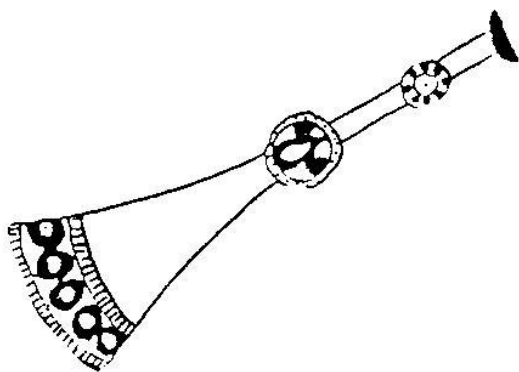
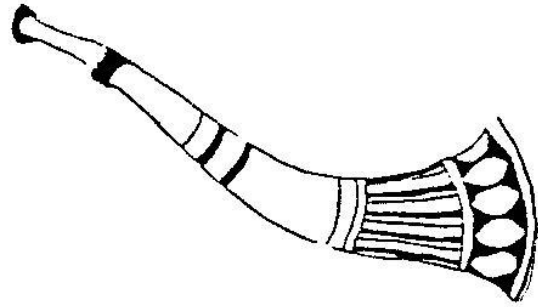


Shofar
Shalom



The Official newsletter of the Hull Reform Synagogue



CHAIR'S REPORT

Tishri/Cheshvan 5778
October/November 2017

Chag S'meach. Wow where do I start a truly remarkable and memorable last few weeks for Ne've Shalom.

I would personally like to thank all the service leaders for conducting such splendid services throughout the High Holy Days. What a wonderful team of highly dedicated members we have in our Shul. All the Sermons delivered this year were truly amazing and a lot of time and effort had being put in to preparing them. The Sermons for Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur have been re-printed for those who missed them. Special thanks to Ian and Audrey for coordinating us all and pointing us in the right direction throughout the High Holy Days.

Thank you to all the members who turned up last Sunday to build and decorate the Sukkah in the rain. Thank you also to Aimi, who led a splendid Sukkot service and can really shake a Lulav. Audrey and gang proved a splendid Kiddush to celebrate Joanne's birthday and we all wish Joanne many more years of youthful life ahead.



Northern Chagigah will be taking place on 3-5 November 2017 at Easingwood, near York.

Finally, please don't forget to come to our Friday Night services at 7.00pm and Shabbat Morning Services at 10.30am on the first Saturday of each month.

THE BALFOUR CENTENARY

Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

'His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object. it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country'

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Balfour Declaration, there will be a presentation entitled, "Balfour to Independence: a Tale of Two Declarations" on **Thursday 16 November 2017** at the **Ne've Shalom Synagogue**.

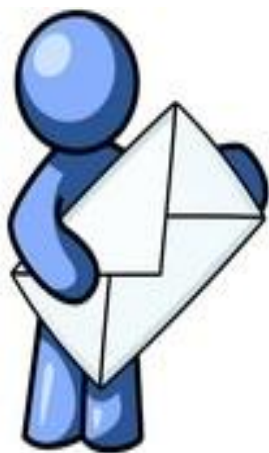
The speaker will be Robin Moss, who is the Director of Strategy for UJIA, and the event starts at **7.45pm**.

Following the presentation, Dave Eastburn Catering will be providing the refreshments.

Please make every effort to attend this talk outlining this important landmark event in the creation of the State of Israel.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

THANK YOU ALL



Dear Ne've Shalom

I would just like to thank you all for making the High Holy Days so meaningful. Everyone played their part from the Lay Readers to those members of the Shul who supported them by providing readings, and even Sermons.

It is impossible to name everyone, as you all, in your different ways, were wonderful. From the organisation to the deliverance, we are so lucky that we have so many dedicated and talented members. Ian, as always, was at the helm, unobtrusively guiding you as he always does.

I know that I said that I wouldn't mention names, but I feel that I have to thank Audrey, not only for the High Holy Days, but for all the tireless work that she does. She always makes sure that we have a Challah for Erev Shabbat and organises food from Leeds or Manchester for all our many celebrations, with Gillian always on hand to help.

Once again thank you to you all.

With best wishes

Lesley Annis
25 St. Peters Avenue.



HAVE YOU THE SHOFAR BLOWING X FACTOR?

Our current Shofar blower, Joanne Kearsley, has asked if we can find an understudy for her, as she is concerned about her availability.

