

THE MEMBERS' MAGAZINE OF MAIDENHEAD SYNAGOGUE

# HADASHOT

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[www.maidshul.org](http://www.maidshul.org)

July 2025  
Tammuz/Av 5785

Niamh Chaloner at the  
Camping Weekend

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Lorna Mason  
Sherfield-on-Loddon

Hadar Perry  
Twyford

## BEST WISHES ON THEIR NEW HOME

Linda Nemerofsky-  
Birks  
Chalfont St. Giles

Richard Sanders  
Reading

Frank Weisinger  
London

## CONDOLENCES

Suzanne Curtis on  
the loss of her mother

The family of  
Miryam Rae

Stephen Yates on the  
loss of his mother

### Share Your News!

Good, bad, big or small – important things are happening to us all. Please share your news with the rabbi, who will share it with the community or keep it in confidence.

Please contact Rabbi Rene at [rabbi@maidshul.org](mailto:rabbi@maidshul.org) or 07495 491325.

### **Please dispose of Hadashot responsibly!**

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Parking on the path from Grenfell Road to our blue gates is at your own risk. Cars parked there may be damaged by emergency service vehicles if they are called to attend an incident.

*Shul Security.*

# THANK YOU FOR HOSTING KIDDUSH

To book the date for your kiddush, please contact,  
Pauline Keyne at [pauline.keyne@maidshul.org](mailto:pauline.keyne@maidshul.org)

Pauline is happy to find you a 'Kiddush buddy' if you would like one.

Lincoln Ball for his  
grandmother's Yahrzeit

Jorge & Jemma  
Gotlib Gutierrez for  
Luna's baby blessing

Barry Raphael

Judy De Haan for her  
'big' birthday

Robert Greenstein for  
his birthday, with

Jonathan & Louise  
Sank for Zac's baby  
blessing

Carol Formagiu with  
Shel Musiker as  
Buddy

Noya Noble as Buddy

The Friday Night  
Diners

Lucy Henning with  
contribution from  
Vivienne Chaikin

Parents of b'nei  
mitzvah class

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## Monthly Musings From Rabbi Rene

### Progressive Jews join as one

The recent decision by Reform and Liberal synagogues across the UK to unite under the banner of Progressive Judaism marks a historic moment in British Jewish life. This unprecedented merger represents not merely an administrative restructuring, but a profound statement about the future of Jewish practice and identity in the larger British Jewish community and society. To understand the significance of this development, we must first trace the remarkable journey that brought us here.

The story of Progressive Judaism begins in the transformative period following the Napoleonic wars, when the ideals of the French Revolution began reshaping European society. The watershed moment came in 1790-1791, when the French National Assembly granted full citizenship to

French Jews, declaring them equal in rights and duties to all other citizens. This “emancipation” fundamentally altered the trajectory of Jewish life, liberating communities from the physical and social confines of the ghetto and opening new possibilities for Jewish participation in broader society.

In Germany, this newfound freedom sparked the earliest expressions of what would become Reform Judaism in the 1810s. German Jewish thinkers such as Leopold Zunz, Zacharias Frankel, and Abraham Geiger considered key questions, like: how could ancient traditions adapt to modern realities? How might Jewish practice evolve to reflect contemporary values while maintaining its essential character? This gave birth to a movement that sought to harmonise tradition with enlightenment

principles, emphasising reason, ethics, and universal human dignity.

The movement found fertile ground in England in the 1840s, where Jewish families had grown dissatisfied with existing options. In 1842, a few families broke away from both Bevis Marks Synagogue, which followed Sephardi customs, and the Ashkenazi Great Synagogue of London. Their declaration was both bold and brave: they identified themselves as "neither German nor Portuguese, but British Jews." This statement encapsulated the idea that Jewish identity could transcend geographical and cultural boundaries while embracing local loyalty to a country and its values. These English families, inspired by the Reform principles emerging from Germany, adapted those ideas to their own British context and sensibilities.

In 1902, a group of families broke away from this synagogue and created the JRU (Jewish Religious Union), the ancestor of Liberal Judaism, centred around St.

John's Wood and the Liberal Jewish Synagogue.

Now, both movements have about 80 communities, represent over a third of the British Jewish community, and can appeal to all Jews who are not members of a community. Progressive Judaism is the home for Jews who do not see themselves as primarily religious, but who identify with the Jewish tradition through culture, language, art and food.

The fundamental difference between Orthodox and Progressive Judaism lies in their approach to revelation and religious authority. Orthodox Judaism maintains that the Torah represents direct divine revelation given to Moses at Mount Sinai, creating an unchanging framework for Jewish law and practice. This perspective views halakha (Jewish law) as eternally binding, with rabbinic interpretation serving to apply ancient principles to contemporary situations without altering their essential character.

