

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE MAY 2018 MJC AGM

Dear Members,

This AGM marks the completion of my 2 year term as Chair and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to help steer the community forward during its third and fourth years.

Mosaic is a very special community and quite unique in the UK. Whilst there are many estimable cross communal institutions out there - such as Jewish Care and the CST – Mosaic is the only pluralistic community comprising constituent synagogues. In a sphere frequently tainted by intra-communal mistrust we remain a shining example of how British Jews from different strands of the religion can get along for the common good. We celebrate our differences in a spirit of mutual respect and avoid worthless arguments about relative Jewish authenticity.

We are *all* authentic at Mosaic and there is no doubt that we are stronger together collectively we have the scale to provide an impressively varied range of social and cultural activities. Together we can fill the hall for a supper quiz, together we can publish high quality communal magazines and together we can stage inspiring educational events for ourselves and the wider community. For example, as part of the Northwood Holocaust Memorial Day Education programme we recently hosted circa 200 local secondary school students who attended workshops and listened to a guest Holocaust Survivor speaker.

It is true that coming together has been effective in generating economies of scale. For example, we share an effective central administration office – but, perhaps more importantly, we have created the opportunity for our members to *enrich their Jewish experience* by attending activities and by making new friends across the wider Mosaic Jewish Community.

Unfortunately, we haven't yet been able to find our new shared home. Please be assured that this remains a critically important objective of the Mosaic property working group [PWG] who remain focussed and energised. As you are hopefully aware, we are in the process of taking a number of complementary initiatives to increase the chances of a successful move in the not too distant future.

On a personal level, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Mosaic Jewish Community Board and our cohort of valued volunteers for keeping the Mosaic wheels turning and thanks also to the synagogue councils for their enabling support. I now look forward to enjoying my Mosaic membership with fewer meetings, fewer emails and more time to enjoy what's on offer - starting soon with a Tuesday jaunt with our excellent walking group!

The important task of building and nurturing our community continues every day and it's something every member can positively influence if they so wish. So, whether you are a member of Mosaic Liberal or Mosaic Reform or HEMS please remember that you are also a member of the Mosaic Jewish Community. I hope that, like me, you enjoy and value what Mosaic has to offer and continue to do so in the years ahead.

Kind regards

Philip Austin