We are therefore asking all members who would like to audition for the role to contact Joanne to arrange a 'master class' on blowing the Shofar. Joanne can be contacted on 01724 340506.



AJEX ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Honorary Officers, Executive and members of Hull AJEX would like to invite all members and friends of Ne've Shalom Synagogue to join them at their Annual Service of Remembrance to be held at the **Pryme Street Synagogue** on **Sunday 12 November 2017**, starting at **2.30pm**.

The reunion tea will be served after the Service.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HULL JEWISH COMMUNITY CARE (HJCC)



Following the success of the recent social event, HJCC have great pleasure in inviting the community to another of their Friendly Circle afternoon teas on **Wednesday 25 October 2017 at 2.00pm**. Thanks to the effort of one of our newest committee members, Avril Sugarman, HJCC have arranged a joint "friendly afternoon" with the BHH Leisure Group from the Street Lane Synagogue in Leeds.

The event is taking place at the **Pryme Street Synagogue** and there will be entertainment and refreshments as usual, so put the date in your diary, so we can meet up with old friends from Leeds as well as our own friends from round here. If you have any friends who may not see this announcement, please would you keep them informed - I'm sure you agree, it really will be a shame for them to miss it!

For further details or to request a lift to this events, please contact Harold Flasher, Chairman of HJCC, on (01482) 655 537 or 07766 416 605, (or indeed, any member of the committee).



CHANUKAH SERVICE AND CHANUKAH KIDDUSH

This year, we are holding our Chanukah Service, and a very special Chanukah Kiddush, on **Friday 15 December 2017** starting at **7.00pm**.

As this is also the fourth night of Chanukah, we will be lighting our giant Chanukiah and sampling Chanukah-style food such as fried fish balls, latkes and donuts. Everyone is welcome to come along.

HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL



This year, the Council are asking for your support of the national Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ) appeal. This is to raise awareness of loneliness and isolation; supporting welfare and care committees and identifying training needs in partnership with Jewish Care and The Fed in Manchester. The money raised will provide support for

those who, through no fault of their own, lead a life of loneliness and isolation and any financial contribution will double the impact of their work. Details of the appeal were announced out during the High Holy Days Services and all monies will be donated to the MRJ.

If you wish to donate, cheques should be made payable to "Hull Reform Synagogue" and sent to our Treasurer, Aimi Sugarman, at 18 Bradgate Park, Kingswood, Hull HU7 3JA.

For further information about this appeal please contact MRJ's Community Partners: Amit (amit@rjuk.org) in the South or Sarita (sarita@rjuk.org) in the North.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL MEETING

8 September 2017

Present - Andy Harbert (Chair), Joanne Kearsley (Secretary), Phil O'Driscoll, Audrey Sugarman, Henry Goldstone, Malcolm Rosenberg and Elaine Winetroube.

Business

The High Holy Days mitzvot lists had been finalised by Ian and Audrey and were going out shortly. The Chair had received confirmation that a police presence would be provided over the High Holy Days from PC David Hemmings of the Humberside Police Community Support.

The Chair reported that Jim Lightowler's 90th birthday Kiddush on Friday 11 August 2017 had gone very well, with 40 people attending. He thanked Audrey, Gillian and Ann for preparing the food. The Chair also confirmed that the Shul now had five new inscribed Siddurim in memory of Geoff Annis. He also reported that the film show of "Denial", which took place on 27th August 2017, had been well attended and enjoyed by all those present. It was hoped that another film, "The Zoo Keeper's Wife", would be shown later in the year.

Letters had been sent out to all members and friends of the Shul for the 2017/18 membership subscriptions and a number of cheques and payments had been received. Malcolm is continuing to 'chase up the last few outstanding subscription payments for 2016/17.

The Chair reported that next Friendly Circle would be held at Ne've Shalom on 14 September 2017 at 2.00pm. The High Holy Days for 5778 would commence on Wednesday evening, 20 September 2017 with the Erev Rosh Hashanah Service. The Hull Representative Council Meeting would be held at Ne've Shalom on Sunday 8th October at 10.30am. Ian, Deborah and Phil will be representing the Shul. This year's Northern Chagigah would be taking place on 3-5 November 2017 in York. The next RSY sleepover would take place on 23-24 March 2018.

A request had been received by Ian from Mike Westerman regarding the use of the Shul hall on 16 November 2017. A special speaker would be coming to give a talk on The Balfour Declaration (100 Years on) and he was hoping that the Shul would host the event. The Chair agreed to liaise with Ian and Mike Westerman for more details.