Progressive Judaism embraces

the concept of “progressive revelation”, the understanding that divine truth unfolds gradually through human experience and historical development. This recognises that while the Torah contains eternal spiritual truths, our understanding of these truths deepens and evolves as humanity grows, and each generation brings its unique views and insights. Progressive Jews view tradition as a valuable inheritance that must be thoughtfully examined, preserved and adapted where necessary to align with the values of the generation that live by it.

This theological difference manifests in practical ways: Progressive communities ordain women or LGBT+ people as rabbis, embrace egalitarian worship, and adapt liturgy to reflect contemporary language and sensibilities. They approach questions of ritual observance, lifecycle events, and ethical decision-making through the lens of informed choice rather than strict obligation, emphasising the individual's responsibility to

engage meaningfully with tradition, endlessly asking, what is the meaning and purpose of my observance. Progressive Judaism in the early decades of the 20th century looks very different from its descendant a century later, because it is an evolving tradition.

The term "Progressive" in our movement's name carries profound theological significance beyond its current political associations. Progressive revelation suggests that God's relationship with humanity is dynamic, unfolding through history as human consciousness evolves. This concept stems from the work of the German-Jewish philosopher Hermann Cohen, who has profoundly influenced Progressive Jewish thought. Cohen argued that religious truth emerges through the ongoing ethical development of humanity, with each generation contributing to our understanding of divine purpose. His vision of religion as an infinite task, always approaching but never fully achieving perfect ethical understanding, provides

the intellectual framework for progressive revelation. This concept allows us to honour our ancestors' wisdom while remaining open to new insights from contemporary experience.

Consider how this principle has guided Jewish responses to modern challenges: the development of Jewish medical ethics in response to advances in healthcare, such as the current discussion about end of life, the articulation of Jewish environmental responsibility as we confront climate change, or the evolution of Jewish thought on gender equality and LGBTQ+ inclusion. Progressive revelation enables us to ask not merely "What did our ancestors do?" but "What would they do if they possessed our current understanding?"

This approach demands both reverence for tradition and courage to innovate. It requires serious engagement with classical texts while acknowledging that our interpretation of these texts may differ from earlier generations. Pro-

gressive revelation calls us to be partners with God in the ongoing work of creation and moral development, bearing responsibility for how Jewish tradition continues to unfold. Tikkun Olam, the repair of the world, is central to progressive Jewish thought.

The merger of the Reform and Liberal movements into Progressive Judaism creates unprecedented opportunities for British Jewish life. By combining resources, this new movement can address challenges that individual communities might struggle to meet alone. The consolidated structure enables more effective advocacy for Progressive Jewish values in public discourse, a greater authority on modern issues, stronger educational programs, and more robust support across the country. It does not require each synagogue to change its ways and customs. Maidenhead Synagogue (note that the name of the community does not include the adjective "Reform") will remain Maidenhead Synagogue and grow and evolve organically.

# CHUKKAT

## חֻקַּת

By Francis Spencer

This week’s study passage begins with these words: “The Israelites arrived in a body at the wilderness of Zin on the first new moon, and the people stayed at Kadesh. Miriam died there and was buried there.” The very next verse reads: “And there was no water for the community.”

The abrupt, unmourned death and the sudden loss of water has drawn plenty of comment over the centuries. One Jewish legend claims that, while Miriam was alive, a miraculous well accompanied the people, right from the time, 40 years earlier, when Moses first struck the rock to bring forth water in the wilderness [Exodus 17]. Water is life and Miriam (in

this legend) its unsung guarantor. A travelling well, of course, is the kind of thing you’d only find in myths and stories, but it’s the absurdity of it that pushes us to look for its symbolic meaning, to ask: what was that quality of life, of ‘living water’, that Miriam had, that keeps a family, even a whole people, on the move, alive and hopeful; something not grand or dramatic, but everyday and close to home, yet devastating when suddenly she (and it’s) not there?

The people, panicking and almost instantly in despair, complain to her brothers, Moses and Aaron. Perhaps in shock themselves, they say nothing, but go straight to God. “Speak to the

**Parasha Chukkat** – Numbers 19:1–22:1 – The parashah sets out the laws of corpse contamination and purification with the water of lustration prepared with the Red Cow.

rock before their eyes”, God says, “that it shall give forth its water.”

‘Speak to the rock’? Ha! More symbols. It seems that the water of life was in that ‘rock’ all the time, as if each rock and difficult situation we face has its own precious water to give forth. Whatever miraculous, life-giving quality it was that kept the water flowing all those years, Miriam had known it, given it, and shared it with everyone, all her life.

In our Parasha, Moses and Aaron lashed out at the ‘rebellious’, ‘ungrateful’ crowd, and struck (rather than ‘spoke to’) the rock (twice). There was no need for this, this loss of faith in the people and in God. Judgement, threats

and their implicit violence is not the way to draw life, hope and faith out of a frightened people.

