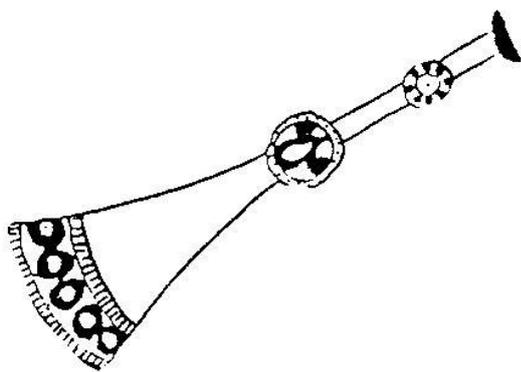
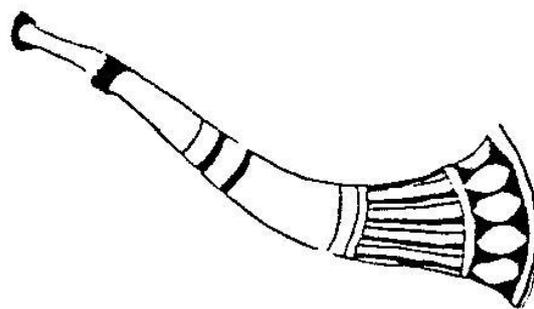


Shofar
Shalom



The Official Newsletter of Ne've Shalom, the Hull Reform Synagogue



CHAIR'S REPORT

Kislev 5782
November/December 2021

Shalom. Firstly, can I thank you all for your support in electing me as Chair of the Shul Council. It's a great honour and I would like to thank Andy for all his dedication, hard work and commitment over the past four and a half years. Since being elected in June 2017, Andy has done so much for our Shul, much behind the scenes, and it's only due to his significant business commitment and excessive workload that he has had stepped down. I'm sure that he'll be back.

As I said before, it's often forgotten that all members of the Shul Council are unpaid volunteers who, purely and simply, have the welfare of the Shul at heart and they should be afforded the respect they deserve.

Following the AGM in June 2019 and before the Shul closed in March 2020, there had been some divisions within the Shul Council due to 'unhelpful' opinions and the forming of cliques within the membership. I appreciate that these situations are not new, having seen them arise a number of times during my 38 year membership, but we must all try to 'pull together', especially in these challenging times.

At the AGM in June 2019, a request was made by a number of members regarding the employment of a Student Rabbi. Although an expensive option, the Council, with assistance from Sarita, MRJ's Director of Community Partnership (North), managed to retain the services of Student Rabbi Eleanor Davis. Unfortunately, due to the 'lockdown', Eleanor was unable to come to Hull during 2020, but was able to lead Services over this year's High Holy Days. Moving forward, Eleanor has been 'booked' for selected weekends and Festivals during this year and next. It is, therefore, essential that you support these Services and events, as her retention was a direct response from a membership request. In other words, you wanted her, now show your support through your attendance.

Finally, I'm delighted to report that the changes to the Shul Constitution now allow the burial of Jewish members and their non-Jewish partners in the same grave at Tranby Lane Cemetery. I know this is welcome news to a number of our members. Please feel free to share this development to any disenfranchised Jews that you might be acquainted with and ask them to contact Laura at laura.hullreform@gmail.com, or on 07895 269 462 for more details.

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.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL



PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS 2021/22

The delayed subscription letters are being sent out with this edition of the Shofar Shalom. At our last AGM, the Treasurer confirmed that there will be no increase in membership. The optional burial insurance premium, however, has been set independently by the Joint Jewish Burial Society (JJBS) and therefore was not under the control of the synagogue. This has increased by £4.00.

Therefore, the subscriptions for 2021/2022 will be:

Individual membership:	£170.00 (membership only)	£249.00 (including burial insurance premium)
Family membership:	£340.00 (membership only)	£498.00 (including burial insurance premium)

If you wish to pay by monthly standing order, please ensure that all monies are paid by 31 March 2022. For example, an individual membership of £170.00 starting in November for five months will be £34.00 per month. Adding burial insurance only increases it by £15.80 per month.

