

# Around Alyth

April 2026



## Highlights

**COMMUNAL SEDER**  
THURSDAY 2 APRIL 18:30

Come together with your Alyth family to read the Haggadah and enjoy a three-course meal. Led and hosted by Rabbi Elliott, a fried fish, poached salmon or vegetarian meal will be served (please indicate your food preference and any other dietary requirements when signing up)  
£37 per adult; £19 for under 16s.  
Please book no later than 25 March.

**Alyth**

April is another busy month at Alyth, including Pesach, Yom Hashoa, Yom HaZikaron, Yom Ha'atzma'ut, a trip to the theatre to see Yentl, the launch of Neshema kid's choir, a Poland trip and much more. Not forgetting Alyth Academy of Performing Art's performance of Bye Bye Birdie in early May. More details inside.

Alyth  
Alyth Academy  
presents

BUY TICKETS HERE

**BYE BYE BIRDIE**

Sunday  
3 May 2026  
Matinee: 2pm | Evening: 6.30pm

£15 - ADULT  
£12 - CONCESSION  
£7 - STUDENT

scan to buy | purchase at the door | email [sam@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sam@alyth.org.uk)

Alyth

**לְדוֹר וָדוֹר | לְדוֹר וָדוֹר**

**Yom HaShoa Concert**  
April 13 | 19:30

Followed by Memorial Service | 20:45-21:30

Image by artist Yael Boverman (2018)

The Movement for Progressive Judaism

## INVITATION

Launch of the new publication:  
**Progressive Judaism, Zionism and the State of Israel**

Monday 27 April 2026  
6.30pm  
The Sternberg Centre  
80 East End Road  
London  
N3 2SY

A first publication from the new Movement for Progressive Judaism, bringing together diverse voices on Israel: past, present and future.

Editors  
Dr Ed Kessler,  
Rabbi Charley Baginsky, Rabbi Josh Levy

#1 Progressive Judaism

The Movement for Progressive Judaism

### Erev Shabbat Services

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

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

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 April*

##### **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 and Eszter.

#### **Sensory Shabbat, 11:00**

Our Shabbat service designed to stimulate your babies' senses in the first years of their life. Join the team and the dungareenees in this service where you and your baby can touch, see, smell and hear your way through the service. Led by Hannah Kieve, Han Wood and dungareenees. Followed by a Seder lunch for everyone at 12:00.

#### *Saturday 11 April*

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

Led by Rabbi Elliott and Hannah Kieve with guitar. Including the Bat Mitzvah of Yael Plaschkes-Wise.

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

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

#### *Saturday 18 April*

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

Led by Cantor Sarah Grabiner and Rabbi Nicola with the Alyth choir. Including special readings for Rosh Chodesh and Shabbat T'Rumah.

#### **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 the Gesher guitarists.

#### *Saturday 25 April*

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

Led by Emeritus Rabbi Josh with guitar.

### Baby Den

Fridays 10, 17, 24 April (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 [izzie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:izzie@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

### Pesach

Wednesday 1 April—Wednesday 8 April

#### WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL

##### Erev Pesach Service (17:00) Online Only

We welcome Pesach online together as a community. Led by Rabbi Nicola.

#### THURSDAY 2 APRIL

##### Pesach Morning Service (10:15)

Led by Rabbi Nicola with the Alyth Choir conducted by James Slimings.

##### Pesach Morning 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 and Eszter Tóth.

##### Communal Seder (18:30)

Come together with your Alyth family to read the Haggadah and enjoy a three-course meal. Led and hosted by Rabbi Elliott, Lynette and Hannah

Kieve. We are now fully booked.

#### SATURDAY 4 APRIL

##### Intergenerational Seder Lunch (12:30)

Following the services we will share all the traditional seder foods, eat lunch together, and enjoy a creative re-telling of the story of Pesach. Led by Rabbi Elliott and Eszter. Finishing by 14:00. If you would like to come, please email [phoebe@alyth.org.uk](mailto:phoebe@alyth.org.uk)

#### TUESDAY 7 APRIL

##### Erev 7th day Pesach Service (18:30)

Join Rabbi Elliott for a service in which we will think about what roles miracles play in our stories of old, and in our culture today.

#### WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL

##### Pesach 7th day Service (10:15)

Led by Cantor Sarah with the Alyth Choir.

### Yom HaShoa

Monday 13 April (19:30)

This year's **Yom Hashoa** concert traces a Yiddish musical and emotional journey across three interconnected chapters: before, during, and after the Holocaust. *L'Dor Vador* invites us to reflect not only on loss, but on continuity – the ways in which Jewish music, memory, and identity endure and transform across time. A candle-lighting ceremony forms the heart of the evening, grounding the programme in collective remembrance.