Imagine if a parent, no matter how tested, lost faith in their child, or a teacher in their student? How lost would they be then? It was for this, we’re told, that Moses and Aaron would not live to lead the people into the Land. This judging spirit did not come from God, who in this instance only wanted to wake them up to the water/life already in their midst, within whatever rock or terrifying situation they, or we, may find ourselves, just as Miriam and countless other unsung women and men have done throughout the ages.

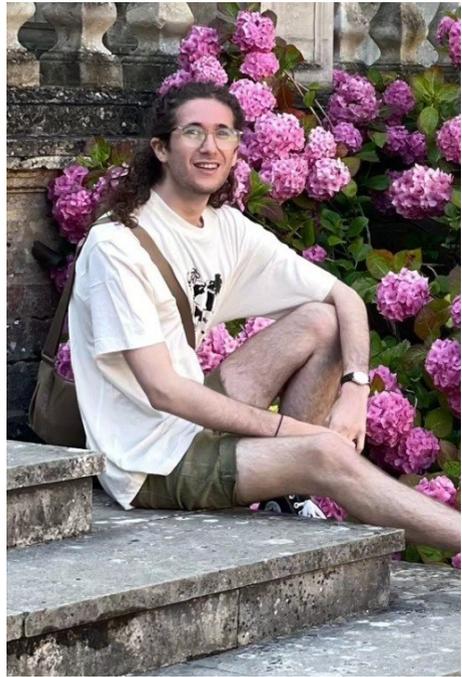
## Why I Teach

*A occasional series in which we profile the wonderful cheder teachers at Maidenhead! This month: Dale Resnick.*

**How long have you been teaching cheder and what group do you teach?** I have been teaching since September and I run the Post-Bar and Bat Mitzvah class.

**How long have you been a teacher at a school, and where?** I have been a teacher outside of cheder now for four years, and work at a school in High Wycombe where I teach history and law.

**What inspires you about education?** The power and beauty of knowledge and studying, its ability to shape change, pushes me to ask big questions. To see students engage in topics of value enables growth beyond the pure academics of maths or English. I like to explore society, theology, philosophy, and so many other factors that shape our world.



**What made you want to teach a cheder class?** I wanted to teach at cheder to engage with Jewish youth and help shape a sense of identity in what can be a fraught and tense time. At a time when antisemitism is rising, it is more important than ever to ensure our young members feel pride and belonging in their Jewishness and to push back against any outside sense of shame or pressure that exists.

## What would you say to anyone in the community who is considering becoming a cheder teacher?

If anyone is considering joining, I would happily talk to them about it. It is a place of warmth and openness, and as is often the case in teaching, you are learning and in learning, you will teach. It is a beautiful cycle and one that adds so much meaning by only giving up a few hours on a Sunday morning.

## Kuba Recipe Card

*In 2013, Maidenhead Synagogue launched its first cookbook showcasing the amazing recipes of our community. This is an occasional recipe card for you to cook at home.*

*Kuba is a traditional Iraqi recipe that has been passed down by Sam Moshe's grandmother. This can be cooked in tomato or sweet and sour beetroot soup.*

### Ingredients:

#### Filling:

- 400g minced beef
- 1 small onion, chopped finely
- 1 tsp chicken powder

#### Case:

- 500g semolina
- 1 tsp chicken powder
- Pinch of salt
- Enough water to create a sticky dough

### Method:

Make small balls for the case with your hands and with your thumb make a hole (cavity) in the middle. Try making the outer case as thin as possible.

Put a teaspoon-sized bit of filling in the middle, then gently close the ball.

Fill all the kubas, putting them on a tray.

Make chicken soup from powder.

Put a teaspoon of oil into the soup to prevent sticking.

When boiling, place kubas into the soup and cook on low heat for 30 - 40 minutes.

## Board of Deputies Mission to Israel

By Sapir Tal

Recently, I had the opportunity to join the Under 35 Assembly mission to Israel with the BoD & UJIA. It was an intense three days: we explored the country beyond headlines and confronted the trauma and resilience Israelis are living through.

Our visits included Kibbutz Mefalsim, the site of the Nova massacre, volunteering at Leket, a briefing from BICOM's director and a meeting with Efrat Rayten. My personal aim was to understand 7th October from those who lived it, to grieve, to listen and to engage with perspectives outside my own community.

Meeting Martin from Kibbutz Mefalsim left a lasting impact. The kibbutz was among the least affected on October 7th and it was not by chance. Mefalsim proved to be incredibly resilient, in part because of Martin's efforts. Martin described the attack vividly and how he mobilised the community to defend themselves, advocated for them after evacuation and secured temporary housing for them in a hotel. But would you call a year temporary?

