



# The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

## Review of 2022

A vibrant, welcoming and diverse community of  
all ages for those who wish to engage with Judaism

## The Liberal Jewish Synagogue Council and Honorary Officers

Directors of the Company Limited by Guarantee (Co Reg. No 09113305) and Trustees of the Registered Charity (Charity Reg. No 1159292)

### **President**

Martin Slowe z"l (term ended 22 June 2022)

### **Honorary Officers**

Sue Head, Chairman (term ended 22 June 2022)

Chris Godbold, Lead on Governance and Vice-Chair; Chair (appointed 22 June 2022)

David Adams, Honorary Treasurer

Benita Hart, Lead on Communications and Marketing

Karen Newman, Lead on Human Resources (term ended 22 June 2022)

### **Council members**

Sue Bolsom

Sylvia Churba

David Davidson

Lisa Gershon

Harriett Goldenberg

Gaby Lazarus (appointed 22 June 2022)

Jenny Nathan (appointed 22 June 2022)

David Rigal

Michael Romain

Anthony Sefton

Simon van Someren

Alex Weiss

### **Honorary Lawyer**

Daniel Sternberg (resigned 10 January 2022)

Jacob Gifford Head (appointed 10 January 2022)

### **Rabbis**

Rabbi Alexandra Wright, Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Igor Zinkov

Rabbi Rachel Benjamin (pastoral care)

Rabbi Elana Dellal, Rimon Rabbi (appointed 1 July 2022)

Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, Scholar in Residence

### **Senior staff**

Jonathan Bruck, Executive Director

Cathy Heller Jones, Director of Music

Aviva Shafritz, Community Care Co-ordinator

Caroline Villiers, Head of LJS Nursery

Matt Turchin, Rimon Religion School Lead (until 30 June 2022)

Susannah Alexander, Rimon Head Teacher (from 1 July 2022)

### **Registered office**

28 St John's Wood Road, London, NW8 7HA

For further information or to visit the LJS, email [ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org) or phone 020 7286 5181

# The LJS: Our Vision and Values

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is an inclusive, diverse and egalitarian community of all ages. We work together to explore Jewish traditions, texts and values, applying them to the challenge of living ethical lives in the context of the social, intellectual, technological, scientific and environmental realities of the 21st century. We seek to sustain and develop the Jewish people's sacred task: to build a just and compassionate world, based on our commitment and responsibility to each other as Jews and to our friends and neighbours of other faiths, cultures and ethnicities. We strive to enrich and celebrate our Jewish identity in the context of shared spirituality and creativity, intellectual challenge and meaningful relationships.

## **Kehillah**

The LJS seeks to be a warm, welcoming and compassionate community for all who wish to engage with Judaism.

## **Avodah**

The LJS cherishes meaningful, shared worship and spiritual engagement within the context of Liberal Judaism.

## **Torah**

The LJS prioritises life-long learning and the intellectual stimulation and challenge of Jewish texts, ideas and practice.

## **Gemilut Chasadim**

The LJS nurtures meaningful relationships through pastoral care and spiritual encounter, and encourages social networking across generations and between faiths and cultures.

## **Tikkun Olam**

The LJS values and engages in purposeful activity that is designed to repair and heal the world.

## **Bal Tashchit**

The LJS strives to increase awareness of the climate emergency and to reduce our human impact on the environment.

## **Chayyim**

The LJS celebrates and commemorates all life cycle events that help give meaning to people's lives.

## **Din v'Cheshbon**

The LJS is committed to transparent and responsible governance and financial accountability by its trustees.

## **Yahadut Mitkademet**

The LJS encourages its members' contribution to the dynamic growth and development of Liberal Judaism in the UK, Europe, Israel and beyond.

## **Bakkeish Shalom**

The LJS endorses the State of Israel's Declaration of Independence as a country based on the principles of 'liberty, justice and peace' and 'the full social and political equality of all its citizens'.

Thank you to Mike Beral, Trevor Haynes and Peter Singer for their photos on the front cover.



# Council Report

Chris Godbold, Chair of the LJS Council, gives a summary of the year



Photo: Trevor Haynes

This was the year when much of the world finally emerged from the Covid pandemic. The virus was still active, but it became possible as the year proceeded to fully re-open our synagogue and cemetery with appropriate

safeguards. We were finally able to dispense with our Covid Compliance Group, which did so much to protect the community during the pandemic, but we remained vigilant and ready to re-impose restrictions if necessary. It was good to see people's faces again as the need for masks diminished. Attendances at services, groups and other events took time to recover and had not reached pre-Covid levels by year-end. We held all services and meetings in hybrid form so those unwilling or unable to travel could join online.