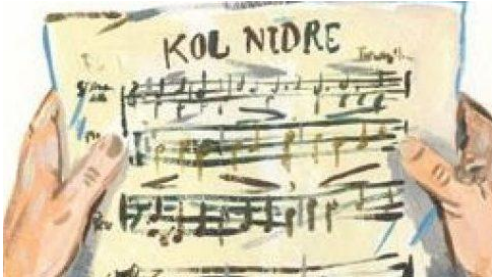
Mark Huntington took his first Friday night service on 25th August 2017 and it was very well received. Mark has now joined the list of the Shul's Lay Readers. The hand cleansing gel units for the shul are now in place. Andy has made enquiries regarding the water boiler for the kitchen. Audrey agreed to speak to Harold Flasher at HJCC regarding possible funding.

The Council decided that new hand dryers were needed for the ladies and gents toilets. The Chair agreed to look into this. The Simchat Torah service would take place on 11 October 2017. The Council agreed to give the honour of Chatan Torah to Malcolm Rosenberg and Chatan B'Resheet to Ian Sugarman.

Joanne requested that a notice to be placed in the Shofar Shalom asking anyone interested in learning to blow the shofar to contact her to arrange a get-together next year. She was hoping to train up an understudy for her if she was unavailable on Rosh Hashanah.

Date of next Council meeting – Friday 27 October 2017

ANOTHER KOL NIDRE NIGHT



This year, our High Holy Day Services were conducted by a team of the Shul's Lay Readers supported by members providing readings during parts of the Services. This sermon was written by Malcolm Rosenberg and delivered by Malcolm during our Kol Nidre Service. We will be publishing the Rosh Hashanah sermon in the next issue.

Every year Jews in Israel and the Diaspora flock to Shul, in their millions to hear this Declaration. But what actually is it ? What are its origins and why do we recite it 3 times?

Technically Kol Nidre is not really a prayer, but more of a legal document wherein we release vows and asks God to annul those vows made during the coming year, and wouldn't be out of place in a Solicitors office or a Shul Council meeting for that matter. It's the only Jewish festival named after a prayer, and opens the doors to Yom Kippur; a day of reflection, a day of introspection, a day when we bare our soul to God , almost touch the Divine Presence, a day when all our defences are stripped away, aware of what we have done and what we could do better as Jews and of people. Kol Nidre is written in Aramaic, not Hebrew, it's name taken from the opening words meaning "all vows".

Well, with many things in Judaism it goes back to Persecution.

I want you to imagine its 1917, a hundred years ago, during the First World War and a lonely Jew happened to be in the same coach as a number of Russian soldiers. They began to harass the chap. One pulled his ear, another his hair and a third threw his lunch out of the window. The Jew was incensed, but wisely said nothing. But after been annoyed and ridiculed for some time, he rose from his seat and angrily shouted, "*Yekum purkan min shemaya hina vehisda verahemei vehayei ariha*"

One of the soldiers who prided himself on his intellectual capacity, and unaware that the stranger had quoted an Aramaic passage from the Shabbat morning service, exclaimed, "Hey, hold on boys, leave him alone. This fellow isn't a Jew – he's a Frenchman".

Some scholars claim that the reason for the Kol Nidre prayer goes back to the Spanish Inquisition of the 15th Century, some even earlier to the 5th and 6th Century. In these times Jews were forced to convert to Christianity, to Islam or die. These Jews were known as 'Conversos', masquerading as converts to another religion. However, these Jews remained faithful to Judaism at heart, and to some degree, of observance too. It was difficult, but every Yom Kippur Eve they would gather in secret hideout Shuls and before the Service, would tearfully and emotionally ask God to forgive them for all their transgressions made in the previous year contrary to Jewish doctrine.

When the danger had passed many of these forced converts wanted to return to their Jewish community, but they had been forced to swear vows of fealty to another religion. Because of the seriousness with which Jewish tradition views verbal promises, the Kol Nidre formula was developed precisely in order to enable those forced converts to return and pray with the Jewish community, absolving them of the vows that they made under distress. This is one theory, but the fact is we don't know for sure the real reason, as it is just lost in the mists of time. Some say Kol Nidre predates the Inquisition by 500 years, but put simply, it is just the opening prayer of the holiest day of the year, and as such, is said with great devotion not because of its content.

And the 3 times .