A family membership including burial insurance of £498.00 starting in November for five months works out as £99.60 per month. That includes cover for all dependent children under 18 years.

Please be aware that if you stop paying burial insurance then you will automatically be removed from being a member of the JJBS and lose all benefits of this insurance when you pass away.

When setting up your standing order, please provide the following information to your bank about our account, which is with the HSBC Bank, 63, Market Place, Beverley HU17 8AL: **Account no: 41197738; Sort code: 40-10-12; Account name: Hull Reform Synagogue** If you wish to pay by cheque, please make it payable to "Hull Reform Synagogue" and send it to the Shul address.

Finally, if you have any queries, problems with arranging payments or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Rhodes or Aimi Sugarman in confidence.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL

Chairman:	Ian Sugarman (Shul Management)	01482 835864
Vice Chairman:	Aimi Sugarman (Projects)	07507 891608
Secretary:	Ann Sevilla Harland (Pastoral/Admin.)	07811 353354
Treasurer:	Aimi Sugarman (Legal/Finance)	07507 891608
Senior Warden:	Andy Harbert (Services)	07736 397858
Council Members:	Helen Jackman (Education/Events)	07884 432329
	Elaine Winetroube (General)	07707 796774

NE'VE SHALOM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15th October 2021

Members present: Aimi Sugarman (Stand-in Chair and Treasurer), Ann Sevilla-Harland (Stand-in Secretary), Ian Sugarman, Elaine Winetroube, Christine Joseph Jay, Sarita Robinson, Peter Altoft and Joanna Kearsley.

Also present: Zoe Taylor - Financial Advisor and Laura Rhodes - minute taker.

1. Apologies for Absence

The following members had tendered their apologies: Helen Jackman (Secretary), Andy Harbert (Chair), Veronika Keczkas, Audrey Sugarman, Gillian Smith, Mark Huntington, Henry Goldstone, Lesley Annis, Tim Harris, Natalie Winetroube, Deborah Wrapson and Rebecca Verlander.

2. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 21st March 2021 were read out by the Stand-in Secretary, approved by those present on that occasion and signed by the Stand-in Chair.

3. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the Agenda

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Chair's Annual Report

The Chair report was read out by the Stand-in Chair in the Chair's absence. This read as follows:

"As you are aware, our last AGM was held remotely in March as a Zoom meeting. I would therefore like to give a brief overview on the Shul's activities up to this evening's AGM.

Sadly, since our last AGM, we have lost two members and an ex-member, all of which will be sadly missed. Ann Bush passed away in April, Marija Guilas in May and Jim Lightowler in June 2021. We wish all the families a "Long life". They all played a tremendous part in the history of the Shul and their commitment, dedication and involvement will be extremely hard to replace.

Whilst the building was closed, a small dedicated team has kept the Shul going. Organised by Aimi Sugarman, my Vice-Chair, who was supported by Elaine Winetroube and Helen Jackman and ably assisted by the excellent Laura Rhodes, our Operations and Charity Manager, they have kept members informed, liaised with the movement and CST, looked after our finances and ensured our building was ready and safe for our eventual covid-safe return for the High Holy Day Services in September. As requested by members at the previous AGM, we have now employed a Student Rabbi, Eleanor Davis, who will be with us for selected weekends and Festivals during this year and next. Eleanor led our High Holy Day Services with the tremendous support of our lay reader team and members of the Shul. In fact, everyone who attended received at least one mitzvah. Eleanor was excellent and we are looking forward to see her again at Chanukah.

There was a very moving and emotional Yizkor Service during Yom Kippur and I would like to thank Sarita, Ann and Ian for the dignified and respectful manner in which the Service was conducted.

We have recently held our Sukkot and Simchat Torah Services. Although the turn-out wasn't amazing, it was still an extra-special evening for our Kallah Torah and Kallah B'resheet, Elaine and Veronika. Can I thank all those who helped with the preparation and brought the sweets for the young (and not so young) participants in the procession.

