 October (18:30)

A gentle Erev Sukkot service. Including an opportunity, for those who are unable to attend the morning service, to shake the Lulav.

Sukkot First Day

Tuesday 7 October (10:00)

Intergenerational Guitar-led Service

A guitar-led Shacharit service for all generations. Including separate Torah breakouts for adults and children at 11:00.

Choral Service (10:15)

An opportunity to sing together from our choral repertoire, including Hallel. Including an opportunity in the service to remember the victims of 7 October.

Sensory Sukkot (11:00)

A special Sukkot Sensory designed to stimulate your babies’ senses in the first years of their life.

Additional Songs and Readings for Shabbat

Gesher tsar m'od

Words: Nachman of Bratslav, Likutei Moharan Part 2, 48:2

Music: Yotam Mahler

וְדַע, שֶׁהָאָדָם צָרִיךְ לַעֲבֹר עַל גֶּשֶׁר צָר מְאֹד מְאֹד, וְהַכֵּל וְהַעֲקֹר – שְׁלֹא יתַפְחֵד כָּלָל :

V'da V'da she'ha-adam tzarich la'avor (al) gesher tsar m'od, gesher tsar m'od v'ha-ikkar v'ha-klal she'lo l'facheid k'lal.

Know, a person needs to cross a very, very narrow bridge. The main rule is: Do not be afraid at all.

Zamru l'Adonai

Words: Psalm 98:5

Music: Yoel Sykes

זָמְרוּ לַיהוָה בְּכִנּוֹר; בְּכִנּוֹר, וְקוֹל זִמְרָה

Zam'ru l'Adonai b'khinor, b'khinor v'kol zimra.

Play to the Eternal with the harp, with the harp and the voice of music.

Adonai Oz

Words: Psalm 29:11

Music: Yoel Sykes and Daphna Rosenberg

יְהוָה עֹז, לְעַמּוֹ יִתֵּן; יְהוָה, יְבָרֵךְ אֶת-עַמּוֹ בְּשָׁלוֹם

Adonai oz l'ammo yittein. Adonai y'vareich et ammo vashalom.

God give strength to Your people, God bless Your people with peace.

Hashkiveinu

Music: Dan Nichols

הַשְׁכִּיבֵנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְשָׁלוֹם וְהַעֲמִידֵנוּ מִלְּכֻנוּ לְחַיִּים

Hashkiveinu Adonai eloheinu l'shalom, v'ha'amideinu malkeinu l'chayyim

Spread the shelter of Your peace over us; Guide us in wisdom, compassion and trust

Save us for the sake of Your name; Shield us from hatred, sorrow and pain

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה. הַפּוֹרֵשׁ סִכַּת שְׁלוֹם עַלְּינוּ וְעַל-עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל-כָּל-הָעוֹלָם:

Baruch attah Adonai, ha-poreis sukkat shalom aleinu v'al ammo yisra'el, v'al kol ha-olam *Blessed are You God, spreading the shelter of peace over us, over Your people Israel, and over all the world.*

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

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 מִלְךְ הָעוֹלָם מִתִּיר אֲסוּרִים:

Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam matir asurim.

Blessed are You our Living God, who frees captives.

Prayer after an Antisemitic Attack

Eternal God, we are struck by pain and disbelief following the tragic events in Manchester on the holiest day of our Jewish year. Our community is shaken by the rise of antisemitism throughout the world and the hatred that spreads between communities. In our time of grief, give us strength so that we do not become paralysed by fear. Give us the courage to step in so that we may seek help and support from our community. Give us determination to join hands with Jews and non-Jews across the world to put an end to antisemitism and prejudice wherever it lies. We pray for the day when all we see that humanity is made ‘betzelem elohim’, in Your image, and communities will no longer be divided by religion, race or creed. In this time of despair, we pray for the wisdom to turn our fear into hope and our anger into love.

Ana El Na

Words: based on Numbers 12:13

Music: Daphna Rosenberg and Naveh Agmon

אָנָּא אֵל נָּא רַפָּא נָּא לָּהּ

Ana El na, r’fa na la

Please God, please bring healing.

Olam Chesed Yibaneh / Oseh Shalom

Words: Psalm 89:3 / liturgy

Music: Menachem Creditor / Yoel Sykes

עוֹלָם חֶסֶד יִבְנֶה

Olam chesed yibaneh, yai dai dai, dai dai dai dai dai dai

The world will be built with loving kindness .

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְמוֹיו הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עַלְּינוּ וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל-כָּל-יְיוּשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל וְאֻמְרוּ אָמֵן:

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol yisra'el, v'al kol yoshvei tevel v'imru amen.

May the Maker of peace in the highest bring this peace upon us, upon all Israel and upon all who inhabit the world. Amen.

