



The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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

# High Holy Days 5781/2020

Information booklet for online services and for those who would like to attend in person

Preparing for the *Yamim Nor'aim* (Days of Awe)

'You shall cause the Shofar to be sounded...and proclaim liberty throughout the earth to all its inhabitants.'

*Leviticus 25: 9-10*



*Photograph used with kind permission of Peter Singer*

The LJS is a company limited by guarantee (Company No. 09113305)  
and a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No. 1159292)  
Registered office: 28 St John's Wood Road, London, NW8 7HA  
Telephone: 020 7286 5181      Email: [ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org)



# The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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

Tel: 020 7286 5181

Email: [ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org)

Website: [www.ljs.org](http://www.ljs.org)

Dear Members, Friends, and Guests of the LJS,

We are delighted to welcome you to The Liberal Jewish Synagogue for the High Holy Day Services 5781. These services are the highlight of our liturgical year, providing time for us to reflect on the past year, on our relationships and what we hold to be significant in our lives.

This year our services will look and feel very different from the past. The coronavirus pandemic has closed the doors of our synagogue for over five months. Our services and activities have continued online throughout those months, streamed to The Liberal Jewish Synagogue YouTube Channel. New technology will allow us to hold 'hybrid' services for the forthcoming festivals. A limited number of congregants will be able to be in the Sanctuary, while the majority of the congregation continues to watch online. Please note that to limit screen time, services will be shorter than usual. As with our Shabbat services, all the music will be pre-recorded by our dedicated musicians.

Although our community will not be able to be together in numbers, we hope that our festival services will offer reassurance, strength and hope for the coming year.

For those of you who would like to attend a service in person, we request that you fill in the application form which is enclosed or available to complete online and return it as soon as possible. Because of the limit on numbers in the Sanctuary, it will only be possible to attend one service in person and you may not necessarily be successful.

Thank you for your understanding, and please do not hesitate to contact the synagogue if you have any questions.

We wish you and your dear ones a peaceful and healthy Shanah Tovah for 5781,

Rabbi  
Alexandra Wright

Rabbi  
Igor Zinkov

Sue Head,  
Chairman

**For further assistance please phone the office on: 020 7286 5181**

# High Holy Day Services Calendar

<b><i>Selichot</i></b>		
Saturday 12 September	8.30pm	<i>Selichot</i> Service: This service will be pre-recorded and streamed via the LJS YouTube channel ( <a href="https://tinyurl.com/LJSyoutube">https://tinyurl.com/LJSyoutube</a> )
<b><i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i></b>		
Friday 18 September	6.45pm	Evening Service – online via the LJS YouTube channel and for a limited number of congregants in the Sanctuary
<b><i>Rosh Hashanah</i></b>		
Shabbat 19 September	11.00am	Morning Service – online via the LJS YouTube channel and for a limited number of congregants in the Sanctuary
	9.30am	Young Children’s Service (0-6 years) with Caroline Hagard – online via Zoom
	10.00am	Family Service (7-13 years) with Student Rabbi and Rimon Lead Matt Turchin and Rabbi Alexandra Wright – online via Zoom
	10.30am	Family Activities – online via Zoom All Zoom details will be in the Rimon newsletter and Shalom LJS Families are invited to join the main service at 12.00 noon for the special online Shofar service (via the LJS YouTube channel)
<b><i>Shabbat Shuvah</i></b>		
Friday 25 September	6.45pm	Erev Shabbat Service – online via the LJS YouTube channel and for a limited number of congregants in the Sanctuary
Shabbat 26 September	11.00am	Shabbat Morning Service – online via the LJS YouTube channel and for a limited number of congregants in the Sanctuary
<b><i>Kol Nidre</i></b>		
Sunday 27 September	6.33pm	Fast commences
	7.00pm	Evening Service including a recording of Gemma Rosefield and Martin Sanders-Hewett playing Bruch's <i>Kol Nidre</i> – online via the LJS YouTube channel and for a limited number of congregants in the Sanctuary