Through music, words, and ritual, *L'Dor Vador: From Silence to Song* offers a space to remember, to mourn, and to affirm the enduring power of cultural memory across generations.

### Yom Ha'atzmaut

Tuesday 21 April (18:30)

Join us as we mark **Yom HaZikaron** (Israeli Day of Remembrance) and **Yom Ha'Atzma'ut** (Israeli Day of Independence) with events of commemoration and celebration. We will begin with a service that helps us to transition from mourning to joyfulness, as we mark the deaths of those who fought for Israel's independence before celebrating that independence and the variety of life and culture that comes with it.

After the service there will be a falafel dinner, and then an opportunity to join in smaller groups, including a special Yom Ha'atzma'ut book club with Rabbi Colin, an Israeli film, and other options (look out for details in the weekly email). We also invite participants to bring photos from trips to Israel in years past to contribute to our memories wall, which will be displayed throughout the evening, allowing us to share what we think is so special about Israel for our lives. [Click here](#) to sign up (£10 for dinner).

# Learn With Us

April 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.

- 7 No Essentials—Erev 7th Day Pesach
- 14 Yom Hazikaron / Yom Ha'atzma'ut / Reflecting about Israel in Jewish life
- 21 No Essentials—Yom Ha'atzma'ut
- 28 Prayer 1: What's it for, the building blocks of the liturgy

## Adult Hebrew

### Intensive Hebrew Reading Course

*Tuesdays returning in May (19:00)*

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

### Hebrew Reading Course

*Tuesdays returning in May (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 12, 19, 26 April (11:15-12:30) and Wednesdays 15, 22, 29 April (18:00-19:15)*

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

Saturday 18 April (9:15)

Often reviled as some of the trickier Torah texts to engage with, Cantor Sarah loves Tazria-Metsora! While on first glance, it's all skin diseases and bodily fluids, we will draw on teachings from "Maps and Meaning: Levitical Models for Contemporary Care" (by Rabbis Nancy H. Wiener and Jo Hirschmann) to see just how much meaning we can glean from these rich parashiot. We will talk about community care, spiritual journeys, and what we can learn about how to look after one another in pivotal life moments from the ancient Levitical priests.

## Tuesday Ma'ariv

Tuesdays in April (19:30)

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

## Learn With Us

April 2026

### Pardes:

Thursdays 9, 16, 23, 30 April (13:00-14:00)

During Pardes, 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.

- 2 No Pardes—Pesach
  - 9 Shemini with Rabbi Elliott
  - 16 Tazria-Metzora with Rabbi Nicola
  - 23 Acharei Mot-Kedoshim with Cantor Sarah
  - 30 Emor with Rabbi Colin
- On 7 May, Pardes will be at the Sternberg Centre. Contact [Nicola@alyth.org.uk](mailto:Nicola@alyth.org.uk)

### Kol Tefillah: A New Tefillah Forum for the Alyth Community Tuesday 5 May (20:00)

We are delighted to invite you to the inaugural meeting of Kol Tefillah - a new forum dedicated to enriching the prayer life of our community. This forum will offer a safe and welcoming space to reflect on services, explore the meaning of our liturgy, and share ideas about how we pray together. Kol Tefillah (meaning both "All Prayer" and "The Voice of Prayer") aims to bring diverse voices into conversation while deepening our collective experience of worship. This is an opportunity to ask questions, learn from the Alyth clergy, and thoughtfully experiment with different approaches to prayer.

All members are encouraged to get involved, whether regularly participating or simply curious to learn more. Meetings will take place quarterly, chaired by a member of the community, with opportunities to join communal prayer beforehand. Please let us know if you are coming by filling out this [form](#) (you can also use this form to submit questions or topics you would like to propose to the group). Meetings of Kol Tefillah will take place quarterly, alternating between Tuesday evenings at 20:00 and Sunday mornings at 10:30. After May, the next meetings will be: Sunday 19 July 2026 (10:30), Tuesday 3 November 2026 (20:00), Sunday 7 February 2027 (10:30).

### Volunteering at Alyth

There are many volunteer opportunities at Alyth - one offs and more frequent. Would you be able to give a little or more of your time to ensure that Alyth is a thriving community? If yes, then please have an initial chat with Lynette 02084578793 or email her [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) to say that you are interested in knowing more. Come and be a part of your community and we look forward to hearing from you.