Torah Portion for Shabbat Ha’azinu

Deuteronomy 32:1-13

וּתְשַׁמַּע הָאָרֶץ אִמְרֵי-פִי:

תִּזְלַ כִּטָּל אִמְרָתִי

וְכֹרֵבִים עַל־יַעֲשֹׁב:

הִבּוּ גִדָּל לְאֻלֵּינוּ:

כִּי כָל־דֶּרֶכִּיו מִשְׁפָּט

צִדִּיק וְיֹשֶׁר הוּא:

אִיהָאֲזִינוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֹדְבָהָ

בִּיעֲרָף כְּמָטָר לִקְחוּ

כַּשְׁעִירָם עַל־יַדְּשָׂא

ג כִּי שֵׁם יי אֶקְרָא

יְהִצּוּר תַּמָּיִם פְּעִלּוּ

אֵל אֱמוּנָה וְאִין עוֹל

¹Give ear, O heavens, let me speak; let the earth hear the words I utter! ²May my discourse come down as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like showers on young growth, like droplets on the grass. ³For the name of the Eternal I proclaim; give glory to our God! ⁴The Rock!—whose deeds are perfect, yea, all God's ways are just; a faithful God, never false, true and upright indeed.

דּוֹר עֵקֶשׁ וּפְתִלְתֵּל:

עַם נָבָל וְלֹא חָכָם

הוּא עָשָׂה וַיַּכְנִינֵהָ:

בֵּינוּ שְׁנוֹת דֹּר וָדֹר

זְקֵנֶיהָ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָךְ:

בְּהִפְרִידוֹ בְּנֵי אָדָם

לְמִסְפָּר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

יַעֲקֹב חָבַל נָחֲלָתוֹ:

ה שַׁחַת לוֹ לֹא בָנִיו מוֹמָם

י הִלְלִי תִגְמְלוּ־זֹאת

הָלוֹא־הוּא אֲבִיךָ קִנְךָ

ז זְכוֹר יְמוֹת עוֹלָם

שְׁאֵל אֲבִיךָ וַיִּגְדֵּךְ

ח בְּהִנָּחֵל עָלֶיךָ גּוֹלָם

י צַב גְּבֻלַּת עַמָּיִם

ט כִּי חָלַק יי עַמּוֹ

⁵Unworthy children— that crooked, perverse generation— their baseness has played God false. ⁶Do you thus requite the Eternal, o dull and witless people? Is not this the Father who created you—fashioned you and made you endure! ⁷Remember the days of old, consider the years of ages past; ask your parent, who will inform you, your elders, who will tell you: ⁸When the Most High gave nations their homes and set the divisions of humanity, [God] fixed the boundaries of peoples in relation to Israel's numbers. ⁹For the Eternal's portion is this people; Jacob, God's own allotment.

י יִמְצָאֵהוּ בְּאֶרֶץ מִדְבָּר

יִסְבְּכֶנָּהוּ יִתְנַנֶּהוּ

יא כְּנֶשֶׁר יַעִיר קִנּוֹ

יפְרֹשׁ כְּנָפָיו יִקְחֵהוּ

יב יי בִּדְדָּ יִנַּחְנוּ

י יִרְכְּבֵהוּ עַל־בְּמוֹתַי אֲרֹץ

וַיִּנְקֵהוּ דְּבַשׁ מִסְּלֵעַ

¹⁰[God] found them in a desert region, in an empty howling waste. [God] engirded them, watched over them, guarded them as the pupil of God's eye. ¹¹Like an eagle who rouses its nestlings, gliding down to its young, so did [God] spread wings and take them, bear them along on pinions;¹² the Eternal alone did guide them, no alien god alongside. ¹³[God] set them atop the highlands, to feast on the yield of the earth, nursing them with honey from the crag, and oil from the flinty rock.

