

# Around Alyth

January 2026



## January Highlights



### **An Evening with Elliot Levey**

**Thursday 8 January, 20:00**

*In conversation with Annie Marcuson, West End actress.*



### **We Need to Talk about Assisted Dying**

**Thursday 15 January, 20:00**

*A panel discussion chaired by Rabbi Josh Levy. Confirmed speakers: Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain and Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu – more to follow.*



### **Nehemia Danzig: Brotherhood and Courage on the Battlefield**

**Monday 19 January, 19:00**

*Nechemia Danzig was the Company Commander in the Paratroopers Brigade who fought in Kibbutz Be'eri on October 7th.*



### **Alyth's Annual Supper Quiz**

**Sunday 1 February, 18:45**

*Back by popular demand, the Alyth Supper Quiz is a fun evening with old and new friends and a delicious supper to feed your brain cells.*



### **Annual Meeting of Congregants**

**Thursday 5 February, 19:00**

*Please [click here](#) to register and let us know you are attending.*

### Erev Shabbat Services

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

#### *Erev Shabbat Service (Fridays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 January)*

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 3 January*

##### **Romm'mu, 10:30**

A guitar led service for all generations, with a Shacharit all together. Followed by a Torah service with the opportunity to study the Torah portion in depth whilst the kids breakout for a Torah related peulah. Led by Rabbi Elliott, Hannah Kieve and Eszter.

#### *Saturday 10 January*

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

Led by Rabbi Hannah and Gideon Lyons with guitar. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Isabella Hyman.

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

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

##### **Sensory Havdalah, 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 17 January*

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

Led by Rabbi Elliott and Lynette, including the Bar Mitzvah of Gal Ribak.

##### **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 Hannah and Izzie and the Gesher guitarists.

#### *Saturday 24 January*

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

Led by Rabbi Hannah with the Alyth choir. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Amelie Goldstone.

##### **Wellbeing Service, 10:30**

Led by Lynette, joining the Beit Tefillah for the Torah Service.

#### *Saturday 31 January*

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

An unaccompanied service led by Rabbi Hannah and Hannah Kieve. Including the Bar Mitzvah of Sammy Small.

##### **Explanatory Choral Service 10:30**

Led by Rabbi Nicola with the Alyth choir, with explanations of some of our key repertoire from Viv Bellos, Head of Music Emeritus.

### Baby Den

Fridays 9, 16, 23, 30 January (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](mailto:hannah@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Around Alyth in January

### An Evening with Elliot Levey Thursday 8 January (20:00)

We are delighted to let you know that Elliot Levey is coming to talk to us at Alyth—this is the rearranged date from November 2025. On Thursday 8 January, actor Elliot Levey will join us talk about his role in the West End Play, Giant. In conversation with Annie Marcuson, Alyth member and West End performer. Contact [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) to let us know you are coming.

### We need to talk about Assisted Dying Thursday 15 January (20:00)

With the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill having been approved by the House of Commons and now at Committee Stage, Alyth will be hosting an evening of discussion and debate around the issue of Assisted Dying. We are delighted that Rabbi Josh Levy (Co-Lead Movement for Progressive Judaism and Rabbi Emeritus at Alyth) will chair a panel of rabbis, legal experts and campaigners who will offer different perspectives on what is a complex and challenging moral question. Confirmed speakers: Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain and Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu – more to follow. Contact [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) for more information or to let us know you are coming.

### Nehemia Danzig: Brotherhood & Courage On The Battlefield Monday 19 January (19:00)

Nehemia Danzig was the Company Commander in the Paratroopers Brigade who fought in Kibbutz Be'eri on October 7th. Join us to hear his moving and powerful first hand account of that harrowing day and all that followed. Contact [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) for more information or to let us know you are coming.

### The Jews of Belarus Exhibition, - Making History Together Friday 30 January (17:00)

Commemorating National Holocaust Day: The Jews of Belarus Exhibition will be available in the Leo Baeck Hall, Wednesday 27 January to 8<sup>th</sup> February inclusive. Reception: Friday, 30 January 2026, 17:00 Speakers: Debra Brunner, Creator of the Exhibition; Alyth President, Andrew Gellert

Very few people know about the history of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union. After 1945, the Soviet Union declared that all Soviet citizens suffered during the war, making it almost impossible for Jewish people to speak about their suffering. Approximately 2.7 million of the six million Jews killed between 1939 and 1945 were in the Soviet Union. Understanding what happened to the Jews in the Soviet Union helps give clarity to understanding the Holocaust - a complex and difficult subject. Contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Learn With Us

January 2026

### 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.

- 6** No Essentials
- 13** The Synagogue
- 20** Epoch Changing Moments in Jewish history
- 27** 18 Figures in Jewish History of whom you should have heard

### Adult Hebrew

#### Intensive Hebrew Reading Course

*Tuesdays 13, 20, 27 January (19:00)*

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

#### Hebrew Reading Course

*Tuesdays 13, 20, 27 January (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 11, 18, 25 January (11:15-12:30) and Wednesdays 7, 14, 21, 28 January (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 Shiur: Before the Plagues

Saturday 10 January (9:15 - 10:15)

Before God brings the plagues upon the Egyptians, Moses and Aaron approach Pharaoh asking for the Israelites to be released from slavery – and the result is that Pharaoh imposes harsher conditions upon the enslaved Israelites. Join Rabbi Elliott to read a less famous part of the Book of Exodus, thinking about how the Israelites relate to each other in this moment before the plagues that ultimately lead to their liberation.