Despite the trauma, the community rebuilt: they celebrated six b'nei mitzvot, welcomed 13 babies, and even had a wedding. This is



all supported by volunteers and donations, not government aid. Martin was like a modern-day Moses, showing us how one person can carry a whole community.

Another highlight was meeting with BICOM. I didn't expect this to be such a defining moment, but understanding Israel's political landscape brought clarity. Advocacy today demands more than slogans; it requires truth, nuance, and resilience.

This mission deepened my commitment—to my community, faith, and advocacy. It brought me back not only to a country I love, but also to a new awareness: curiosity, courage, and connection.

Being an Israeli, I've always viewed my country as a democratic state rooted in peace and equality,

with its strength coming from the people.

That still holds true, but this trip revealed deep grief and a growing disillusionment, especially in the government. It reshaped my understanding of today's reality.

I left with three core commitments:

1. The power of holding complexity – valuing the layers and difficult truths of this conflict and its people.
2. The power of active listening – responding less, listening more, and being present without judgment.
3. The power of holding my truth – In a time when it's easy to feel pressure to align, conform or stay silent, is worth standing strong in kindness, firmly and honestly.



“I want you to know this: We’ve got your back.”

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# JUBILEE LECTURE: PHIL ROSENBERG

**SUNDAY 13 JULY 2025**  
**4:00 PM**

Phil explores the role of the Board of Deputies in modern British Jewish life. He reflects on how the BoD, often seen as distant, can reconnect with communities, foster cohesion in a divided society, and confront the ongoing challenge of antisemitism through advocacy and political engagement.

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Contact Admin team for more information  
on [admin@maidshul.org](mailto:admin@maidshul.org)

# Camping Weekend Fun

By Niamh Chaloner

Members of our synagogue recently went on a fun and packed camping trip. The setting up of the tents and chairs itself was a bit hectic but filled with smiles. All the children played in the park and watched a show on the stage before returning to a campfire set up by the adults and eating and chatting while listening to music and stuffing ourselves with s'mores!

After a late night, we were up early on Saturday for a day of bouldering, racing in the obstacle course, caving and climbing (which left everyone's arms aching), and we can't forget the food - pizza, ice cream and milkshakes! Then we all had another campfire before returning exhausted to our tents. The next morning, most of us packed up in a soft, warm drizzle and all went home happy, even though we were all worn out. It was fun, lively and playful and I think we can all say that we enjoyed it and would come back next year!



# Board of Deputies Highlights 24-25

## FIGHT ANTISEMITISM

The Board of Deputies launched a groundbreaking [Commission on Antisemitism](#) led by the Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism Lord Mann and former Secretary of State for Defence Penny Mordaunt.

The Board of Deputies, in partnership with the ADL, launched [Jewish Living Online](#) a free digital education resource for secondary schools to educate children about antisemitism and Judaism.

The Board of Deputies [wrote to the Home Office](#) over the incendiary rhetoric of disgraced former academic David Miller.

A new [survey](#) carried out by the Board of Deputies, the Jewish Leadership Council and Work Avenue found that nearly two thirds of Jewish employees had encountered antisemitism in the workplace.

In response to the news that the Metropolitan Police Service have [intervened to block a protest in Swiss Cottage](#) to prevent further serious disruption to the life of the community, Board of Deputies Vice President Andrew Gilbert said: "We are grateful to the police for taking swift action to protect our community. The right to protest is part of a free society, but so is the right to worship in peace and safety."



The Commission on Antisemitism is being Co-Chaired by Lord John Mann and former Secretary of Defence Penny Mordaunt.

## STAND UP FOR PEACE & SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Board of Deputies met the leadership of the BBC, to discuss [ongoing concerns](#) relating to both the coverage and culture of the broadcaster and made [a series of asks](#).

The Board of Deputies raised the Jewish community's concerns over Israel-Gaza artwork at [Royal Academy exhibition](#).

Board of Deputies President Phil Rosenberg reacted to the [UK Government's decision to partially ban arms sales to Israel](#) on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme.



Over 20,000 assembled in Hyde Park to remember victims of October 7th.

[More than 20,000 people assembled in Hyde Park](#) in London to mourn the victims of October 7th a year on from the attacks, and to call for the release of the hostages.

At Sukkot, the Board of Deputies encouraged the Jewish community to join our ['Save a seat at the Sukkah'](#) initiative.

At Chanukah, the Board of Deputies, alongside hostage advocacy organisations, urged UK Jews to [light a candle for every hostage](#) with a British connection still held by Hamas.

A 'divisive and partisan' resource on the Israel/Palestine conflict on the TES website, [was permanently removed](#) following protests from the Board and from teachers.

The Board of Deputies put together [a Passover reading](#) for the community so that the hostages could be formally remembered as part of Seder services.

## DEFEND OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS

The Union of Jewish Students and Board of Deputies of British Jews came together to produce [The Apprentice Providers Guide to Judaism](#).