Work continued to bring the LJS building to a better standard, with considerable further expenditure, especially on heating and electrical wiring. These works were largely funded by legacy income, following the Council decision to devote this to maintenance and improvement of the synagogue and cemetery rather than to cover revenue shortfalls.

Fundraising continued through the year, including a campaign to raise money to refurbish the basement into a community hub; this campaign remained open at the end of the year. We contracted a firm to take over the planted areas, improving them considerably. A number of other projects were initiated, including a decision to dedicate the front foyer to our late Senior Rabbi David Goldberg z"l and to install a further stained glass window (funded by donations) in the Rabbi John Rayner Prayer Room.

At the cemetery, a member's generous donation enabled us to upgrade uneven paths (and this will continue when funds allow). Along with major improvements to the toilets and columbarium and cleaning of the war memorial, the grounds are now much more attractive. Furthermore, apartments are being built to generate income for the LJS.

Social action initiatives continued, part of our commitment to *tikkun olam*. The Drop-In for Asylum-Seeker Families resumed in person, and further steps were taken towards becoming an EcoSynagogue. Services were held to celebrate Pride and Black History Month and, responding to the devastating consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we facilitated legal advice sessions for Ukrainian refugees. Our Yom Kippur appeal raised £70,165.

We welcomed the Liberal Judaism (LJ) administrative functions to the LJS and feel this helped cement yet stronger ties with LJ. The LJ Day of Celebration to mark its 120 years was held at the LJS. We continued to be involved in the work of the Board of Deputies and participated in several interfaith initiatives including organising another well-attended multi-faith Chanukkah celebration.

Governance was strengthened by the establishment of formal risk assessments, a review of safeguarding arrangements and the first annual review of the strategic plan, while a start was made on governance training for Council members who, as trustees and company directors, are ultimately responsible for the way in which the LJS is run. We re-established our Heritage Committee and strengthened our volunteering programme. We worked hard to recruit younger members and made changes to the Religion School, engaging the services of a Head Teacher and dedicated Rimon Rabbi. Our young members are our future. We were delighted that our Nursery School retained its 'Outstanding' rating.

None of this could have been achieved without the dedicated work of our staff, Rabbis and a host of dedicated volunteers. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart, as well as my fellow Council members who appointed me Chair during the year to take over from Sue Head. It would be invidious for me to start naming people, but I will use this opportunity to thank both Sue and our outgoing President Martin Slowe for all their help and support of the LJS over so many years. Martin sadly passed away in April 2023 and his loss is keenly felt by the entire community.

# Spirituality

## A house of prayer

*'For my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples' (Isaiah 56:7)*

In 2022 the removal of the restrictions on in-person services meant that we were able to encourage the return of more members to the synagogue, though some still chose, for their own valid reasons, to continue to participate online. The nature of our hybrid services – in the Sanctuary and online – and the collective trauma of Covid-19 have made us particularly conscious of how we present our services, what readings we choose from the Torah and Haftarah, the length of our services, the music, and expressions of hope and optimism. It is not that we wish to paper over the challenges and dark episodes of our lives, but to allow our services to contain our sadness, our losses and our pain, as well as the joyfulness of celebrating Shabbat and lifecycle events within the framework of a Friday evening, Shabbat morning or festival service.

The art of prayer and the Torah reflect our collective experience – these are our stories, the bedrock of our values, constantly revealing something new, something untold, breaking taboos, and opening borders. In the texts of our tradition, we see ourselves, our aspirations and our limitations, and prayer can help us to realise the former and transcend the latter.

In February 2022, the LJS joined with other Liberal synagogues to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the founding of Liberal Judaism. We were joined by the Rabbis and members of 21 communities, Leo Baeck College and Liberal Judaism, many of the contributions coming live or recorded from other synagogues and projected on to our walls in the Sanctuary. Individual rabbinic colleagues spoke about our achievements and the different stages of our history. Lily Montagu's essay on



Photo: Peter Singer

The Ark, bimah and bimah chairs

the 'Spiritual Possibilities of Judaism Today' was recalled, and the way it captured the loyalty and imagination of Anglo-Jewry's leaders at the beginning of the 20th century. Our beginnings created a dynamic, forward-thinking energy that has contributed to the establishment and life of LJ's 39 communities in this country and abroad.