### Meet Our New Head of Music: Hannah Kieve

Sunday 11 January (10:00)

Hannah Kieve, our new Head of Music, will be visiting SMG on the first day of term. If you are dropping your children off or would like to meet Hannah for a chat about music at Alyth, please join her in the coffee area at the front of the Leo Baeck Hall.

### BACK FOR 2026: The Alyth Chavruta Project

Thursdays 22, 29 January, 19:00-20:30

Text packs are sent out on a Tuesday morning so that chavruta pairs can study together in whatever way feels right for them, before we come together on Thursday evenings at 19:00 to share our learning and questions as a whole group.

No previous study is necessary. If you have a chavruta partner already, that's great. If not, we will pair you up with someone. You are also welcome to join individually for the Thursday evening sessions.

For this new series in January and February, we will trace the history of the idea that human beings are created *B'tzelem Elohim* – in the image of God. As we did with the concept of *Tikkun Olam*, we will see how this concept develops from the Biblical text through rabbinic literature and beyond. What does it mean for us to be created in the image of God? And what are its ethical implications?

**This series runs on Thursdays starting 22 January.**

Sessions will be in person and on Zoom, and will be recorded.

Email [acp@alyth.org.uk](mailto:acp@alyth.org.uk) for more information and to register your interest.

### Pardes:

Thursdays 8, 15, 22, 29 January (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.

- 8** Shemot with Rabbi Nicola
- 15** Va-eria with Rabbi Galit Cohen-Kedem
- 22** Bo with Rabbi Elliott
- 29** Beshallach with Cantor Sarah Grabiner

**SUNDAY SHACHARIT**  
Sundays 4, 11, 18, 25 January (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 5, 12, 19, 26 January 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 6, 13, 20, 27 January 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 11 January, 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 11 January 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 18 January, 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 18 January, 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.

## Caring for Elderly Parents

Sunday 18 January (10:30-12:00)

Many of you in the community may now be having to deal with practical and health issues for one or both of your parents. In this session, a representative from Jewish Care and Lynette, our Head of Community Care, will explore the challenges that you are either facing or may face in the future and how you can best be supported by organisations and your community to have potentially difficult conversations with your parents about their future well being. For further information or to let us know you are coming email or call Lynette [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) / 02084578793

## Be With Us

January 2026

### The Alyth Social Mondays in January (14:00 – 16:00)

See weekly email for more details.

Contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

### Alyth Book Club Monday 5 January (18:30)

**John Niven, *The Second Coming*** - God takes a look at the Earth around the time of the Renaissance and everything looks pretty good – so he takes a holiday. In Heaven-time this is just a week's fishing trip, but on Earth several hundred years go by. When God returns, he finds all hell has broken loose: world wars, holocausts, famine, capitalism and 'Christians everywhere'. There's only one thing for it. They're sending the kid back. JC, reborn, is a struggling musician in New York City, trying to teach the one true commandment: Be Nice! His best chance to win hearts and minds is to enter *American Pop Star*, but the number one show in America is the unholy creation of a record executive who's more than a match for the Son of God ... With strong language throughout, this novel is both entertaining and thought-provoking. (ID: 816 0975 2765 Passcode: 785089)

### Tuesday Ma'ariv Tuesdays in January (19:30)

A new opportunity to pray together on a weekly basis, in person at Alyth and online. Led by Alyth member Michael Simon.

**B'YACHAD**  
Saturday 7 February (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 £10. There is no B'yachad in January.

### Alyth Productions Tuesdays 6, 13, 20, 27 January (20:00 – 22:00)

We are delighted to have launched 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. This year's show is *Stepping Out!* Email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Be With Us

Save the Dates 2026

### Alyth Supper Quiz

Sunday 1 February (18:45)

Back by popular demand, the Alyth Supper Quiz is a fun evening with old and new friends and a delicious supper to feed your brain cells. Either make up your own table of 10 or we can allocate you a table. Cost is £30 a ticket. To buy your tickets, please [click here](#) or for more information, please call Deborah on 020 8457 8784.

