



Mosaic Jewish Community moved into its new home in October 2022.

Mosaic Reform's Alex Landau celebrated his Bar Mitzvah on 29th October.
The office moved in on Thursday 3rd November.

On Saturday 3rd December Mosaic Liberal, Mosaic Masorti and Mosaic Reform each held their own services followed by a celebratory joint kiddush.

If you haven't yet visited our new building,
we look forward to welcoming you very soon.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Since our last issue

MOSAIC REFORM

MAZAL TOV TO:

Susan & Richard Freedman on the birth of their grandson, Fredrik Gabriel

Zella Milstone on the birth of her great-grand-daughter, Amalia

David Green on the marriage of his daughter, Georgia

Linda & Richard Joseph on the engagement of their son, Mark, to Chloe Kenner

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Linda Boyd
Howard Walters
Jonathan Barnett
Howard Berger
Judy Cohen
Leonard Ludwin
Joan Woolfson
Graham Zeitlin
George Myrants
Carolyn Abrahams
Roma Bendel
Basil Cohen
Richard Degen
Beryl Levy
Zella Milstone
Sheila Morris
Sylvia Phillips
Jennifer Schneider
Adela Sefton
Ron Tucker
Carole Okin

ANNIVERSARY WISHES TO:

Shirley & Zicky Alpert on their 55th anniversary
Helen & Norman Cripps on their 50th anniversary
Eva & Joseph Jacob on their 45th anniversary
Linda & Ken Edward on their

50th wedding anniversary

GOOD LUCK IN HIS NEW HOME TO:

Willie Witkover
THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

June Cass
Viv Block

CONDOLENCES TO:

David Rauch on the death of his wife, Dorothy, and Sarah Rauch on the death of her mother.

Gary Miller on the death of his mother, Phyllis
Beverley Ringart on the death of her brother, Jeffrey Lewis
Eddie Donn on the death of his brother, Mike
The family and friends of Sheila Solomons

GET WELL WISHES:

Michelle Hart
Scott Buchan

MOSAIC LIBERAL

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Carole & John Bernard
Vivienne Schuster

NEW HOME:

Toby Drage
Ghazal Parjak

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Marie Capitelli
Irene Conway
Alan Hunt
Joy Katz
Jack Leon
Adele Rubenstein
Danielle Sanderson
Hana Schlesinger
Iris Simons
Stanley Solomons

Frances Spiegel

MAZAL TOV TO:

Sylvia & Malcolm Kemp on the birth of their grandson, Noah

THINKING ABOUT THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Michael Judelson
Pam Kauders
Mary Vulkan

CONDOLENCES TO:

Joy Pearson on the death of her husband David
Judith Sonnenberg on the death of her husband Fred
The family and friends of Dennis Mitchell

MOSAIC MASORTI

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS:

Helen Ellison
Jonathan Brockiner
Simon Rutstein
Claire Silverstone

GOOD LUCK IN THEIR NEW HOME TO:

Simon, Brian & Lili Balkin

MAZAL TOV TO:

Debbie & Dave Scott on the birth of their grandson, Jacob Thomas

CONDOLENCES TO:

Jo Fenster on the death of her mother, Janet Evans

Children and Teen birthdays on page 32

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Copy date:

Wednesday 8th February

Publication date:

Thursday 23rd February

Send your articles, pictures, letters etc to

newsdesk@choosemosaic.org

Press Release – October 2022

New building opening is “unique step” for Anglo-Jewry



In a first for Anglo-Jewry, the Mosaic Jewish Community, which brings together three differing strands of Judaism into a single community, has opened the doors of its new home in Stanmore, north London.

Only a day after it opened, a first Bar Mitzvah was held by Mosaic Reform Synagogue, one of the three synagogues to be based there. Mosaic Reform (formerly Middlesex New Synagogue) is the first to move in. The other two are Mosaic Liberal Synagogue (formerly Harrow and Wembley Progressive Synagogue) and Mosaic Masorti Synagogue (formerly Hatch End Masorti Synagogue).

The building, which began construction in 2020, provides a new state-of-the-art home for the synagogues. Each will be able to hold services there and come together for joint community activities. It will also provide a vibrant new social and cultural hub for a wide area of Harrow, Bushey and beyond.