One reason is so that latecomers get a chance to hear it if you missed it first time round , or second time, etc. You know what it's like. You rush home from business, grab your last meal for 25 hours and straight off to Shul.

Also there is another reason . Because of a custom of ancient Jewish courts, to be released from a legally binding vow, it had to said 3 times.

But what of the music and melody of Kol Nidre. We don't know who composed it, again lost in the mists of time. Nevertheless, it's a challenge to any singer, and a Cantor's delight. This plaintive, haunting melody varies in intensity from pianissimo to fortissimo and has been recorded by various artists. Cantor Yosselle Rosenblatt is on the list. Other names also on the list are Avram Fentuch, Alexander Tsaliuk, Azi Schwartz , Moshe Oysler and Moshe Koussevitzky, as are Jan Peerce, who is also on the list.

Perhaps the most well known versions are Al Jolson in the original Jazz Singer mercifully not 'blacked' up for the occasion. Also, Neil Diamond reprised the role in the remake. Perry Como also is on the list and they are not all men, as Cantor Angela Buchdahl is also on the list.

Johnny Mathis is also on the list, a devout Catholic, he appreciated its huge emotion and powerful message. He first learnt the melody, then the words. It wasn't a religious thing with him, as he didn't have to masquerade as anyone else, but maybe in some small way paid something back to those 'Conversos' Jews who didn't have a choice.

So In conclusion we ask God to release these vows, and instead, grant us a year of happiness and redemption.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL

Chairman:	Andy Harbert (Shul Management)	07736 397858
Vice Chairman:	Phil O'Driscoll (Projects)	07903 578490
Secretary:	Joanne Kearsley (Administration)	01724 340506
Acting Treasurer:	Aimi Sugarman (Financial)	01482 835864
Senior Warden:	Audrey Sugarman (Services and Mitzvot)	01482 563835
Council Members:	Henry Goldstone (Security/Plaques)	01482 667258
	Malcolm Rosenberg (Asst. Treasurer)	01482 846712
	Elaine Winetroube (Telephone)	01482 571035
Co-opted Members:	Jim Lightowler (Building Maintenance)	01482 654663
	Chris Lilley (General)	07972 563194
Life President:	Ian Sugarman	01482 835864

RECEIVING THE SHOFAR SHALOM ELECTRONICALLY



In these current environmentally friendly times, we are offering all members the opportunity to receive the *Shofar Shalom* directly to them by e-mail. If you do wish to receive your *Shofar Shalom* electronically, please contact Ian Sugarman on ian@isa.karoo.co.uk who will add you to the electronic mailing list.

WHAT MAKES A HOUSE A HOME? A BUILDING A SHUL?



This sermon, which was delivered by Sarita Robinson on Yom Kippur, is based upon one written by Rabbi Robyn Ashworth-Steen. Robyn is not only Sarita's friend, but the incredibly talented and wonderful newly-ordained Rabbi of Jackson's Row Synagogue in Manchester.

Anyone who has moved home will know quite how hard it is. Lots of times over the years I've seen houses I would like to move to, but the very thought of packing all of our stuff, making decisions on huge amounts of "I might need it one day", "it might be useful", "it might fit again..." has stopped me.

My house is my home; it is so much more than stuff, whether needed or not. When we bought our house it was definitely just that. A house, and a very empty one at that. What is it that makes a house a home? For me, it has everything to do with people – having family and friends around to visit, feeding people and showing them around. It's about entering into a relationship with the house, the surroundings, the neighbours... Simply buying furniture only goes some way to making a house a home – it takes something more to feel at home.

The same discussion about 'what makes a house a home' can be applied to us here at Ne've Shalom – 'what makes a building a synagogue? What makes a collection of people a community?' And at Yom Kippur, we have an opportunity to examine ourselves both personally and collectively. So, what makes a building a synagogue? What makes a collection of people a community? Of course, part of the answer is shared experiences. Not only do we share an ancient history, from Abraham to us here today, but most of us will have personal experiences with this building and community – Cheder, B'nei Mitzvot, Communal Sederim, Festivals, Deborah's cakes, Audrey's fish balls, Aimi's Tu B'Shevat Sederim, Dave Eastburn's catering... And these shared experiences are crucial to our collective identity and it is important we remember them. There is, however, more to being part of a community than our past experiences, and a building. Indeed, the Jewish people started off, all those years ago, as a ragged group of people marching across the wilderness with only temporary shelters to hand, and we welcomed in many people along the way.