I would like to give special thanks to Aimi for the endless hours and days she has given up looking after the Shul accounts, ensuring our creditors are paid on time and securing better deals for services provided to the Shul. Aimi has also looked after the Shul's legal affairs, which we all know can be very time consuming. Thank you so much.

One other special person I would also thank is Helen, my wife, for all the tremendous help and support she has given to me as the Chair.

It has been a tremendous honour to be the Chairman of Ne've Shalom for a number of years and I would like to thank the Shul Council and the members of the Shul for their continued support. We must remember that the Council are only volunteers and many of us have full time jobs and many other commitments which sometimes means that the Shul comes second. Finally, let us all look forward to returning to regular Services as soon as it is safe to do so."

5a. Shul investment proposal

The Treasurer briefly explained about the proposed investment and the possible income. She then introduced Zoe to provide further details.

Zoe then presented the members with the plans for the investment. The previous investment was not only off-shore, but also categorised as high-risk. The new investment would be UK-based, low-risk and would provide longevity by growing the capital and also creating an income. She estimated that the Shul would obtain a quarterly income of about £2500 – £2800, which would be used at the discretion of the Trustees. Zoe also explained that the investment would be within ethically-based organisations which, as a charity, showed commitment to Tikkun Olam – 'repairing the world'. In other words, the investment would be good for the Shul, as well as the wider community. A prepared pack of detailed information was then given to all those present to review in their own time.

In response to Sarita's query regarding the widespread use of ethically-based investments by Zoe's company, Zoe explained that due to the type of clients she works with, she was heavily involved with ethically-based investments. She was also seeing that there was a wider need and the move towards these types of investment was definitely on the rise. Eventually, she hoped that all investments would be of this type. The Treasurer also pointed out that ethically-based investments would 'tick the box' for the Shul's Eco-Synagogue project, as the type of investment is a part of their audit and the Charity Commission also have very strong positive feelings about having this type of investment. Zoe confirmed this and, in the past, Cancer charities have inadvertently invested in tobacco, which of course, is not a good image and does not send out the right message.

The Stand-in Chair thanked Zoe for her informative presentation.

5b. Adoption of the annual accounts

The Treasurer reported that although she had been preparing the accounts and then asking an ex-accountant to audit them, which he did as a donation, she was in the process of instructing a qualified accountant, in order to ensure that the accounts were prepared properly and transparently in line with the Charity Commission requirements.

The Treasurer then reported on the accounts which had been sent to every member prior to the AGM. She explained that although income has been lost from the East Hull Community Transport, she expected that the income would return following the pandemic. Laura, however, had been able to secure a weekly donation for the hire of the hall from the Ukulele Group. It was hoped that when the pandemic was over, it would be possible to hire the hall to more groups and the car park to more people. The cost of £2,000 for Student Rabbi Eleanor Davies had been well worth it. She had led all the High Holy Day Services and would be attending further weekends for the next 9 months. There has been some great feedback about Eleanor's services and we look forward to working with her.

The Treasurer explained that the previous investment which had been off-shore and high-risk had been set up many years before. She was therefore indebted to Zoe for all her hard work in bringing the investment monies into the UK without having to pay any taxes, which was a massive saving. Also, the yearly income obtained by the investment would not only offset any potential reduction in income, but also provide an extra significant income for the Shul. The Treasurer estimated that this would result in about £5,000 per year for community activities, employing a Student Rabbi, or however the Trustees and the community decide to use it.

Due to the rise in anti-Semitism, Laura had secured funding from CST for the provision of security for the High Holy Day Services. Laura was also working closely with CST to secure other grants for enhanced security, including gates, walkie talkies, remote CCTV, etc., enabling the Shul to be fully safe and secure without spending too much. Laura also continues to work closely with Humberside Police in relation to anti-Semitism which appears to be on the rise. Aimi, as Vice-Chair, was on the Police Crime Hate Scrutiny Group and had recently seen anti-Semitism first hand, as well as it being highlighted in the meetings. The message, therefore, was please be alert, aware and don't think that it doesn't happen to us.

