



NORTH WESTERN REFORM SYNAGOGUE

Company No. 12336110 | Charity No. 1186738

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF CONGREGANTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of the Annual Meeting of Congregants of Alyth Synagogue

To be held at **19:00 on Thursday 5 February 2026**

In person and online via Zoom. Please [click here](#) to register and let us know you are attending.

AGENDA

	Agenda Item	Note
1.	Welcome	
2.	D'var Torah	
3.	Approval of the Minutes of the AMC held on 10 February 2025 <i>These are available on the Alyth website (www.alyth.org.uk/amc).</i>	
4.	Review of the year and looking forward to 2026	
5.	To adopt the Trustees' Report and Annual Financial Statement for NWRS (Company No. 12336110) for the period September 2024 – August 2025 <i>These are available on the Alyth website (www.alyth.org.uk/amc).</i>	I.
6.	To re-appoint Messrs. Nyman Libson Paul LLP as Auditors to the Synagogue	
7.	An update from the Chair <i>Including expressions of gratitude to those stepping down as trustees and as Vice President</i>	
8.	Election of Trustees The following Members of the Board are standing for election Benjamin Bell Eve Naftalin Ben Berelowitz Paul Rosen	II.
9.	Election of a President and Vice President Andrew Gellert is standing for re-election as President Caronne Graham is standing for election as a Vice President	III.
10.	Any Other Business	

Please notify Adam Martin at adam@alyth.org.uk of any items of AOB, by Friday 30 January.

Annual Meeting of Congregants of Alyth Synagogue

19:00 on Thursday 5 February 2026

Explanatory Notes:

Note I.

Trustees' Report and Financial Statement:

The Trustees' Reports and Financial Statements reflect the operation of the incorporated charity NWRS (Company No. 12336110 and Charity No. 1186738) for the period September 2024 - August 2025. These accounts reflect how the Synagogue operates on a day-to-day basis. As in previous years we will be reporting under the headings. *Pray with us, Learn with us, Live with us, Be with us*, reflect the way in which our Rabbinic and Professional Team work across a number of areas of synagogue life at any one time, ensuring that delivery of services and programmes, member support and engagement and the day-to-day operation of the synagogue function in a holistic and collaborative way.

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statement have been approved by the Trustees and are being recommended to the Members for approval at the Annual Meeting of Congregants on 5 February 2026.

[Click here](#) for the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the Incorporated Company No. 12336110.

Note II.

At the Annual Meeting of Congregants on 5 February 2026, Ian Howe will be retiring from the Trustee Board having completed his term in accordance with the Articles of Association.

Election of current Trustees standing for a three-year term:

In September 2025, three new trustees were brought onto the Board through co-option and to fill vacancies. These Trustees have all indicated their willingness to put their names forward for election to the Trustee Board at the Annual Meeting of Congregants in February 2025.

In accordance with the Rules, the Nominations Group reviewed the candidates and recommended the new Trustees to the Board where their nominations were confirmed by the elected Trustees at a meeting of the Board on 18 August 2025.

Having joined the Board to fill vacancies and by co-option, and in accordance with the Article 14.4 and Rule 8, the following members have agreed that their names be put forward for election to the Trustee Board:

Benjamin Bell

Ben Berelowitz

Paul Rosen

Election of a new Trustee to the Trustee Board standing for a three-year term:

In accordance with the Article 14.4 and Rules 8, **Eve Naftalin** has agreed to put her name forward for election to the Trustee Board. The Nominations Group recommended to the Trustee Board that Eve be put forward for election by the Membership.

Trustees Standing for Election



Benjamin Bell

I was born into Alyth, experiencing kindergarten, cheder, my Bar Mitzvah and other life events here, while my kids are now on the same path, and my father and stepfather held various leadership roles dating back to the 1970s. As trustee I am committed to making the synagogue the best it can be for future generations and believe it should establish itself as one of Europe's pre-eminent congregations, setting the standard for a vibrant, engaged community.

My other voluntary work in the Jewish world includes public advocacy against antisemitism, and as UK Patronage Committee member of Magen David Adom, the extraordinary life-saving organisation that runs Israel's emergency services.