We held Shabbat, festival, L'Dor va'Dor (intergenerational) and Koleinu (alternative informal) services throughout the year, as well as our annual Kabbalat Torah service, a number of B'nei and B'not Mitzvah and baby blessings.

Purim included a presentation by Rachel Knightley and Shoshana Bloom entitled 'Behind our Masks' and we were able to welcome members and guests to our Communal Seder four weeks later. Dame Maureen Lipman was guest speaker at our annual multi-faith Chanukkah celebration, while Professor Simon May spoke on his family memoir *How to be a Refugee* at Yom Ha-Shoah, describing how his family hid their Jewish origins to survive the Shoah. Kristallnacht was commemorated with a talk by Dr Toby Simpson on the Vienna Model of Radicalisation.



*“I have been helping out with the camera operating at the LJS for 18 months. This started during Covid when attendance was not possible, but has continued ever since. It provides a valuable service to those unable to travel, both at home and abroad, and has been an introduction to the LJS for non-members, some of whom have subsequently become involved with the synagogue.*

*It's rewarding to be able to help to bring the services into people's homes, wherever they are.”*

Andrew Hart, volunteer camera operator

We marked the 80th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews from Moravske Budejovice, the home of our little Czech scroll, with a remarkable conversation between Bob Kirk and Rabbi David Maxa, the Rabbi of the Ec Chajim progressive community in Prague.

On 4 June the community commemorated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and tribute was paid to her following her death in September.

Rabbi Dr Lawrence Hoffman who was in the UK for the Conference of Liberal Rabbis and Cantors' *kallah* (annual retreat) visited the LJS for a study session on holiness and to give a sermon. The latter demonstrated how the story of our own lives is told in the five books of the Torah.

The LJS was delighted to share services with the Jewish LGBT+ community, celebrating Pride in the summer, and with a service to mark World AIDS Day in December with guest speaker Laurence Lewis.

Combining shared joys and sorrows within all our services brings us together as a spiritual community, where prayer and study can offer quiet support, consolation and the celebration of life cycle events that reveal the LJS to be a thoughtful and vibrant congregation.

## Music

The musicians at the LJS continue to breathe new life into our services. With an expanded Members' Choir, our thriving Professional Choir, and the regular introduction of new compositions and arrangements, the services at the synagogue provided great joy and spiritual



The Members' Choir

uplift following the exigencies of the lockdown periods. And with the expert and beautiful accompaniment of organists/pianists Timothy Farrell and Martin Sanders-Hewett, whose preludes and postludes enhance the beginning and ends of services, the congregation is truly blessed with all its musicians. The excellent team of volunteer sound engineers made it possible for the music also to be appreciated by those who rely on the live streaming of services.

One of three newly commissioned pieces – made possible by a generous donation from congregant, Merula Frankel – was premiered on Yom Kippur. Forming part of a larger long-term project, the new compositions are a centre piece for a special concert, *The Human Spirit*, whose planning warranted much time and effort over the course of the year. Roxanna Panufnik's setting of *Adonai mah-adam*, was sung during the Memorial Service, whilst new compositions by Julian Marshall and Toby Young waited for their premiere at the concert in 2023. The congregation once again enjoyed the moving playing of Gemma Rosefield (cello) for Kol Nidre, and the oboe playing of Malcolm Messiter in the *Musaf* service.

Music Director, Cathy Heller Jones, particularly wishes to acknowledge Martin Sanders-Hewett and professional choristers, Tami Tal and Dominic Bevan, for their help and support during an extended period. As with all the professional musicians, their dedication and expertise ensured the continued high level of music provision for our congregation.

The long-standing tradition of musical excellence at the LJS exists because of foundations laid by previous musicians. On 23 July, we were finally able to honour the memory of former Music Director, Yakov Paul, who passed away during the pandemic. In a service attended by Yakov's family and former musicians of the LJS Choir, the congregation commemorated Yakov's long and fruitful tenure.



“The highlight of my year was joining the Members' Choir at the LJS, and singing together on Shabbat and for festivals. It's a talented group of musicians from different backgrounds and generations, and I've enjoyed meeting new people and building friendships, as well as making music together. My favourite memory was the preparation for the service on Rosh Hashanah. We spent time learning about the meaning and composition of the High Holy Day music, making this period feel even more special, personal, and reflective for me than ever before.”