The Board of Deputies affirmed its support for Jewish employees as it launched the latest updated edition of the [Board of Deputies Employer's Guide](#) at Parliament.

## MAKE OUR COMMUNITY MORE UNITED, INCLUSIVE AND OUTWARD-LOOKING

The Board of Deputies launched its [Gender Equality Plan](#). It will seek to enhance the representation of women and make the organisation fully inclusive and meritocratic in future.

The Board of Deputies held its triennial elections. [Hustings](#) were held around the country.

Ahead of the General Election in July, the Board of Deputies launched the [Jewish Manifesto](#) with 32 pages outlining a wide range of issues for politicians to consider.

The Board of Deputies, the JLC and the London Jewish Forum combined to facilitate more than 30 [community election hustings](#) in constituencies around the country.

Sixty Muslim and Jewish leaders came together for the launch of what new Board of Deputies President Phil Rosenberg has dubbed the "[Optimistic Alliance](#)".



The Employer's Guide is strongly connected to our BoD@Work programme – the Board of Deputies' engagement with Jews in the workplace and Jewish Staff Networks.

The Board of Deputies released its [plan for the triennium](#) entitled, "A Brighter Future for the UK Jewish Community".

Following elections at the Board of Deputies, the organisation has achieved a [gender balanced Executive Committee](#) for the first time in the organisation's 264-year history.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer [praised](#) the work of the Board of Deputies in a letter sent to Board President Phil Rosenberg.

The Board of Deputies and communal partners held a meeting with Leader of the Opposition [Kemi Badenoch](#) to discuss the challenges facing the Jewish community.

A delegation from the Board of Deputies met [Home Secretary Yvette Cooper](#) to discuss the Jewish community's difficult experiences with public order over the last 16 months.

## CELEBRATE OUR FAITH, HERITAGE AND CULTURE AS BRITISH JEWS

Politicians came together in Parliament to celebrate the festival of Chanukah, at a [reception](#) organised by the Board of Deputies together with the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The Board of Deputies [Jewish Living Experience Exhibition](#) educated and informed children about the Jewish way of life at locations up and down the country this year.

Representatives of the UK's major faiths gathered for an [interfaith seder](#) led by Board of Deputies President Phil Rosenberg and Chief Executive Michael Wegier.



Representatives of the UK's major faiths have gathered for an interfaith seder led by Board of Deputies President Phil Rosenberg and Chief Executive Michael Wegier.

# My Daughter's Bat Mitzvah and Mine

By Rachel Stockdale (née Helm)

This summer, my daughter Eliana will celebrate her bat mitzvah here at Maidenhead Synagogue, the same shul where I had mine 27 years ago. Though the building has changed, the community spirit at Maidenhead remains just as warm and welcoming as ever.

My own bat mitzvah took place in the old shul on Boyn Hill Road – an old, converted house with creaky floorboards and depending on your viewpoint, either a terrifying or exciting fire escape chute from the top floor! I wore a lilac outfit I'd carefully chosen, and was surrounded by family, including my grandparents and cousins. We spent our Sunday mornings with Rabbi Romain, who worked with



our whole class on learning the blessings and 10 Commandments, and Adrian Simon then helped us prepare our portions – mine was from Leviticus. I admit, the study felt long and often boring!

Eliana's experience has been quite different in a few ways. Her portion comes from Numbers, and she practises with Tony at shul, but also over Zoom – something I could never have imagined at her age. While I had younger siblings, she is an only child, which leaves me with lots of time to support her more directly with her practice and learning, though I'm not sure she always appreciates my help! Some things don't change: the reluctance to study is definitely alive

and well in this generation, too! But I know that in the same way as for me, it all comes together on the day and she'll emerge from service with a sense of confidence that we've never quite seen before.

What has surprised me as we have planned over the last year is how much Eliana has embraced the preparations – choosing who she wants to take on mitzvot during the service, helping plan the celebrations, and making it truly hers. While she may not

dwell on the fact that she's following in my footsteps, the continuity is meaningful. This synagogue has been part of our family's Jewish life for generations – from weddings to baby blessings to b'nei mitzvah.

It's where I grew up, and where

I now choose to return. Celebrating Eliana's bat mitzvah here is not just a milestone for her – it's a beautiful reminder of what community, tradition, and belonging really mean.



## Singing Lessons

All ages from 8yrs up, no experience necessary. I taught every Saturday morning at my old house in Pangbourne but now I've moved to a new area I need to build up my students again.

I teach from home in Warfield, close to Bracknell. Lessons could be whenever the student is free, during the day, after school or a Sunday afternoon. There is no fixed time as such, just when it suits me & the student.



Please contact **Jemma Willard** at [jemmawillard@outlook.com](mailto:jemmawillard@outlook.com) for more information.