## Yom Kippur

Monday 28 September	11.00am	Morning Service in the Sanctuary – online via the LJS YouTube channel and for a limited number of congregants in the Sanctuary
	9.30am	Young Children’s Service (0-6 years) with Caroline Hagard – online via Zoom
	10.00am	Family Service (7-13 years) with Student Rabbi and Rimon Lead Matt Turchin and Rabbi Igor Zinkov – online via Zoom
	10.30am	Family Activities – online via Zoom All Zoom details will be in the Rimon newsletter and Shalom LJS
	Please note:	<b>There will be no <i>Musaf</i> (Additional) or <i>Minchah</i> (Afternoon) Services this year. Instead we will offer a choice of services, discussions and events with other Liberal Judaism congregations which will include our own activities, as follows:</b>
	2.30pm	Young Adult Discussion ‘Judaism and Decision Making’ with Rabbi Igor Zinkov This will be an interactive session where participants will discuss and explore practical aspects of decision making in modern conditions, through the lens of Judaism. The session will focus on the intersection of professional expertise in different areas, and Jewish ethics and values.
	2.30pm	‘What shall we do during this time, the deepest part of Yom Kippur?’ with Rabbi Alexandra Wright For many of us the <i>Musaf</i> service between the end of the Morning Service through to the story of Jonah in the Afternoon Service is the hardest but deepest part of the Day of Atonement. Please join members and friends of the LJS for an informal discussion via Zoom to talk about the impact that coronavirus has had on our spiritual journeys over the past six months. How have we managed? What have been the sources of pain and difficulty, but also resilience and courage?

<b><i>Yom Kippur (continued)</i></b>	4.00pm	An online pre-recorded dramatisation of the Book of Jonah with Dame Janet Suzman as the voice of God and featuring Josh Higgott and Felicity Davidson
	5.45pm	<i>Yizkor</i> (Memorial Service) – online via the LJS YouTube channel and for a limited number of congregants in the Sanctuary followed by
	6.30pm	<i>Ne'ilah</i> (Concluding Service) – online via the LJS YouTube channel and for a limited number of congregants in the Sanctuary
	7.30pm 7.32pm	Service ends Fast ends <i>Havdalah</i> with tea and honey cake – but please provide your own at home!

## Future Services

We look forward to welcoming you to these forthcoming services and events (online or in person for the successful applicants). Please add these dates to your diary and for more information see Shalom LJS (the e-newsletter), the LJS website or contact the synagogue office. Full details about Children and Family Services will be included in the Rimon newsletter and Shalom LJS.

<b><i>Sukkot</i></b>		
Friday 2 October	6.45pm	Erev Sukkot Service online and in the Sanctuary
Shabbat 3 October	11.00am	Sukkot Morning Service online and in the Sanctuary
		Children's and Family Services and Activities online via Zoom – times to be advised
<b>Shemini-Atzeret/Simchat Torah</b>		
Friday 9 October	6.45pm	Erev Simchat Torah Service online and in the Sanctuary
Shabbat 10 October	11.00am	Simchat Torah Service online and in the Sanctuary
		Children's and Family Services and Activities online via Zoom – times to be advised

**For further assistance please phone the office on: 020 7286 5181**

# The High Holy Days at Home and at the LJS

It has been five months since the LJS last held services, classes and activities in our building and many of us have been longing to return to our Sanctuary and to meet up with each other in person. Sadly, it will not be possible to see the huge numbers we regularly welcome across the threshold for our festivals this year.

With new technology in place and the experience of our online services over the past few months, we hope that we will be able to provide a spiritually uplifting experience for everyone, whether you are one of very few people in the Sanctuary or watching online at home.

## Online access for all

All Adult services will be streamed via The Liberal Jewish Synagogue YouTube channel which can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/LJSyoutube>. We recommend that you subscribe to our YouTube channel to receive timely reminders of services.

All Young Children's Services, Family Services and Family Activities will be held online via Zoom on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings.

- The Family Service (10.00am) will be led by the Rabbis and Matt Turchin, our Student Rabbi and Rimon Lead.
- Caroline Hagard will lead a Young Children's Service (9:30am). There will also be online activities for the youngest children in our community from 10:30am.
- We have scheduled the Family Service to allow for all families to then join the Rosh Hashanah Morning Service on YouTube to hear the sound of the Shofar. This will be from 12.00 noon onwards. Details will be in Shalom LJS and Rimon News.

Full details including access to Zoom will be sent out via the Rimon newsletter and Shalom LJS. If you need assistance with accessing the LJS YouTube channel or Zoom please ring the office on 020 7286 5181, leave a message with your phone number and we will ring you back to arrange training or additional support.

## Attending LJS services in person

At the time of producing this booklet, Government guidelines are limiting the number of people to a maximum of 30 in the Sanctuary for each service. That may change in the coming weeks and we will let you know if that is the case. Enclosed with this booklet is an application form to apply to attend in person, if you wish to do so.