Harry Grant, Chairman of Mosaic Reform Synagogue, said: “Our first Bar Mitzvah and the opening represents a unique step for Anglo Jewry. With our three synagogues and four rabbis, including a dedicated development rabbi, we believe no other arrangement of this sort exists in the world. It is our way of ensuring that Jewish life can adapt and grow in new directions demanded by new generations.”

Rabbi Kathleen de Magtige-Middleton, who conducted the Bar Mitzvah for Sam Landau,

with a congregation of over 150, said: “It has been a long time in the construction, but so many people have worked so hard to make this vision a reality. Not just for Sam but for the whole community this is the beginning of a new era.”

Sam’s mother, Toria Bacon added: “It is such an honour for Sam and the whole family to be a part of this historic day. It was nerve wracking but it was a wonderful and memorable day for Sam and so many others.”

Over the next few weeks all three synagogues will bring their operations together, but there are other expansion plans too.

Development rabbi, Rabbi Anna Wolfson added: “We also aim to offer new options that don’t necessarily have to fit into the three existing strands. We are open to exploring other ways in which people can exercise their Jewish choices. As a result, as well as three synagogues we have also created ‘Mosaic+.’”

With space for different services, and a religion school, which also involves nearby Kol Chai synagogue, the building, with revolutionary acoustic sliding partitions, plus the latest IT and networking capabilities is designed for maximum flexibility. There is also a hub with a children’s soft play area and café.

In its new home in Stanmore, the Mosaic Jewish Community will play a major role in enhancing inter-denominational co-operation with nearby places of worship serving many other religions. Mosaic is situated in the London Borough of Harrow, one of the capital’s most ethnically and religiously diverse localities.

Mosaic Start with Peace Concert

by Harry L Davies

What better way to introduce the Mosaic Culture Hub, Mosaic Jewish Community's new-built synagogue on Stanmore Hill, to the wider community than with a multi-faith concert with a theme of PEACE! As



would be a good vehicle to marry with the words of the psalms – “they feed my soul” she describes. It would introduce jazz to some believers, and belief to some jazz fans. With the backing of the star jazz singer, Jacqui Dankworth, and the composing talent of jazz virtuoso pianist David Gordon, the project was created and Mosaic

the Mosaic credo is “**Choose your Jewish Life**” – the choice of ‘peace’ for the first cultural event in the building is complementary to this motto. Within the 300-strong audience were representatives from diverse faith groups in the area, as a celebration for the end of Inter-Faith Week. The concert was superbly organised by Jane Prentice, Chair of MJC’s Community Group and, after a welcome by the Chair of the Reform Community, Harry Grant, the four Rabbis of the community began with a Hebrew blessing of gratitude for new joyful events.

The concert was a fusion of jazz ensemble and choir, with psalms as the focal point. The inspiration for this is an idea of the Reverend Margaret Scrivener, who introduced the performance, and who realised that jazz music

Jewish Community brought into the picture for its first performance.

David Gordon produced three new compositions for Psalms 22, 100 (‘The Gates’) and 139 – all world premieres for the occasion. With the beauty of the words, the emotion and feeling that **Jacqui Dankworth** spread through the music, enhanced by the jazz motif and superb playing of the group, and backed by the Take Twenty Choir, it was an outstanding evening .

The solo performances of **Chris Garrick**, on jazz violin playing a Muslim inspired Msunduzi with joy and humour, and **Tim Garland** on saxophone with a soaring rendition of Search for Peace, were great cameo moments in

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the programme. The **Take Twenty** choir, of Camden, directed by Ben Cox, performed a selection of their repertoire, including I Left My Heart in San Francisco, Somewhere (West Side Story) and a rousing Smack Dab In The Middle.

Jacqui opened with three charming and poignant pieces, Butterfly's Wing, Le Départ, and Please Answer, which set a perfect tone for the evening and what was to follow. Her own lyrics for the Prayer for Peace show her versatility and a powerful message against war, and for hope – truly a message for our age.

David remarked that the plan is to perform

these pieces many times, to expand and develop and reach more audiences. In particular he explained that his mother Tessa Gordon had commissioned the Psalm 100 for this performance – appropriately with its exhortation to “enter the gates with thanksgiving”. The gates of Mosaic Jewish Community opened here for the first of many events that hopefully will add to the variety and cohesion of the wider community, and the success of the Mosaic model, three strands of Judaism (Reform, Liberal and Masorti) sharing and co-operating, is a step along that path.

See the centre pages for a selection of photos from the evening.