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# JULY EVENTS DIARY

## EVERY SUNDAY

### Children's Choir at 9:30 am

Group meets before cheder. For any further details, contact Julia at [juliashumway@gmail.com](mailto:juliashumway@gmail.com) or on 07707 223946. Last one expected to be 13 July 2025.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

### Wednesday Social from 11:30 am

This mid-week social is for our senior members. Come along each week and enjoy a three-course lunch, games, gentle exercises, or relax and have a chat over a cup of tea with friends. And, if you have something to celebrate, this is a special invitation for you – we love to celebrate all birthdays and other things, too! For further information, please contact Agnes Fixler at [admin@maidshul.org](mailto:admin@maidshul.org) or on 01628 673012.

## EVERY THURSDAY

### Ganon Nursery – 2½ to 5 years old from 10 am

Last session will be on 10 July 2025. For further details, contact Sheila Veniar at [sheilaveniar@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaveniar@gmail.com)

### Mothers & Bumps/Babies/Toddlers from 10 am

Feel free to come regularly or periodically. Bring along any special toys, snacks or other essentials. Last session will be on 10 July 2025. For any further details, contact Julia at [juliashumway@gmail.com](mailto:juliashumway@gmail.com)

## POETRY CIRCLE

### Wednesday 2 July at 7:30 pm

The next meeting of the Poetry Circle is on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at 7.30 p.m. Bring along a poem with MUSIC as the subject. If you like poetry do come along. Everyone welcome. For further information, please contact Barbara Rosenberg at [barb.rose87@gmail.com](mailto:barb.rose87@gmail.com)



## **AGM**

**Wednesday 3 July at 7:00 pm**

Annual General Meeting will take place in Grenfell Lodge at 7 pm on Thursday 3 July 2025 for the following purposes as set out in June's Hadashot.

Please contact the Contact **Admin team** for more information on [admin@maidshul.org](mailto:admin@maidshul.org)

## **TIDDLERS' SERVICE**

**Friday 4 July at 4:30 pm**

3 to 7 year olds

The Tiddlers' Service is specially for children in the 3 to 7 age group. Siblings and parents are welcome to join!

Please contact **Sheila Veniar** at [sheilaveniar@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaveniar@gmail.com) for more information.



## **MUSICAL SERVICE**

**Friday 4 July at 7:30 pm**

Shabbat Ruchani (a spiritual Shabbat), with Tom Smith on the guitar. This service will be musical, with new melodies, meditation, prayers – a gentle way to enter Shabbat.



## TORAH BREAKFAST

**Saturday 5 July at 9:15 am**

Discussion Group

Join us before the Shabbat service on 5 July for an in-depth discussion of the portion Parasha Chukat - Numbers 19:1-22:1. Coffee and tea are available. No RSVP is necessary.



## SHUL THEATRE GROUP

**Sunday 6 July at 2 pm**

Do you believe the shul needs a theatre group? Not just to put on plays, but to work on accents, facial expressions, and trust.

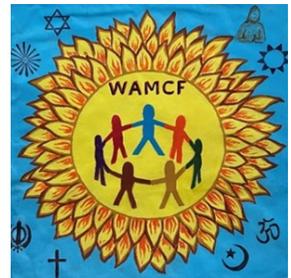
Come along to find out more: Sunday 6 July at 2-3 pm in the synagogue. Contact **Mike Consden**, 07503 228375 or email [mikeconsden@aol.com](mailto:mikeconsden@aol.com)



## WOMEN'S INTERFAITH GROUP

**Wednesday 9 July at 7:30 pm**

Part of the Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum (WAMCF) - Come listen to Terrie Hall, Senior Dementia Advisor, from Alzheimers Dementia Support.



Please do join us. You are guaranteed an enjoyable and interesting evening, and a tasty one!

Ladies of all faiths or none are welcome to come along and share refreshments. If you would like details of the meetings planned for 2025, please email **Barbara Grossman** at [projects@maidshul.org](mailto:projects@maidshul.org)

## KINDERLECH SHABBAT

**Saturday 12 July at 11 am**

3 to 7 year olds

Kinderlech Shabbat is specially for children in the 3 to 7 age group. Siblings and parents are welcome to join!

Please contact **Julia Shumway** at [juliaslumway@gmail.com](mailto:juliaslumway@gmail.com) for more information.



## BACKGAMMON

**Wednesday 16 July at 2 pm**

Grenfell Lodge – Elvira’s Room

Whether you’re a complete beginner, novice or experienced player come along and either learn how to play this fascinating board game or play in a mini tournament with other players at your level. Anyone interested, please email **Irving Lomon** at [irving.lomon@gmail.com](mailto:irving.lomon@gmail.com)



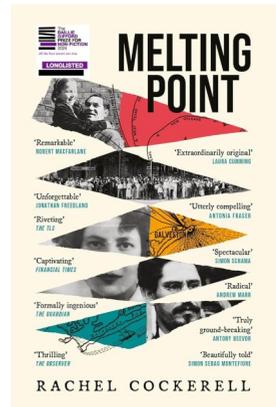
## BOOK CIRCLE

**Thursday 17 July at 8pm**

*Melting Point* by Rachel Cockerell

The book to be discussed in July is *Melting Point* by Rachel Cockerell. You are very welcome to join us.