We are also looking for donations of high quality, exceptional raffle prizes and volunteers to help on the team. Please contact Sarah on 020 8457 8787 or [sarah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sarah@alyth.org.uk)

### Annual Meeting of Congregants

Thursday 5 February (19:00)

The Annual Meeting of Congregants of Alyth, will take place on Thursday 5 February 2025 at 19:00 in person and online via Zoom. Please [click here](#) to register and let us know you are attending. Please join us at 19:00 for refreshments and a chance to meet the Board of Trustees, before the meeting starts at 19:30. Calling papers will be posted on the Alyth website by 9 January 2026. [Click here](#) to register.

### Purim

Sunday 1 (10:00) and Monday 2 March (18:30)

We are already planning Purim 2026 and it promises to be a party to remember, with something for everyone. On Sunday 1 March, between 10:00 and 12:00, we will be holding a Family Purim Party. On Monday 2 March, the festivities begin at 18:30 with a spiel and food, followed by a Megillah reading at 20:30. More details coming soon. Contact [music@alyth.org.uk](mailto:music@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

### Iftar

Sunday 8 March (16:00)

Over 13 years, Alyth has brought communities together to talk, study and eat at our annual Iftar. We are grateful for the friendships which have grown over the years. It is vital that we continue to reach out beyond boundaries of difference, to cultivate friendships and to deepen our understanding of our brothers and sisters of different cultures, backgrounds and faiths. After a series of learning spaces, we will come together for the call to prayer, finishing in time to share our Iftar meal which, as always, will be plentiful and delicious. Email [hannah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:hannah@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

### Alyth Productions Show: Stepping Out

Sunday 22 March (14:30 and 18:00)

Come and support our very first adult amateur dramatic group's show: Stepping Out! There are two shows on Sunday 22 March at 14:30 and 18:00. Tickets can be bought in advance by [clicking here](#) or on the door or from [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk).

If you are interested in joining the Productions cast for 2026, please email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk)

### Weekly Learning

#### SMG

*Sundays 11, 18, 25 January (10:00-12:00)*

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

#### Ruach 1 - 4

*Fridays 9, 16, 23, 30 January (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 8, 15, 22, 29 January (17:00-18:15)*

Our drama group for primary school aged children. This year's show is Matilda!

#### Academy of Performing Arts

*Sundays 11, 18, 25 January (17:00-20:00)*

Academy is our famous youth drama group which has been running for 32 years. This year's show is Bye Bye Birdie.

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

### Leadership Training

#### Year 9 Hadracha

*Tuesdays 6, 13, 20, 27 January (17:00-18:15)*

The start of our two year leadership programme for those in Year 9.

#### Mentor training

*Monday 5 January (17:30)*

Training for a new tranche of mentors for the Ruach programme.

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

## Holocaust Memorial Day Concert

Sunday 25 January (14:00)

This Holocaust Memorial Day, Rabbi Hannah and Hannah Kieve will be leading a choir of Alyth youth from Yrs 6 - 9 who will be singing two songs at this year's Barnet Holocaust Memorial Day Concert, Rabbi Hannah will also be saying Kaddish for those lost in the Holocaust, The concert will be held at Rickett Quadrangle, Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4BT. Guests should be seated by 13:45. Entry is free. For more information, please call: 020 8359 2652, email: [mayor@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@barnet.gov.uk) or visit: [www.barnet.gov.uk/holocaust](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/holocaust)



To pray. To learn. To live. Together.

# Learn With Us: Youth and Education

January 2026

## Year 6 B'nei Mitzvah Information Evening

Friday 16 January (17:15)

Join us for a meeting to get your B'nei Mitzvah journey started! Followed by the Erev Shabbat Service and a Chavurah Supper. 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](mailto:eszter@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Year 5 B'nei Mitzvah Date Booking Information Meeting

Sunday 18 January (10:30)

Email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk) if you haven't received any communication and you have a child in year 5.

## Year 3 and 4 Secret Cinema

Saturday 24 January (17:00)

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 around for some clues and sign up using this [link](#) if you would like your child to participate. Contact [eszter@alyth.org.uk](mailto:eszter@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Madrichim Theatre Trip

Thursday 29 January (evening)

Join your friends at Alyth to see Hercules in the West End together. Contact [izzie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:izzie@alyth.org.uk) for a ticket or for more information.

## Dog Walk

Sunday 8 February (10:00)

Join our community walk on the Heath Extension, with or without a dog (but with an umbrella just in case!). We will meet at Alyth where you can pick up a bagel and coffee for the walk. Contact [hannah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:hannah@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Feb Fun for Young Ones

Monday 16—Friday 20 February (9:00—13:00)

Feb Fun is for children aged 2 to 4. It will bring together all our members and is a chance to see friends from Alyth and to meet new people too.

Please email [eszter@alyth.org.uk](mailto:eszter@alyth.org.uk) for more information or [click here](#) to sign up.