Megan Keller Maley, singer in the Members' Choir



# Learning

At the centre of life at the LJS is its inspirational programme of education.

## The LJS Nursery School

We were delighted to receive yet another 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating following our inspection in September 2022, six years after our last one. Following a change in the inspection criteria many previously outstanding schools had been downgraded so this was a major achievement for the LJS Nursery School team. The inspector said, 'Children at this setting get the best possible start.'

The LJS Nursery School has an excellent reputation both locally and internationally, providing a nurturing, inclusive and creative atmosphere to inspire young children's curiosity, intellect, and imagination. Our progressive Jewish ethos promotes children's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth through a play-based curriculum attuned to the individual child's pattern of development. We warmly welcome children of all faiths and celebrate multicultural education.

Our Head Teacher, Caroline Villiers, leads a team of loyal, dedicated teachers working with

almost fifty children from ages 2 to 5. A two-year Nursery programme is followed by a Reception class. Many children go on to much sought-after schools with competitive entrance criteria.

Our focus this year has been on rebuilding the class numbers following the pandemic, including taking in younger siblings who had missed their early social and language opportunities.

We are proud to say that during 2022 all our children thrived in our unique environment and exceeded expectations in all areas.

As always, the highlights of our year were our Shabbat and festival celebrations, which the children and parents love.

We are most appreciative of the unwavering support and advice of Barbara Fidler and the other members of our wonderful Nursery committee.

## Rimon Religion School

Rimon provides learning and community for children aged 3½–15 and their families, underpinned by Liberal Jewish values.

2022 was our first full year in person since the pandemic. Rimon Lead Matt Turchin and his team took great care to ensure that our learning environment was as safe as possible, whilst retaining the spirit of curiosity and fun that is a hallmark of Rimon.

Following Matt's departure at the end of the academic year to pursue the next stage in his rabbinic studies, a new leadership team was put in place, with Rabbi Elana Dellal as Rimon Rabbi, responsible for the spiritual and pastoral welfare of our families, and Susannah Alexander as Head Teacher, responsible for the day-to-day



Photo: Trevor Haynes

The LJS Nursery School



*"I have been delighted to welcome more new pupils to school during the year to benefit from the magical LJS Nursery experience. Our 'Outstanding' Ofsted grade provided the Nursery with excellent publicity to attract new families.*

*Our Progressive Jewish values underpin a wonderful education, care, attention to detail, parenting support and kindness, all of which have been so appreciated by our families and rewarding work for everyone involved."*

Caroline Villiers, LJS Nursery Head Teacher

running of Rimon, curriculum development, staff management and visits from external schools. Elana and Susannah continued to work with Dov Softi, as Education Consultant and Safeguarding Lead, Scott Dinwiddie, our new Chair of Education, and Debi Penhey, Education Co-ordinator. We also welcomed three new teachers and four new assistants to the teaching team.



Photo: Russell Harris

Rimon teachers

The Rimon morning retained the structure put in place by Matt and his team, beginning with a whole-school *Tefillah*, followed by Hebrew and Jewish Studies sessions, plus options for children to choose from several Jewish-themed creative activities. Kabbalat Torah (KT) students had opportunities for external outings, such as a trip to the Tower Hamlets Local History Archive to learn about the Battle of Cable Street.

Social action activities included Mitzvah Day, when Rimon children participated in a range of projects from litter picking along Regent's Canal and providing toiletries to families in need to making dog toys for a local animal shelter. The integration of Rimon with the wider community and the opportunity to make a difference remains a priority.

## The Learning Circle

The Learning Circle (TLC) is the LJS's adult education programme for Members, Friends and non-members of the synagogue. During the



Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton and Dr Harith Ramli

year a range of courses was offered on Tuesdays (at lunchtime and in the evening), Wednesday evenings and Shabbat mornings.

Courses in Hebrew with the LJS's skilled and patient teachers continued to form the basis of The Learning Circle's programme of learning, from complete beginners to study of key biblical texts that help students extend their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.

'Tuesday Texts' and Shabbat morning 'Learning with Texts' remained popular. The latter, facilitated by LJS member Michael Romain, introduced a wide range of subjects including midrashic interpretation, *Pirke Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers), and Judaism in the first century BCE. Nitza Spiro's Shabbat morning discussion classes looked at female Biblical characters.