Career-wise, over the past 20 years I have established myself as a corporate affairs leader at a range of global technology businesses and national brands. I live in Hampstead Garden Suburb with my wife Natalie, daughter Lila and son Joey. All proud Jews sharing our journey.



Ben Berelowitz

I have been a member of Alyth since childhood, experiencing the joys of Alyth from nursery through to bar mitzvah and marriage.

My professional background is in finance and the charity sector. I have worked as a management consultant and in banking for over 10 years. I also ran a charity for children with disabilities for a decade, supporting some of the more vulnerable members of society.

I have seen firsthand how members build a life at Alyth and the wonderful opportunities the shul provides for community and friendship. Whether it be through song and dance, education, prayer or the many other means that Alyth provides, the synagogue is a source of support for each of us. I am keen, as a trustee, both to give back to the community that has given me so much and help create more opportunities for others to thrive at Alyth.



Paul Rosen

Alyth has been part of my life since childhood, and I have many fond memories of cheder, Cubs, Scouts and youth club. My parents have been members of Alyth since the 1970s, and the synagogue has always been an important part of our family life. I am now keen to give back and contribute to this unique, vibrant and broad community.

By profession, I am a chartered accountant. Today I own and manage a business, that designs and develops products for our own beauty, hair and kitchen electrical brands.

In 2021, my partner Jo and her daughter Sophie joined Alyth so that Sophie could attend SMG and Ruach and her bat mitzvah in 2023. We regularly attend services, and I am actively involved in shul security and am on the security management team, also very involved with CST. We are invested in the Alyth community, and I hope to build on this further as a trustee.



Eve Naftalin

I have been a member of Alyth my whole life, as are my parents and late grandparents. As a child and teenager I was involved in kids choir and Alyth Youth Singers and I was a madricha for many years at Cheder. My husband and I have four children who are all attending or have attended Cheder. My eldest daughter was Bat Mitzvah at Alyth last year and my second daughter is currently in the Bnei Mitzvah programme. My husband does regular security shifts at the shul. My whole family is passionate about Alyth and invested in our communal life and so I am very keen to give back and contribute to our wonderful community.

I am a barrister by training and I've been working as a lawyer in public service for the last 20 years. I am also a governor at my local primary school.

Trustee Nomination by Petition (Rule 8.4)

There have not been any nominations by petition at the date of sending these papers.

Notwithstanding Rule 8.3, a Congregant shall be entitled to stand for election as a Trustee, by petition, by completing a Trustee Nomination Form and having it signed by at least twenty other Congregants in good standing who are unrelated to that Congregant, and then delivering it to the Synagogue Office at least fourteen days before the Annual Meeting of Congregants. The deadline for this route of nomination is 23 January.

The usual way to become a Trustee of Alyth is to go through the process as set out by the Nominations Advisory Group. Please email nominations@alyth.org.uk if you are interested in becoming a Trustee of Alyth at either the General Meeting of Congregants in the summer or at the next Annual Meeting of Congregants in early 2027.

Note III.

The roles of President and Vice President are an established and integral part of Alyth and our leadership. We are blessed to have outstanding members who have served as previous Presidents and Vice Presidents and remain grateful to them for their service and unstinting support.

Thank you to our President, Andrew Gellert, and Vice Presidents Janine Clements, Ruth Wellins and Russell Baum who remain a source of wisdom and support for the lay and professional leadership, and for the community.

Election of the President:

In accordance with Article 21 and Rule 4 & 4.3, Andrew Gellert has agreed that his name be put forward for election for a second, two-year term as President of Alyth.



The Nominations Group recommended to the Trustee Board that Andrew's name be put forward for election for a second two-year term as President of Alyth. The recommendation was unanimously confirmed by the Trustees.

Election of a Vice President:

Vice Presidents are elected on a three-year rolling basis, with one person retiring each year at the end of a three-year term.

Janine Clements (Vice President) has come to the end of her term at the Annual Meeting of Congregants in February 2026. The Trustees, Clergy, Professional Team and the Community are enormously grateful to her having brought experience, wisdom and care for the community to the role.