**SUNDAY SHACHARIT**  
Sundays 5, 12, 19, 26 April (9:00)

Every Alyth week begins with a lay-led minyan with bagel breakfast at Alyth, led by Alyth members. All are welcome. Please note 5 April is offsite.

### Weekly

#### Monday Club

*Mondays 20 and 27 April 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

*Tuesdays 14 and 28 April 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 April, 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 April 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 19 April, 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 19 April, 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.

### Dog Walk

**Sunday 19 April (10:00)**

Join Hannah Kieve, Head of Music, for a walk on the Heath with your dog. No dog needed to join the walk! Meet at Alyth for coffee before heading out for the walk. Contact [music@alyth.org.uk](mailto:music@alyth.org.uk) for more information or to let us know you are coming.

## Progressive Judaism, Zionism and the State of Israel

**Monday 27 April (18:30)**

Join this month at the Sternberg Centre for the launch of the new publication: Progressive Judaism, Zionism and the State of Israel. A first publication for the new Movement for Progressive Judaism, bringing together diverse voices on Israel: past, present and future. Please see Progressive Judaism's website or email [colin@alyth.org.uk](mailto:colin@alyth.org.uk) more information.

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

**6 No Alyth Social—Bank Holiday**

**13 Piano Recital** - Abhinath James Berry, warmly received when he played for us previously, returns to play piano with a wonderful programme including works by Chopin and other favourites.

**20 Louise Heilbron - Commemorating Yom Hashoa** This year marks the 81<sup>st</sup> year since the end of the Holocaust. Very few witnesses to the atrocities are here to tell their stories so it is up to us, the subsequent generations to pass the stories on so that they and the millions who perished and suffered are never forgotten and when we say 'never again' we really mean it. This year, as a Holocaust Educator, I had more demand to teach on this from so many different groups – who are they and why are they interested?

**27 Piano Recital - Max Pemberton.**

Max makes a return visit and will play works by Chopin, Scriabin and Liszt. Please join us for what will be a most enjoyable afternoon of beautiful music.

### Alyth Ramble: Whitwell & St Paul's Walden

Monday 6 April (10:00-15:00)

Fields, woods and quiet lanes and the medieval church of St Paul's Walden.

Please bring packed Pesadik lunch. Parking: Roadside parking in Whitwell. Meet outside The Bull pub 34 High Street, Whitwell, Hertfordshire, SG4 8AG at 10:00. Contact [Vivienne.bellos@btinternet.com](mailto:Vivienne.bellos@btinternet.com) for information on future rambles.

### Caring for Elderly Parents

Sunday 19 April (10:30-12:00)

Join us for a discussion on how to have those difficult conversations with our parents. For more information contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) or on 02084578793

## Be With Us

Coming Up 2026

### Night Shelter

Thursday evenings until 9 April

Alyth is proud to participate in the Homeless Action in Barnet (HAB) Night Shelter for rough sleepers in Barnet. We are delighted to be hosting on Thursday evenings until 9 April. Please email [alythggnightshelter@gmail.com](mailto:alythggnightshelter@gmail.com) if you are interested in supporting the Shelter or would like to find

### Gallaria Ossef

April - June 2026

Thanks to everyone who submitted their artwork to be hung in our inaugural exhibition as part of Gallaria Osef – our new art exhibition space outside the Cecil Rosen Hall. From the end of February there has been an opportunity to come and view the selected artworks by members of Alyth. The exhibition will run until Shavuot. If you would be interested in exhibiting your work in this space in the future, please contact Sarah ([sarah@alyth.org.uk](mailto:sarah@alyth.org.uk)).

### Shavuot

21 and 22 May 2026

Join us on Thursday 21 May for Tikkun Leil Shavuot, starting at 19:00 with a choice of learning sessions and cheese and wine. Study with us through the night covering Jews Around the World through Space and Time including locations such as Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Belarus, Babylonia and others.

### Visit to Highgate Cemetery

Sunday 14 June (10:45)

Joe Raine used to be a Consultant Paediatrician. Following retirement his love of history led him to become a tour guide at Highgate cemetery, the most famous cemetery in the UK. As well as being the burial site for many famous people the cemetery contains beautiful sculptures and has a very reflective, meditative atmosphere. The tour will cover the west and east sides of the cemetery and focus on famous Jews buried there (the most famous being Karl Marx- a renowned atheist!). In the course of our walk we'll also be passing numerous graves of famous non-Jewish people and those will also be talked about. The tour will last about 90 minutes. Meet at the Cemetery entrance no later than 10:45. £20 per person. Maximum number of participants will be 24. To join what will be a fascinating tour please [sign in here](#). Contact [lynette@alyth.org.uk](mailto:lynette@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

## Spring Lecture Series

April—June 2026 (20:00)

We are delighted to be continuing our lecture series throughout the spring. We have 9 lectures, covering a range of topics from finance to literature to sport to distilling and so much more.