The LJS's scholar in residence, Rabbi Dr Michael Hilton, pioneered a six-week course on 'Judaism and Islam: A Shared History' with Dr Harith Ramli.

Rabbi Igor Zinkov's 'Exploring Judaism' class continued for those wishing to learn about Judaism from scratch, and towards the end of the year, a follow-on from that course developed, 'Continuing Our Jewish Journey'. Rabbi Igor's 'Chavruta – Learning with Study Companions' brought together different groups of students of all ages for discussion on a wide range of texts, including the LJS Statement of Vision and Values.



*“While online learning successfully continued in the adult education programme this year, it has been terrific to have Rimon back in the building for the whole year and to have been able to prepare for the KT Amsterdam trip. The positive energy and benefits of having everyone together in person, students, families, teachers, and staff, has aided our programme's growth and continued its historic success, while allowing us to consider numerous enhancements for the year ahead.”*

Scott Dinwiddie, Chair of Education



# Community

**The LJS is a beacon of community engagement, offering friendship, support and practical advice.**

In 2022 the LJS's Community Care team of volunteers and professional staff continued with its regular work, supporting congregants and their families who may be experiencing a range of difficulties.

Many of the Community Care activities and services returned to the synagogue building. We were delighted that we could then retire our special crisis group called *Nechushtan*, which is Hebrew for 'serpent' and analogous to the government's COBRA group. However, the issues that were highlighted during the darkest days of the pandemic informed the ongoing work of the lead volunteers and professional team, including how to address the needs of isolated members.

Restaurant Tuesday resumed, and guests were once again treated to delicious home-made meals prepared by the volunteers.



Restaurant Tuesday diners

Having been online since 2020, Singing for the Mind, for anyone with memory problems or in the early stages of dementia, returned to in-person sessions in March, and although

attendance was initially very small, the numbers steadily began to rise. A decision was made to include those who were able to attend without carers.

Video and Tea was once more able to show popular films at the synagogue to LJS members and local residents, and provide their visitors with tea and ice-cream.

2022 saw a return to the full service for the Drop-In for Asylum-Seeker Families, and we were able to welcome around 180 families to the LJS. We were truly delighted that many of our existing guests had secured 'Leave to Remain', as this allowed us to invite some more families from the lengthy waiting list. Guests received financial support, a hot meal, clothing and toiletries, and play activities were organised for children.

Although lockdown restrictions were eased, the LJS Book Group continued online and proved very successful. The friendly and informal discussion led to fascinating insights as readers discussed books which connect with the topic of refugees and upheaval.

The Out & About Club, a non-denominational club for LJS members and disabled people in Westminster, was delighted to be able to run their twice-monthly evenings and provide a diverse range of entertainments, often involving music, in addition to the annual outing to Worthing and the Annual Dinner in December. Regular phone calls to members of the club also continued in collaboration with Paddington Partnership. Due to a generous bequest, the club was able to refurbish some of the chairs in the Montefiore Hall.



*“My year working with this fantastic team has been spectacular. It has been an honour helping people from across the world including Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Nigeria. I feel enormously proud, as a member and as an employee, that we are doing something so vital. Thank you to the committee, for their unwavering support, and thank you to our 120 committed volunteers – both the newbies and those who have supported us for the last nine years!”*

Hannah Tickle, Project Co-ordinator for the Drop-In for Asylum-Seeker Families



The Phone a Member (PAM) scheme continued with our more elderly members receiving regular phone calls, and the ever-popular Keep In Touch (KIT) tea party was held in October. As usual the refreshments were greatly appreciated, with this comment from a very satisfied customer: *'I should like to thank everyone at the KIT Group and Rabbis for a truly magnificent tea party today. The tables looked absolutely beautiful and the food was delicious, and was served with such heartfelt warmth making us all feel so welcome.'*

The purpose of the Family Support Group is to provide the professional team at the LJS with a sounding board of experts who can help them in supporting families in the community. Any issues discussed are in strictest confidence and can result in families getting extra help in addition to support from non-synagogue agencies.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of community activities at the LJS, and Gaby Lazarus took on the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator. Her remit is to encourage new volunteers from within our community, to match up potential volunteers with the many volunteering needs at the LJS and to help retain, support and nurture existing volunteers.