While the synagogue has a very strict risk assessment in place which is constantly under review, we do ask you to assess the risk that applies to you, especially if you have been shielding or are vulnerable. You may also wish to seek medical advice. This year we are unable to provide special parking or additional support to help people in and out of the

building. We will do our best to accommodate members of the congregation and we know you will understand if it is not possible.

If your application to attend is successful, we will send you all of the instructions for attending safely. This will include arrival times, how to enter and exit, use of the facilities, wearing masks, and how you will be seated in the Sanctuary. There is no socialising or interaction, and we ask you to please observe this and all other guidance as advised. If you feel uncomfortable conforming to these, we ask you to not apply to come to services in person.

Please bring your own *Machzor*. There will be no prayer books available to borrow this year. New *Machzorim* may be purchased from the synagogue prior to the festivals. If you would like your own, please call the office on 020 7286 5181 or email [ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org). Each page of the service will be projected on to the wall of the Sanctuary so you will be able to follow without a *Machzor*.

Please provide all your details in the application form to attend services so that we can contact and trace you if necessary.

Remember that parking restrictions are enforced until 7.00pm on Mondays to Fridays (including Erev Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Erev Sukkot). There is limited parking in the surrounding roads which needs to be paid for using your phone. Please read all instructions on the signposts before leaving your car to ensure you do not receive a ticket. There is no parking on the LJS forecourt and no special arrangements can be made this year for parking elsewhere.

## Guests

We regret that we will not be admitting non-members to the Sanctuary this year. However, we are keen to welcome guests to our online services. Please invite your friends and family and encourage them to join us. For security reasons we do ask that they register at <https://ljshhd2020.eventbrite.co.uk>. We can then send all of the service information and how to join the YouTube channel.

The LJS, like many other charities, is currently experiencing a significant drop in its income, and we ask that all visitors and guests make a donation to the LJS or consider joining the synagogue. If you are interested in becoming a member, email [membership@ljs.org](mailto:membership@ljs.org) or phone 020 7432 1296.

To donate directly to the LJS, please email [ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org) and we will send you information about electronic or cheque payments or go to: <https://localgiving.org/charity/ljs/>

# Reflections on the *Yamim Nora'im* (Days of Awe)

## *Rosh Hashanah: On prayer*

How do I learn to pray? There is really only one answer: pray! Pray other people's prayers. You will appropriate them to yourself by using them and pouring your own personality into them. Do not wait until you 'feel like' praying, or until you know how to pray. You never will.

*Steven S. Schwarzschild (quoted in Machzor Ruach Chadashah, p. 46)*

## *Tashlich – For the afternoon of Rosh Hashanah*

Who is a God like You, forgiving iniquity, passing over transgression; You do not cling to Your anger with the remnant of Your people, because You delight in showing love! You will turn back to us, You will take us back in love, You will subdue our sins, casting them into the depths of the sea.

*Micah 7:18-19, Haftarah for Shabbat Shuvah*

## *Kol Nidre: God's love and compassion*

You forgive all our iniquities and heal all our afflictions. You redeem our life from destruction and surround us with love and compassion. You fill our life with good and renew our youth like an eagle's...You do not deal with us according to our sins or requite us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is Your love for those who revere You.

*From Psalm 103*

## *Yom Kippur: Confession*

I confess that I have been responsible for much that went wrong, I tried to get more out of life than I was willing to put into it. I never learnt to ask the right question. I did not say: 'What can I give life?' but 'What can life give me?' Perhaps I cheated others. I certainly cheated myself of many things I could have had – friendship, love and self-respect.

*Rabbi Lionel Blue (quoted in Machzor Ruach Chadash, p. 410)*

## *Yizkor and Ne'ilah: 'History and memory'*

History and memory have tangled configurations, but for Jews, memory in its Hebrew form *zikkaron* – of deeds, words and quiet endeavours – has never betokened nostalgia for times past, but is transformed through ritual and recital into duties and responsibilities.

If you need assistance, please email [ljs@ljs.org](mailto:ljs@ljs.org) or phone the office on: 020 7286 5181. The office hours are Monday – Thursday: 9.00am to 5.00pm, Friday: 9.00am to 3.00pm. You will need to leave a message; this will be relayed automatically as the staff team are working from home.  
We will call you back as soon as we can.