The Kol Nidre appeal would be open until the end of year. For future appeals, if any member had a particular Charity in mind, to please put it forward to the Council to form part of that appeal. The Council wants everyone to be involved and have a voice.

Peter then enquired about the Tzedakah fund, which was initially set up for members who could not afford a funeral. The Treasurer responded that although this situation had not occurred for many years, there is money set aside in the fund and will remain there. This fund would not be invested. Peter then asked if this covered just burial, but not cremation. Ian explained that if a member wished to be cremated, their urn would still be buried in the cemetery in a similar manner to an interment and a headstone erected. Again, if anyone had any thoughts on the Tzedakah fund or any questions, please let the Council know.

Finally, the Treasure reported that moving forward, the Shul wanted to use the extra income to focus on supporting the community, both religiously and socially. Ensuring also that everyone had a voice to propose events or purchases that they think the members would want to do.

As there were no further questions regarding the accounts, Ian proposed their adoption, which was seconded by Sarita and adopted unanimously.

6. Election of Officers and Council Members

The Stand-in Chair reported that 6 valid set of nominations had been received by the Secretary. As there were no other contested nominations for the positions, the Chair therefore declared that the members of the Shul Council were as follows:

Chair:	Ian Sugarman
Vice Chair:	Aimi Sugarman
Secretary/Pastoral:	Ann Sevilla-Harland
Treasurer:	Aimi Sugarman
Senior Warden:	Andy Harbert
Council Members:	Helen Jackman Elaine Winetroube Tim Harris

Ian then chaired the meeting and thanked the members for their support and trust in moving the Shul forward. The Secretary thanked the membership and explained that she also wanted to develop a pastoral role to reach out by telephone and email to look after and engage both active and not-so-active members. As this role would complement Laura's duties, they would be looking forward to working together.

7. Amendment to Clause 5.4 of the Constitution

The Chair then introduced the proposed change to Clause 5.4 of the Constitution to include the burial of non-Jewish partners. He distributed the Assembly of Rabbis' position on this and suggested that this would stop the current separation of a Jewish member and their non-Jewish partner on their deaths. He felt that this was also a humanitarian issue which affected a number of the current members and also a number of disenfranchised Jews who might now consider membership in light of the proposed change. The graves would be dug deeper than normal and both the Jewish and non-Jewish partner would be buried in the same grave. He appreciated that there would need to be a written commitment from the Jewish partner regarding their final resting place, hence the wording. Aimi agreed to draw up the necessary legal papers.

In response to Peter's question about the digging of deeper graves, the Chair explained that the practice of deep-dug graves was currently being carried out by the local Council cemeteries department in the non-Jewish section of the Tranby Lane cemetery, so they would have no objection.

Sarita asked about the format of the funeral for the non-Jewish partner. The Chair felt that this could be a brief non-religious Funeral service. Ann suggested that it might more fitting to have the Funeral Service off-site and then just inter the deceased. Both the Chair and Sarita felt that this was a very good idea.

There being no further questions, the Chair then proposed that the wording on the AGM agenda be used to amend Clause 5.4 of the Constitution. This was seconded by Sarita Robinson and unanimously approved by those present.

The Chair confirmed that the newly amended Constitution would be sent to all members. Elaine suggested that Clause 5.4 could be highlighted to ensure the amendment could be seen.

8. Any Other Business

The Chair announced that following discussions within the Shul Council, it was decided to take the decision to temporarily close the doors of the Synagogue once again. Unfortunately, over the last few weeks there had been a very low attendance to the Erev Shabbat services, sometimes it only being the Service leader and one other person. The Synagogue would again be open for the Chanukah celebrations, which would be taking place on Friday 3rd December and the morning of Saturday 4th December when Student Rabbi Eleanor Davis would be joining us. The Council would then consider re-opening in the new year, once winter (and all the illness that comes with winter) was behind us. A formal announce would be sent to all members

Sarita asked for the name of the Safeguarding Officer. Aimi confirmed that as she was fully trained, she was the named Safeguarding Lead for the Shul, as listed on the Charity Commission website. Ann, Laura and Elaine have also had the training, but were in the process of updating the policy. Aimi suggested that all the Council should undergo the MRJ training, the details of which Laura would circulate.