Being Jewish is much more than being part of a religion – we are a people – *am yisrael*. We are a family – a big family, sometimes a dysfunctional family, but a family nonetheless! Perhaps this can be understood best through a snapshot of some of the conversations I've heard and been part of within this synagogue whenever someone new walks through the door. What will then follow is a mini interrogation – 'where are you from', 'what's your last name', 'Do you know so-and-so?', 'My father's-cousin's-neighbour's-son used to live there'. We've all had conversations like these as we each try to find a connection with the other across our large, sprawling Jewish family.

When I was younger I used to find these kinds of conversations difficult. I often felt sad that I didn't know so-and-so and felt slightly excluded. I was frustrated at the small world mentality – you're Jewish so you must know so-and-so. But, I now realise how wrong I was and I've learnt to love these mini-interrogations as I think they go some way to explaining what it is to be Jewish. Let me explain.

Through these conversations and questions we are striving for a connection. We begin with the assumption that we know each other, that we're connected, that we're part of the same family, no matter when or how we got in! And we'll do our utmost to prove that we are connected, albeit in some oblique way. What a wonderful way to begin a conversation. Imagine if every conversation we had began with the understanding that we are connected, have something in common and we then work from that place to find what that connection is. Judaism is built upon these relationships of connectivity. As Martin Buber, the Austrian born Jewish philosopher, said, "in the beginning is the relationship."

Judaism primarily functions as a community – as a web of relationships. Our liturgy demands that we pray together – we need 10 people for a full service and, on Yom Kippur, we even confess our collective sins, the sins of those sitting next to us. Our calendar demands that we keep coming together – Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah and so on. Our rituals mean that we are together during the most important life cycles – when a baby is born, when our children begin growing up, weddings, deaths, yahrzeits. It is these coming-togethers that make a shul a *kehillah kedoshah* - a holy community. And, as we know from Torah, we are enjoined by God to remember that we are a holy people. I think, for me, a *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy community, is one which strives to connect and be part of something bigger than itself. We are not interested only in ourselves. We care about, and are in relationship with, those around us.

Yet synagogues too can miss the mark. Ron Wolfson, in his book *Relational Judaism*, relayed a story he heard from a rabbi – "A woman who was a member of my synagogue for twenty years resigned. I was shocked because she showed up to all of our programmes. So, I called her to ask why she was leaving. You know what she said? "I came to everything, and I never met anybody." How can we ensure this doesn't happen? How can we, this Yom Kippur, ensure this type of loneliness does not take place? We must recognise the importance of these familial ties and our relationships. We must invest in these relationships and start from a point of reaching out for a connection. And each of us has to assess our relationship to this community. What are we asking of our community? If we understand the synagogue only as a building we ask, "what's in it for me?" – a question which is based on the assumption that it's all about give and take and the self – that you bear no responsibility to the other. In a *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy community, we ask – how will my life be different by engaging with this community? We recognise that we are part of something bigger and we have something to learn from it. It means that we are there for each other during the hard times and the good.

And as a community we've had our fair share of struggle from the wandering Jews to getting this magnificent building, fluctuating numbers and we're all getting older. As a wider community, we've struggled too, with anti-Semitism being talked about much too much for our liking. On a personal level, we've lost family members and friends. Yet, as a community we stay together throughout this all. Ne've Shalom is a constant. In a world where it can appear that we value transactions above relationships, Judaism and our community can offer us something unique and priceless. Yet to sustain a *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy community, it requires work and investment in those relationships. It requires an engagement, in whatever way works for you.

I hope that this year, 5778, we can all take the time to get to know each other better. To deepen our connections and our relationships. To ensure that this house and this building is a home for all and a *kehillah kedoshah*/holy community beginning with ourselves and reaching outwards and upwards. May this New Year, of 5778, be one of strengthening relationships, of renewal, of seeking connections and exploring how our Judaism impacts on us and those around us.

Kayn Yehi Ratzon – May this be God's will. Amen.