Haftarah for Shabbat Ha’azinu

2 Samuel 22:1-31

¹ David addressed the words of this song to God, after God had saved him from the hands of all his enemies and from the hands of Saul. ²He said: O Eternal One, my crag, my fortress, my deliverer! ³O God, the rock in which I take shelter: My shield, my mighty champion, my haven and refuge! My saviour, You who rescue me from violence! ⁴All praise! I called on God and was delivered from my enemies. ⁵For the breakers of Death encompassed me, the torrents of Belial terrified me; ⁶the ropes of Sheol encircled me, the snares of Death engulfed me. ⁷In my anguish I called on the Eternal, cried out to my God, who from a heavenly abode heard my voice, whose ears received my cry. ⁸Then the earth rocked and quaked, the foundations of heaven shook— rocked by divine indignation. ⁹Smoke went up from God’s nostrils—devouring fire from God’s mouth; live coals blazing forth. ¹⁰[God] bent the sky and came down, thick cloud beneath divine feet. ¹¹[God] mounted a cherub and flew, and was seen on the wings of the wind. ¹²Pavilions of darkness all around, dripping clouds, huge thunderheads; ¹³in the divine brilliance blazed fiery coals. ¹⁴God thundered from heaven, the Most High gave forth voice— ¹⁵Letting shafts fly, and scattering them; lightning, and routing them. ¹⁶The bed of the sea was exposed, the foundations of the world were laid bare by the Eternal’s mighty roaring, at the blast of God’s breath. ¹⁷Reaching down from on high, [God] took me, drawing me out of the mighty waters— ¹⁸Rescuing me from my fierce enemy, from foes too strong for me. ¹⁹They attacked me on my day of calamity, but God was my support. ²⁰Bringing me out to freedom, pleased with me enough to rescue me. ²¹God rewarded me according to my merit, requiting the cleanness of my hands— ²²For I have kept to the ways of God and have not been guilty before my God; ²³for I am mindful of all God’s rules and have not departed from God’s laws. ²⁴I have been blameless before [God], and have guarded myself against sinning— ²⁵and GOD has requited my merit according to my evident cleanness. ²⁶With the loyal, You deal loyally, with the blameless hero, blamelessly. ²⁷With the pure, You act in purity, and with the perverse, You are wily. ²⁸To lowly folk You give victory, and You look with scorn on the haughty. ²⁹You, O Eternal One, are my lamp; God lights up my darkness. ³⁰With You, I can rush a barrier; with my God, I can scale a wall. ³¹The way of God is perfect, the word of the Eternal is pure. [God] shields all who seek refuge.

Save the Date

Board of Deputies Commemorative Event (Trafalgar Square)

Sunday 5 October (14:00)

As we approach two years since the horrific events of October 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel, murdering 1,200 innocent men, women and children and taking 251 people hostages, we invite you to join us in remembrance. Please join us for a commemorative event to honour the lives lost and affected on October 7 and to call for the release of the 48 still held in captivity. Please see Alyth website for details.

Film Screening: Holding Liat

Sunday 5 October (19:00)

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 perspective 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. Please register online.

Sukkot Sleepout

Friday 10 October 19:00 - Saturday 11 October (10:00)

For school years 4-8. Our annual and highly anticipated Sukkot Sleepout returns for its 33rd year. Sleep out and raise money for Together in Barnet, which runs the only night shelter in Barnet. Please see website to sign up.

How To Talk About The ‘Big Stuff’ With Your Children/ Parents

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. Please contact sam@alyth.org.uk for further information.

November Lecture Series

Thursdays From 6 November (20:00)

We are delighted to be bringing you a series of lectures throughout November. Our first lecture will be with 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. Other speakers include: 13 November: Tim Franks and 20 November: Laura Marks. For further information, please email sam@alyth.org.uk

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:

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

James and Maddie Massing, on the birth of their daughter, Goldie, a sister for Matilda

Paul Cavendish, who is reading Haftarah to celebrate his 80th birthday

Barbara Segal, who is celebrating her birthday

We regret to announce the death of:

Adrian Daulby and **Melvin Cravitz**, who lost their lives in Manchester yesterday

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

Gitty Aframian, niece of Ata Aframian

David Benjamin, father of Rachel Rickard

Ralph Caro, father of Michael Caro

John Davis, father of Susan Packman and Daniel Davis

Karensue Dobrow, mother of Shoshana Dobrow

Paul Freeling, husband of Shirley Freeling

Minna Graham, mother of Elizabeth (Barbara) Feldman

Yehuda Klausner, father of David Janner-Klausner

Danielle Leslie, daughter of Edward Henry

Dorothy Liebling, mother of Andre Liebling

Naomi Liss, mother of Barrie Liss

Michael Litvin, husband of Judith Litvin

Rhona Lubner, mother of Gary Lubner and Joanne Zimmerman

Sybil Mann, mother of Hilary Mann

Mordy Mordecai, brother of Aslan Mordecai

Sam Morris, father of Jack Morris

Robert Neumann, father of Susanne Margolis

Laurence Sattin, husband of Ursula Sattin

Ivonne Scheffer, sister of Sonia Davies

Marcus Sefton-Green, husband of Dorothy Sefton-Green and father of Tertia Sefton-Green

Yvonne Singer, mother of Juliet Harris, grandmother to Ava Harris

Leslie Stone, father of Anthony Stone

Barry Wynne, father of Tanya Wynne

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Rabbinic Team

Rabbi Hannah Kingston, Rabbi Elliott Karstadt, Rabbi Colin Eimer, Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang
Rabbi Josh Levy (Emeritus)