

and our services are always in English as well as Hebrew. We have a group that meet once a month to explore the Torah, no pressure and no experience required. Rabbi Rene is starting a new course to learn how to leyn, or sing, the Torah portion, which in my opinion is a no brainer for those who have a child who will be preparing for their bar / bat mitzvah soon.

The place of Judaism at Maidenhead Synagogue is at the heart of our enterprise and in the soul of all members; young and old, those active or not. Open the door and there will be someone smiling, welcoming you back home.



### **SECURITY – Marcus Richards**

I am delighted to introduce myself to you all as the new representative for Security on the Synagogue Council. I would like to thank Matt Loewenthal for handing over this role and for his continued help during this time of transition.

Thanks to work going back over many years which many members will be aware of and have helped create, we have a very secure and welcoming place of meeting and a security team of very committed members who guard the community, tirelessly overseen by Vikki and David.

However, we find ourselves with fewer members volunteering for the security team and increasing levels of potential threat against which we need to be prepared. For these reasons with the help of CST (Community Security Trust) we are reviewing the physical security of our buildings and property and looking at how to make the best use of the volunteer security team to maintain our open relationship with the community whilst increasing our ability to handle unwelcome threats.

You will certainly see some changes over the next few months but please be assured these are designed to protect the community and to ensure that we maintain a safe and welcoming Maidenhead Synagogue. We will communicate any proposed changes well in advance.

I would ask that everyone be sure that they have the 2025 Synagogue Car Parking badge to hand when they come to the security gate. Not everyone is known personally to the security team, and this is our primary way of knowing that you are a member. If you do not have the badge, please let us know on your next visit to the Synagogue.

We pass our condolences to the family and close friends of Mark Harris after his sad and sudden loss. Mark was a very active and committed member of the security team and CST for many years and will be greatly missed.



### **SOCIAL – Oliver Lawton**

The social calendar has been increasingly active over the year, and I want to thank everyone who has supported these events either by attending, hosting and organising!

Last year we attended Far Peak Camping & Climbing Centre for a fun-filled weekend of outdoor activities. I am delighted the event is taking place again this year, from 30 May-1 June. We have around 30 people attending climbing, caving and archery activities followed by pizza and toasted marshmallows! On 29 June, we plan to hold a summer picnic in the synagogue garden – a free event with a barbecue, music and games.

Our Hidden Middle events are targeted at those members of working age looking to build friendships and work connections. They continue to be very popular! The next After Work drinks will be Wednesday 4 June, 6–9 pm. Numbers are limited, so please email Jo to book in. Venue details are sent a few days beforehand. The next Co Working Day at the shul is Monday 30 June, 9:30 am–5 pm. Pre-booking is required, but you can come for the whole day or just for coffee or lunch. Quiet spaces are available, along with snacks and lunch. Come for the day, a coffee or just lunch.

Lastly, we have a free Business Directory on the Members-Only area of the Shul website. If you'd like to be added, please contact

**[webmaster@maidshul.org](mailto:webmaster@maidshul.org)**

Thank you to Jo Berman for leading the charge on this initiative and without whom these events would never have got off the ground. To get involved, please contact **[Jo.Berman@maidshul.org](mailto:Jo.Berman@maidshul.org)**

*Young Adults* are targeted at those individuals in the 18-35 age range as well as those parents with children or grandchildren within this group—no membership required for the young adults. We would like help and support in getting more people interested in these events and connecting with young adults who might be interested in attending. Out of the 207 names we have on our