Outing to Tudeley

In the summer, a delightful community outing was organised, and a group of about 25 people went to Kent to see the twelve stained glass windows designed by Marc Chagall in Tudeley.

Most of the group walked there from the station, following the path along the River Medway.

By the end of 2022 we were able to resume Nosh 'n' Drosh sessions – an occasional series of talks and discussion over a bagel lunch following the Shabbat morning service, and to which all are welcome. LJS member Irene Kyffin spoke on Yiddish Theatre, and future sessions with a range of different speakers were planned.

On 26 November the Montefiore Hall was packed for a fabulous evening of Music and Mind Reading with the remarkable Nick Einhorn, a member of the Inner Magic Circle. The combination of Nick's skills as a magician, his engaging manner, the community spirit, the eating and drinking and laughter made this an evening to remember.



Nick Einhorn and audience at the Evening of Magic and Mind Reading



*“The need to attract and engage new volunteers as well as retaining our existing army of wonderful volunteers is an ongoing challenge; my aim is finding innovative ways to encourage members to get involved at whatever level of commitment they feel able to offer. In return they will gain a sense of value and well-being from helping their community to thrive, as well as an opportunity to connect to other members.”*

Gaby Lazarus, Volunteer Co-ordinator

# Sustainability

For the LJS, sustainability is about the future of our organisation and also our commitment to the wider world and the future of our planet.



View of the Sanctuary from the gallery

Whilst 2022 did not have the scale of challenges in respect of Covid that were experienced in 2021, it offered new and equally difficult challenges, many of which were again beyond the synagogue's control. Nevertheless, the synagogue began to return to its vibrant pre-Covid self with the community returning to use the excellent facilities the synagogue has to offer.

The LJS is a membership organisation, and it is important to understand its membership. We launched our first membership survey in 2022 – this will be an annual event – and were pleased with the responses, many of which were positive and provided some great suggestions to help the synagogue move forward.

The office team continue to work closely with the Rabbis, Honorary Officers and Council to make the synagogue a vibrant and eco-friendly hub for the community with the return to large attendance numbers during the High Holy Days, both in the synagogue and online, as well as the return of all our other activities outlined in this Review.

Regarding the synagogue building, the major infrastructure improvements continued with the

second stage of the heating project taking place, rewiring and the updating of the emergency lighting. At the cemetery, thanks to an extremely generous donation, we were able to re-lay the majority of the paths, whilst the new flats next to the caretaker's lodge began to take shape. The precarious columbarium was knocked down and a new improved one instated. We greatly appreciate the generous donations we have received which make building and cemetery infrastructure projects possible.



The LJS Cemetery, Willesden

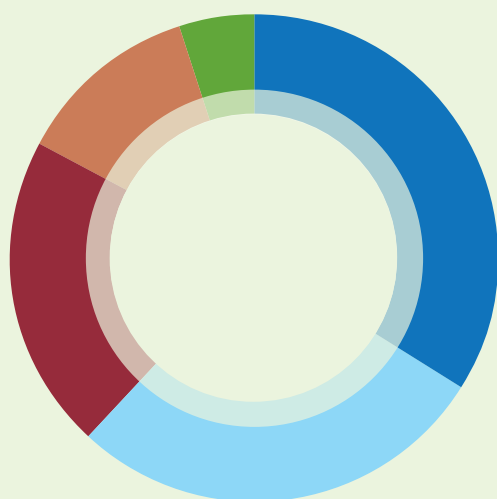
Increasing costs have been a challenge in 2022 especially in respect of heating costs. Thanks to the investment in updating the heating system, we have been able to control our electricity usage and managed to reduce usage compared with 2021, when the building remained predominantly empty due to Covid.

The financial sustainability of the LJS continued to be dependent upon the contribution of membership fees and other non-core funding. The financial issues we face have been exacerbated by the challenging economic context.

**Working in partnership** The LJS is the largest synagogue within the Liberal Judaism (LJ) movement, the umbrella organisation of nearly 40 Liberal and Progressive synagogues in the UK and parts of Europe. Rabbi Alexandra Wright was elected President of LJ in July 2022. The LJS offers support to LJ, including to Leo Baeck College, which is the primary academic and education institution for European Progressive Judaism and where many Progressive rabbis are trained.