For further information, please contact **Barbara Rosenberg** at [barb.rose87@gmail.com](mailto:barb.rose87@gmail.com)



## JUBILEE LECTURE

**Sunday 13 July at 4:00 pm**

Phil Rosenberg

Phil explores the role of the Board of Deputies in modern British Jewish life. He reflects on how the BoD, often seen as distant, can reconnect with communities, foster cohesion in a divided society, and confront the ongoing challenge of antisemitism through advocacy and political engagement.

Contact **Admin team** for more information on [admin@maidshul.org](mailto:admin@maidshul.org)



## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

**Friday 18 July at 7:30 pm**

Communal Meal

Why celebrate Shabbat on your own when you can be with other members of the community – great company awaits you!



We will also say goodbye to Rabbi Hannah Altorf who will be ordained on Sunday 6th of July and will visit us one last time as Rabbi Altorf.

Please bring a starter, main course or dessert to share after letting Robbi Hunter know that you're joining us. Contact her at [robbilynnhunter@gmail.com](mailto:robbilynnhunter@gmail.com) or on 07917 222875.



Let the office  
know!

[admin@maidshul.org](mailto:admin@maidshul.org)



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE  
**JEWISH**  
IN YOUR AREA?

*All information shared will be held  
in strict confidence.*



## **MATILDA CUPIDO**

**Saturday 19 July at 10:30 am**

Bat Mitzvah



Hello, my name is Matilda Cupido. I was born in Argentina and moved to the UK when I was 6. I live in Caversham, with my sister, my brother and my parents. I also have five chickens, a pet hamster and a dog.

I go to Gillotts School in Henley-on-Thames and my favourite subjects are history, food tech, PE and religious studies. In my free time I love watching Formula 1, watching rugby and watching football. I have been attending Maidenhead Synagogue since I was seven years old and it is my favourite place because I get not only to learn about the religion but also get to see my best friends.

I think my bat mitzvah will be a very special day and I want to thank Tony, Rabbi Rene and my parents for helping me on this journey.

## **ELIANA STOCKDALE**

**Saturday 26 July at 10:30 am**

Bat Mitzvah



Hello my name is Eliana Stockdale. I live in Crowthorne, with my mum and dad, our dog Pepper, cat Ernie and my guinea pig Delilah. I go to Edgbarrow School in Crowthorne where I like doing drama and English.

Once a week I go to Poppies Farm in Wokingham where I enjoy helping out and looking after the animals. I am also a keen crocheter! It helps me to relax and I enjoy the creativity of working on different projects.

I'm looking forward to having all my family and friends around me for my Bat Mitzvah, and would like to thank Tony and my parents for all the support they've given in helping me to prepare.

# Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum Women's Group



Ladies of all beliefs and none  
are warmly invited to our next meeting  
from 7.30 - 9.00 pm

on

**Wednesday 9th July 2025**

at

**Guru Nanak Sat Sang Sabha**

(The Sikh Gurdwara),

**Rutland Road**

**Maidenhead, SL6 4HZ**

**Speaker: Terrie Hall, Senior Dementia Advisor**

**Alzheimers Dementia Support**

Alzheimers   
Dementia   
Support   
Local Support & Guidance  
Since 2011

Further details from:  
[sally514@btinternet.com](mailto:sally514@btinternet.com)  
[www.wamcf.org](http://www.wamcf.org)

**MAKE THE CHANGES REAL**  
**נעדר**  
**WITH RSY-NETTER**

**SHEMESH 5785**

**Sign up here!!**

**Briyah - Years 5 & 6**

**Atid - Year 10**

**Shivyon - Years 7 & 8**

**Reut - Year 9**

site activities  
new friends  
hobbies  
interesting discussions  
creative services  
community  
immersive fun activities

**29TH JULY – 10TH AUGUST**  
(– 6TH AUGUST FOR Y5&6)

**MAIDENHEAD SYNAGOGUE**

**Kaytana 2025**  
**(SUMMER CAMP IN HEBREW)**

**MONDAY 28 JULY**  
**TO**  
**FRIDAY 1 AUGUST**

Summer Camp for our young members  
aged 3 and up to Year 8!

Exciting activities! Make friends!  
Have the most amazing time!  
Supervised, happy and relaxed  
environment!