**23 April: Elena Marks**, Alyth member and world expert in cyber crime talking about her 24 hour trip to Rome to meet the Pope.

**30 April: Dr Jeremy Smilg, Alyth member**, will talk on Lewis Goldsmith. Goldsmith was a radical English Jew, who worked in Paris for Talleyrand and became a spy for Napoleon, before returning to England and becoming a conservative polemicist calling for Napoleon's assassination.

**7 May: Ashley Lerner in conversation with Lord Mann:** "Tackling Antisemitism in Sport: A Conversation on the Challenges, Progress and Reality": Lord Mann, HM Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism, will join Ashley Lerner, CEO of Maccabi GB and Alyth member, for a timely conversation exploring the realities facing Jewish athletes, clubs and supporters today. Together they will reflect on recent challenges, share insights from their work and discuss the action being taken across grassroots and the professional game to tackle antisemitism in sport. **(This lecture will be starting at 19:30)**

**14 May: Douglas Miller**, Alyth member, talking about Death and the afterlife in Ancient Egypt

**21 May: Erev Shavuot, Tikkun Leyl:** "Jews Around the World"

**28 May: Sir Michael Bear** talking about his time as Lord Mayor of London. Michael was the 683rd Lord Mayor of London.

**4 June: Jonathan Haskel CBE** British economist and Professor of Economics at Imperial Business School, Imperial College in London and Alyth member, hosting a Q&A about the economy

**11 June: Miriam Halamy and Larry Finlay, chaired by Noeleen Cohen:** "Using the power of books to influence the narrative" Join us to hear from renowned children's author Miriam Halahmy and veteran books publisher Larry Finlay, both Alyth members, in conversation with Alyth member Noeleen Cohen, about their experience of living and working in the publishing world post 7 October, and at a time when Antisemitism is more prevalent than ever. The evening coincides with Jewish Culture Month - "More joy, less oy!" -celebrating the Jewish contribution to British Culture. We promise a conversation filled with much joy, and a little Oy!

**18 June: Reuben Simon**, Alyth member on his distilling work

**25 June: Jeremy Dein KC:** "Is Defending the Indefensible Morally Corrupt"? Jeremy has spent 42 years defending in the criminal courts, for the last 25, mainly Homicide . Is this a valiant, valuable and necessary occupation if a free society? Or, is to defend the indefensible morally corrupt? Jeremy is a barrister specialising in criminal defence and an Alyth member.

### Weekly Learning

#### SMG

*Sundays 19 and 26 April (10:00-12:00)*

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

#### Ruach 1 - 4

*Fridays 17 and 24 April (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 16 and 23 April (17:00-18:15)*

This year's show is Matilda!

#### Academy of Performing Arts

*Sundays 19 and 26 April (17:00-20:00)*

This year's show is Bye Bye Birdie.

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

### Mentor Training

Thursday 16 April (17:15)

Our Youth and Education Hub trains our incoming cohort of mentors who have had their B'nei Mitzvah over the last 6 months. Contact [izzie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:izzie@alyth.org.uk) for more information.

### Neshema—Kid's Choir

Launching Friday 17 April (17:15)

Neshamah, meaning soul or spirit, is Alyth's new choir for children in Years 3 - 5. This is an opportunity for children's voices and energy to enhance our communal and spiritual life. Meeting weekly during term time before the Erev Shabbat Service. Contact [music@alyth.org.uk](mailto:music@alyth.org.uk) for more information, and please register [here](#).

### Yom Ha'atzma'ut Tea

Tuesday 21 April (16:30-18:00)

Join us on 21 April for a Family Yom Ha'atzma'ut Tea as we celebrate 77 years of Israel together. We'll "travel" across Israel in an afternoon of culture, creativity and celebration experiencing the sights, sounds and flavours that make Israel so special. It's a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, mark this meaningful day, and share in the festivities. A delicious tea will be provided for children. Please email [izzie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:izzie@alyth.org.uk) to sign up or if you have any questions.

### Bye Bye Birdie

Sunday 3 May (14:00 and 18:30)

Come along to support our teenage cast of Academy of Performing Arts' show: Bye Bye Birdie. The cast have been rehearsing weekly since September and we would love them to have a packed house to support them. [Click here](#) for tickets or contact [izzie@alyth.org.uk](mailto:izzie@alyth.org.uk) for more information.