Joanne asked about her Council nomination for Peter. In response, Aimi confirmed that she had not received any nomination from the Secretary, as it might have been invalid, i.e. no seconder. As Peter had only recently re-joined, he did not meet the minimum time requirement for an elected Council member as stated in the Constitution, however, Peter would be put forward for the Council as soon as he was eligible. In the meantime, Peter would be more than welcome to be more involved and to speak to Ann or Laura.

Date of next Council meeting – Friday 19th November at 5pm.



We all know that the pressure of the climate crisis is forever increasing. We all want to do 'our bit' to help. There are many ways to be more eco-friendly, that actually don't take much effort!

- Use eco- friendly cleaning products.
- Use eco-friendly toilet paper
- Use recyclable water bottles – rather than single use plastic.
- Use everyday products that are bio-degradable, such as face wipes and cotton pads.
- Eat less meat and more plant-based foods.
- Be mindful of what you print out and what paper you use.

To find out more ways to be more eco-friendly, please visit www.greenmatch.co.uk.

ASK THE RABBI

All answers are taken from asktherabbi.org



Is it okay to light a mixed coloured set of small red, green, blue, and yellow Chanukah candles? Does it matter as to the order that they are placed in the candle holder and the order in which they're lit?

There's no tradition regarding the colour of the candles; so any colour is okay, including plaid and infra-red! And the colour order is up to you.

Although there are other customs, the most common one for placing the candles in the menorah is as follows: On the first day place one candle on the right side of the menorah. On the second day put a candle there and another one to the left of it. On the third day add the third candle to the left of those. And so on. Each night another candle goes on the left side of the last one.

But when lighting, you start with the new one, the one furthest on the left. You then move towards the right, lighting each one in order, the last candle being the one on the far right.



Note that the small coloured Chanukah candles aren't long enough to use on Friday night, because the candles must be lit before sunset and should remain alight for a half hour after dark. The candles don't have to be placed in a special holder, but should be in a straight line.

Is it customary to give presents on Chanukah?

There is a widespread custom to give children presents of money on Chanukah. This is called "Chanukah gelt". This custom has its roots in the Talmud.



The Talmud states that even a very poor person must light Chanukah candles even if he can't afford it. A person with no money is required to go "knocking on doors" until he collects enough to buy at least one candle for each night of Chanukah. The Torah concept of charity requires us to help the recipient in the most dignified manner possible. Therefore, the custom arose to give gifts of money so that someone who needs money for Chanukah candles can receive it in the form of "Chanukah gelt."

There is another idea that the origin of "Chanukah gelt" dates back to the triumphant coinage of silver minted by the Maccabees. The Maccabees were so overjoyed at their victory that they minted their own coins and gave them out on Chanukah. Since Talmudic times the custom to give money has blossomed to become one to give presents as well. My family custom is to give presents to the younger children and "Chanukah gelt" to the older ones. It seems to work very well!

Nowadays there is a custom to give chocolate "money" to the younger children, as a means to giving them a gift that they can savour immediately and yet retain the spirit of the custom of "Chanukah gelt"

MITZVAH DAY

21 November 2021



During the period of closure we have signed up to RSYUK Mitzvah Day 2021 with the Movement for Reform Judaism.

I know some of you may regularly donate to food banks in any event, these can be found across the city. Trolleys can also be found in supermarkets such as Asda, Morrisons and Waitrose where you can place food items so that they can be passed on to local charities or food banks.

This really does make a difference to many people who are struggling. If you do this, please take a picture or let Laura know and she can pass this on to the Movement. If you would rather purchase some non-perishable foods to donate, Laura can pick these up from you to donate.

There is a lot of other options to consider on www.mitzvahday.org.uk.

Remember, that every Mitzvah makes a difference!

I'VE BEEN SAVING THESE UP

Due to the lack of space in the past few editions of the Shofar Shalom, I have been unable to include any jokes. I know of at least two readers who have been disappointed, however, if you are suffering humour withdrawal symptoms, here's a couple I like.