ENGLISH YAHRZEIT DATES WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE HEBREW DATES FOR RELATIVES OF MEMBERS OF NEVE SHALOM - THE HULL REFORM SYNAGOGUE

Rita Kelly	18 Oct. 2017	Myer Peysner	30 Oct. 2017
Annette Segal	18 Oct. 2017	Ivor Winetroube	3 Nov. 2017
Aubrey Silver	19 Oct. 2017	Mary Gordon	7 Nov. 2017
Dora Rose	21 Oct. 2017	Gillian Mendoza	9 Nov. 2017
Lee Winetroube	22 Oct. 2017	Sam Winer	10 Nov. 2017
Maurice Segal	22 Oct. 2017	Domini Highsmith	12 Nov. 2017
Harry Bransky	24 Oct. 2017	Clara Winer	13 Nov. 2017
Harold Bermitz	25 Oct. 2017	Max Albeck	17 Nov. 2017
Chaim Raphael	25 Oct. 2017	Janos Lusztig	18 Nov. 2017
Israel Bermitz	29 Oct. 2017	Richard Friend	24 Nov. 2017
Boris Furman	29 Oct. 2017		

Traditionally, Jewish Yahrzeits are remembered on the Hebrew date, which means that there might be some variation in the English date each year.

If the Hebrew date is observed, it must be remembered that the Yahrzeit starts the evening before.

Memorial prayers for the deceased will be recited during the Friday Night Service for those Yahrzeits which fall during the coming week. If a Yahrzeit falls on a Friday Night, please remember that the prayers will usually be recited during the Friday Night Service the week before.



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FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Date	Time	Leader	Refreshment Rota
Friday 13 October	7.00pm	Peter Altoft	Joanne Kearsley Gill Drummond
Friday 20 October	7.00pm	Tony Sevilla-Harland	Ann Sevilla-Harland Deborah Wrapson
Friday 27 October	7.00pm	Sarita Robinson	Ann Bush Jackie Lukes
Friday 27 October (Council Meeting)	8.00pm	Andy Harbert	N/A
Friday 3 November	7.00pm	Mark Huntington	Lesley Annis Christine Joseph-Jay
Shabbat 4 November	10.30am	Ian Sugarman Tony Sevilla-Harland	Audrey Sugarman Gillian Smith
Shabbat 4 November (Torah Workshop)	12.15pm	Tony Sevilla-Harland	N/A
Friday 10 November	7.00pm	Malcolm Rosenberg	Deborah Wrapson Gill Drummond
Thursday 16 November (Balfour Declaration Event)	7.45pm	Hull Jewish Rep. Council	Dave Eastburn Catering
Friday 17 November	7.00pm	Aimi Sugarman	Lesley Annis Ann Bush
Friday 24 November	7.00pm	Phil O'Driscoll Andy Harbert	Helen Jackman Christine Joseph-Jay
Friday 1 December	7.00pm	Peter Altoft	Joanne Kearsley Veronika Keczkcs
Shabbat 2 December	10.30am	Ian Sugarman Tony Sevilla-Harland	Audrey Sugarman Gillian Smith
Shabbat 2 December (Torah Workshop)	12.15pm	Tony Sevilla-Harland	N/A
Friday 8 December	7.00pm	Mark Huntington	Jackie Lukes Audrey Sugarman
Friday 15 December (Chanukah Service and Kiddush)	7.00pm	Sarita Robinson	Aimi Sugarman Elaine Winetroube
Friday 22 December	7.00pm	Tony Sevilla-Harland	Ann Sevilla-Harland Deborah Wrapson
Friday 29 December	7.00pm	Malcolm Rosenberg	Andy Harbert Gill Drummond
Friday 5 January	7.00pm	Aimi Sugarman	Veronika Keczkcs Ann Bush

If you are unable to take your turn on the **service rota**, please arrange for someone else to take your place.

If you are unable to take your turn on the refreshment rota, please arrange for someone else to take your place and inform Audrey Sugarman on (01482) 563835 to ensure that sufficient refreshments are available.

MEMORIAL BOARD

The Synagogue Council would again like to inform members that there is still space available on the Memorial Board for members to purchase a plaque in memory of their loved one(s).

For further details, please contact Henry Goldstone on (01482) 667258.

KIDDUSH SPONSORING

During the year, you might want to mark that special occasion in a unique, yet innovative manner. In order to help you solve your dilemma, the Synagogue Council has agreed to allow the sponsoring of Kiddushim.

If you would like further details, or wish to reserve a particular date, please contact Audrey Sugarman on (01482 563835)



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POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS



If any members of the Synagogue are aware of, or are contacted by, potential new members, hoping to join our Synagogue, please advise them to contact our Secretary

Joanne Kearsley on 01724 340506
or at joannekearsley@yahoo.co.uk

who will provide them with further information and the necessary application forms.