In accordance with Article 21 and Rules 4 & 4.4, **Caronne Graham** has agreed that her name be put forward for election as a Vice President of Alyth. The Nominations Group recommended to the Trustee Board that Caronne's name be put forward for election as a Vice President. The recommendation was unanimously confirmed by the Trustees.

President and Vice President Standing for Election	
	<p>Andrew Gellert (President)</p> <p>Although I grew up in Kenya attending the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation, I came to boarding school in Mill Hill at 12, and graduated in medicine from the Royal Free in 1977, where I met Selina, and have been a member of Alyth since the late 1970's. Selina was born into Alyth and we were married at Alyth by Dow Marmur in 1979. Our children were blessed at Alyth and passed through Alyth Kindergarten. I am now a grandfather and am blessed to have three grandchildren. The two living in London were blessed at Alyth.</p> <p>I am a retired General Practitioner and medical educator, having worked for many years in a deprived area of NW London, and taught medical students and GP trainees. That experience has been invaluable in my role as president, because so much of my work at Alyth touches on working with human relationships and that is the essence of so much, both in medicine and in life in general.</p> <p>Prior to becoming President at the start of 2024, I was Vice President for three years until 2020 and was a member of Council. I am deeply honoured to be proposed for a second two year term.</p>
	<p>Caronne Graham (Vice President)</p> <p>I feel honoured and deeply privileged to be proposed as a Vice-President of Alyth.</p> <p>I married David in 1988. His family were very active in the community, and it felt almost inevitable that I would follow the same path. Our three children have been immersed in Alyth life from the moment they were able to sit up and attend children's services, and all their life-cycle events have taken place under Alyth's nurturing wings.</p> <p>Through Alyth, I rediscovered my Jewish soul and, at the age of 50, was called to the Torah for the first time.</p> <p>Over the years, I have served on and chaired the former Youth and Education Committee, been a member of the former Council for well over a decade, and served as both Trustee and Honorary Secretary.</p> <p>My volunteering has included being a member of the choir for over two decades, founding the Bayit Cham lunches (now Shabbat B'yachad), helping to design and launch the mentoring programme for Ruach, and teaching in the Cheder (now SMG).</p> <p>Jewish study is a particular passion of mine, and I have been privileged to learn in many shiurim, most recently through the Chevruta Project.</p> <p>Alyth is far more than a building to me; it is my second home and holds a special place in my heart.</p>

Addendum

1) Current Board of Trustees

Gary Lipman (Chair)
Noemi Zell (Vice Chair)
Jeremy Baum
Benjamin Bell
Ben Berelowitz

Ian Howe
Terence Heymann
Juliet Levinson
Ben Portner
Paul Rosen

2) Current Advisory Group Members

Policies & Procedures

Jeremy Baum (Chair)
Adam Martin (Professional Team)
Rabbi Hannah (Professional Team)
Natalie Kustow
Juliet Levinson (Board)
Davina Solomons Wise
Ruth Wellin (Vice President)

Finance

Adam Martin (Professional Team)
Buddika Perera (Professional Team)
Russell Baum (Vice President)
Noeleen Cohen
Mark Harris
Terry Heymann (Board)
David Kirk
Gary Lipman (Board)
Paul Rosen (Board)
Michael Simon

Nominations

Noemi Zell (Chair)
Rabbi Elliott (Professional Team)
Rabbi Hannah (Professional Team)
Sam Heller (Professional Team)
Russell Baum (Vice President)
Ben Bell (Board)
Andrew Gellert (President)
Nicky Minter-Green
Jessica Rosenfield
Ruth Smilg
Justin Wise
Robert Weiner

Community Matters

Gary Lipman (Chair)
Rabbi Elliott (Professional Team)
Rabbi Hannah (Professional Team)
Jeremy Baum (Board)
Russell Baum (Vice President)
Noeleen Cohen
Janine Clements (Vice-President)
Andrew Gellert (President)
Ruth Wellin (Vice-President)
Justin Wise