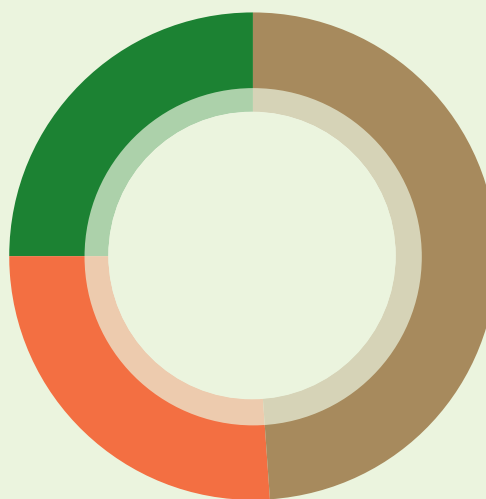


## Income in 2022



- 34% Membership fees
- 28% Donations
- 21% Learning: LJS Nursery and Rimon
- 12% Cemetery
- 5% Other activities including venue hire

## How the money was spent in 2022



- 49% Staff costs
- 26% Charitable activities
- 25% Administration, building, facilities & governance

Despite these challenges, the synagogue proudly maintains its ethos that no-one is ever excluded by their ability to pay. A significant number of Members and Friends have been paying specially agreed reduced rates, ensuring that everyone can be part of and contribute to the community.

The LJS is extremely fortunate that some Members have made additional donations to assist those who are unable to pay their full membership fees. The President's Patrons Fund, led by our remarkable late past President, Martin Slowe, also encourages Members to make an ongoing substantial financial commitment to underpin the sustainability of the LJS. The LJS is grateful for this continuing support, as well as from those who remember the LJS with legacies. This generosity funded some specific improvements we were able to make.

We continue to look at ways to increase our income without impacting membership fees and hope to implement these over the next few years.

Many of our activities could not run without internal fundraising campaigns and external grants. We are indebted to the continuing project funding provided by the Eranda Trust, Pears Foundation and Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation.

The work of the synagogue's Social Action group spans ongoing support for Sufra food bank and community centre, involvement with EcoSynagogue and local ecological endeavours, building a supportive relationship with the burgeoning Progressive community in Vilnius, and active support for the Progressive voice in Israel.

We much appreciate the volunteer work on cataloguing our archive which has continued throughout 2022. The scanned and born-digital (i.e. in electronic form from the start) records are now being uploaded onto a web-based repository. In this way we honour our past as we work towards a vibrant future.

The LJS is a member of the European Union of Progressive Judaism and the World Union for Progressive Judaism. It is also a member of the UK Board of Deputies of British Jews with four members of the congregation serving as representatives and one young member as an observer. This ensures that the voice of the LJS is heard within the umbrella group that speaks for the British Jewish community.



The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, known as the LJS, was founded in 1911 and is the oldest and largest member of Liberal Judaism, a constituent member of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

### Becoming a Member of the LJS

We are an inclusive and diverse community, and warmly welcome new Members and Friends. If you are interested in joining, please contact the membership team at [membership@ljs.org](mailto:membership@ljs.org) or call 020 7432 1296. We have membership rates for individuals, families and young adults.

### Friends of the LJS

The LJS was the first synagogue in the UK to invite non-Jewish partners and people who have identified with the Jewish community to associate themselves with us by becoming a 'Friend'. Friends are welcome in all aspects of synagogue life (excluding a vote at general meetings) and their involvement and commitment to the synagogue is encouraged and valued. The LJS is one of the few synagogues in the UK which permits non-Jewish partners to be buried next to their Jewish partners in our cemetery.

### Choosing Judaism

We welcome those who are interested in exploring the option of becoming part of the Jewish community. Please contact one of the Rabbis on 020 7286 5181 or at [admin@ljs.org](mailto:admin@ljs.org) for more information.

### Donations and Legacies

The LJS works hard to support both its community and the local community, but is always looking to do more. If you would like to make a donation to support this important work or wish to consider leaving a legacy, please contact Jonathan Bruck, Executive Director, via [execdirector@ljs.org](mailto:execdirector@ljs.org) or telephone 020 7286 5181. Alternatively, donations may be made electronically by credit or debit card via the LJS website: [www.ljs.org/donate](http://www.ljs.org/donate)



Rabbi Alexandra Wright



Rabbi Igor Zinkov



## The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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Visit the LJS website, join us on Facebook, follow on Twitter, be part of the Instagram community.



The paper which this LJS Review of 2022 is printed on comes from a sustainable source.

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