Jonathan is talking to his friend Joshua. "I hear that you've just bought your very first computer, Joshua. How are you getting on with it? Have you tried out Google yet?"

"I don't need to use Google," replies Joshua.

"Really?" says Jonathan. "So why is that?"

"Because my wife Rachel knows everything," replies Joshua.

Chaim had been a faithful Jew and was in the hospital, near death. The family called their rabbi to stand with them.

As the rabbi stood next to the bed, old Chaim's condition appeared to deteriorate and he motioned frantically for something to write on.

The rabbi lovingly handed him a pen and a piece of paper, and Chaim used his last bit of energy to scribble a note, then he died.

The rabbi thought it best not to look at the note at that time, so he placed it in his jacket pocket.

At the funeral, as he was finishing the message, he realized that he was wearing the same jacket that he was wearing when Chaim died. He said, "You know, Chaim handed me a note just before he died. I haven't looked at it, but knowing Chaim, I'm sure there's a word of inspiration there for us all."

He opened the note, and read, "Hey, you're standing on my oxygen tube!"

*ENGLISH YAHRZEIT DATES WHICH CORRESPOND TO
THE HEBREW DATES FOR RELATIVES OF NE'VE
SHALOM - THE HULL REFORM SYNAGOGUE*

Max Albeck	3 Nov. 2021	Leah Winetroube	24 Nov. 2021
Janos Lusztig	4 Nov. 2021	Rebecca Bookner	24 Nov. 2021
Richard Friend	10 Nov. 2021	Geoff Annis	24 Nov. 2021
Hugo Sprinz	11 Nov. 2021	John Friend	24 Nov. 2021
Lynn Shields	11 Nov. 2021	Ruby Bermitz	26 Nov. 2021
Jack Bermitz	12 Nov. 2021	Moishe Furman	28 Nov. 2021
Frances Godfrey	13 Nov. 2021	Ellis Rock	1 Dec. 2021
Julius Dubb	14 Nov. 2021	Morris Samuel Levy	1 Dec. 2021
Lothar Seewald	14 Nov. 2021	Sarah Bush	3 Dec. 2021
Jean Cooper	15 Nov. 2021	Joan Sadofsky	3 Dec. 2021
Leon Rosenthal	15 Nov. 2021	Janette Dubb	4 Dec. 2021
Aubrey Sadofsky	15 Nov. 2021	Sylvia Maniloff	6 Dec. 2021
Valerie Shields	20 Nov. 2021	Dolly Annis	8 Dec. 2021
Herman Goldstein	22 Nov. 2021	Percy Goldstone	10 Dec. 2021

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.



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- 2 Hour Fire Safety Awareness £45.00 plus vat

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If you have a group of employees (min 8) requiring training, then we can come to you. On-site training can be tailored to your needs and is both time and cost effective.

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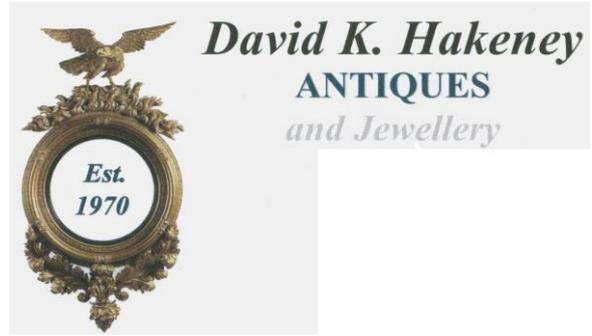
The Synagogue Council would again like to inform members that there is still space available on the Memorial Board for members to purchase a plaque in memory of their loved one(s).

For further details, please contact Laura Rhodes on 07895 269462.

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 Laura Rhodes on 07895 269462



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By automatically claiming Gift Aid tax on each deposit you make and depositing it back into your account, we save you the time and hassle of claiming with each donation, and leave you with 25% more in your account, to donate whenever and wherever you choose.

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

Ann Sevilla-Harland on 07811 353354
or at annsevillaharland@btinternet.com

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