**REGISTER AT**  
**PROJECTS@MAIDSHUL.ORG**

## SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

*One of the most positive aspects of belonging to our community is the wide range of support options available to members.*

*If you feel in need of support, of any kind, not just those listed below, please get in touch with Rabbi Rene, who will be able to advise on options for help.*

*Rabbi Rene can be reached on 07495 491325.*

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### SHALOM COUNSELLING SERVICE

This confidential service, staffed by trained counsellors who are members of the synagogue, can offer support in understanding your situation and help you explore ways to cope with life's difficulties. **Please contact Rebecca Senel on 01491 579446 or Rabbi Rene on 07495 491325, who will discuss the next steps with you.**

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### MAIDENHEAD SYNAGOGUE CARE SCHEME

Do you need any help getting to a doctor's appointment or help with the shopping? Feel lonely and need a visitor? The synagogue runs its own care scheme to help members of the community in whatever way. **Contact Lucy Henning on 01753 624977.**

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### BIASED AND INACCURATE MEDIA REPORTAGE

If you identify biased and inaccurate media reportage on Israel, please send the examples via email to [reportingbias@bod.org.uk](mailto:reportingbias@bod.org.uk). Include as much information as you can, but in particular, the date/time and media outlet/platform. Please cc [bod@maidshul.org](mailto:bod@maidshul.org). Our BoD representatives are Leigh Dworkin and Sapir Tal.

**Rabbi Dr Rene Pfertzel**  
07495 491325  
[rabbi@maidshul.org](mailto:rabbi@maidshul.org)

**Maidenhead Synagogue:**  
Grenfell Lodge  
Ray Park Road  
Maidenhead  
SL6 8QX  
01628 673012  
[admin@maidshul.org](mailto:admin@maidshul.org)  
The office is staffed  
Monday to Thursday.

**Synagogue Website:**  
[www.maidshul.org](http://www.maidshul.org)  
Forgotten your password?  
Click on *Members Area* and  
press *Reset Your Password* and  
enter your email address.  
For any problems email:  
[admin@maidshul.org](mailto:admin@maidshul.org)

**Kosher Shop:**  
Tamar Leeper  
[tamarleeper@hotmail.com](mailto:tamarleeper@hotmail.com)

**Community Projects:**  
Barbara Grossman  
07855 801937  
[projects@maidshul.org](mailto:projects@maidshul.org)

## HADASHOT

is the monthly community magazine of  
MAIDENHEAD SYNAGOGUE

A Charity Limited by Guarantee  
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Registered Charity Number  
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Editors: Katharine Rooney and  
Sapir Tal

Email: [hadashot@maidshul.org](mailto:hadashot@maidshul.org)

Submissions are welcomed from all  
sections of the community, but we  
reserve the right to edit all contribu-  
tions. **Publication timing is subject  
to available space.**

- Material should be provided as a  
Word document and photo-  
graphs as jpg files.
- Articles for publication in  
*Hadashot* should normally be be-  
tween **150 and 200 words in  
length.**
- Copy deadline is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the  
month preceding the issue date.

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Maidenhead  
Synagogue is a  
member of the  
Movement  
for Reform  
Judaism.



# JULY 2025 DIARY

Every Wednesday	11:30 AM	Wednesday Social
Every Thursday	10:00 AM	Mothers & Bumps/Babies/Toddlers Ganon: 2 ½–5 years old (Last session expected on 10 July)
Every Friday	7:30 PM	Erev Shabbat Service (Except 18th May; please see below)
Every Saturday	10:30 AM	Shabbat Service
Every Sunday	9:30 AM	Children’s Choir (Last session is 13 July)
	10:00 AM	Cheder (Last day of term is 13 July)

Wednesday	2nd	7:30 PM	Poetry Circle
Thursday	3rd	7:00 PM	Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Friday	4th	4:30 PM	Tiddler’s Service
		7:30 PM	Musical Shabbat with Tom Smith
Saturday	5th	9:15 AM	Torah Breakfast
Sunday	6th	2:00 PM	Shul Theatre Group
Wednesday	9th	7:30 PM	Women’s Interfaith Group
Saturday	12th	11:00 AM	Kinderlech Shabbat
Sunday	13th	4:00 PM	Jubilee Lecture with Phil Rosenberg
Wednesday	16th	2:00 PM	Backgammon
Thursday	17th	8:00 PM	Book Circle
Friday	18th	6:30 PM	Erev Shabbat Service
		7:30 PM	Communal Friday Night Dinner
Saturday	19th	10:30 AM	Shabbat Service & Bat Mitzvah of Matilda Cupido
Saturday	26th	10:30 AM	Shabbat Service & Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Stockdale

All services at Grenfell Lodge are now in person and livestreamed.  
Visit [www.maidshul.org](http://www.maidshul.org) – the link is in the upper-right corner of the homepage.

To access Zoom Kiddush  
for both Erev Shabbat and Shabbat mornings immediately after each service  
**Meeting ID: 963 7834 1361 & Password: 891244**