Winter Fuel Costs

We are very aware of the rising cost of living this winter and would like to let you know that the Mosaic Rabbis' Discretionary Funds are able to provide some modest support in these extraordinary times of need.

If you find yourself struggling to make ends meet and worry that you may be obliged to switch off your heaters for some times during the day to save money, please do get in touch with your Rabbi in confidence. No one should be cold in their own home.

We would also like to appeal to those members who do receive fuel allowance and do not need it, to contemplate donating it to their Rabbi's Discretionary Welfare Fund, so that it can be used to helping those who struggle to pay their fuel bills.

Remembrance Sunday

by Rabbi Kathleen



It never used to be the responsibility of the chair or co-chair of the Assembly of Reform Rabbis and Cantors to represent Reform Judaism at national events, not in my time anyway. It is also not really my natural inclination to step into such a representative role, but the times being as they are, these past months I have had the privilege and the responsibility to represent Reform Judaism, and Reform Jews in the UK at various national events, including being present among the 'Faith Leaders' at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

I have always found representing our own community at Remembrance Sunday in Harrow a very moving experience. Having lost a grandfather, who served in Indonesia during the Second World War, I have always felt a strong personal connection to Remembrance Sunday and find it a mitzvah to represent the community whether it is on a local or national level. The difference between the national and local Remembrance Sunday service is of course the scale of the event, which in

Whitehall is quite overwhelming, and yet, what struck me most of all among the solemnity was the sense of unity and camaraderie that was palpable among the crowds; it was as if the assembled crowd becomes one organism – like a congregation praying and singing in unison.

The weather was exceptionally mild; after weeks of rain there was a clear blue sky and it was relatively warm for a November morning. The sense of occasion and expectation was tangible as soon as one stepped out of Westminster tube station as thousands of people all converged on Whitehall. Because the crowds all converged on Whitehall, it was quite difficult to find the gate at Horse Guard's Parade to the little alleyway that leads to Downing Street and the Ministerial buildings that face the Cenotaph, but I got there in the nick of time, helped by two secret agents (or so they told me) who were also searching for the elusive entrance.

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The service itself was quite overwhelming; the music was exquisite and there are few things quite as powerful as thousands of people all being resolutely silent together or of being shaken out of one's reverie by the palpable airwaves and reverberations of the canon salvo which indicates the start and end of the two minutes silence...

The service made me contemplate the importance of ceremony on such occasions; all of us at times need to find ways to express our connection to our past and our appreciation of the magnitude of those occasions. As it happens the service was entirely a Christian one, despite the great number of different faith leaders (in comparison the Harrow Remembrance Sunday ceremony is much more inclusive of other faiths) and yet there is an significant acknowledgement of the place of other faiths in society – and the acceptance that the UK is a multi-cultural and multi-faith society and that all of these faith communities will have had representatives who have taken part in armed conflicts over the years and sustained many terrifying losses.

The service was also an acknowledgement

that, although it was a religious service, nevertheless the central ceremony of laying wreaths is not a religious symbol and can be respected and partaken in by everyone; of any faith or no faith at all.

It reminded me of Chanukah, which, though a religious festival, with its ceremonial candle lighting, accompanied by blessings and prayers, could well be observed by entirely secular Jews, who might wish to light a chanukiah as a symbol of Jewish self-identification; its ever-increasing light a symbol of hope in a better future. A bit like standing at the cenotaph and saying to the world, we are here too, we contributed too, we suffered too – and we will be ready to be part of it again, if circumstances were such that unfortunately we must.

As such the Chanukah lights represent our presence, a cry for acceptance and religious – and cultural - tolerance. Chanukah invites us all - even those of you who are not too enamoured with faith and rituals - to join and light a candle, and be inspired by its symbolism . To spread some light in the darkness of the world. Chag Chanukah sameach!.

Chanukah Greetings and an Introduction to Chevra Kadisha

by Rabbi Anthony

It has been an extraordinary few months - through the High Holidays, with their joys and struggles; coming into the new building; and writing now at the very threshold of Chanukah. I am nearly 6 months into my Rabbinate at Mosaic Masorti and remain energised and excited by this Mosaic project's immense possibilities.



Chanukah - in its very name - indicates the dual liberation which we celebrate at this season. Firstly, Chanukat haBayit and Chanukat haMizbeach - the dedication of the temple and the dedication of the altar after they were defiled by the Greek oppressors. Chanukah celebrates that, amidst a world of darkness and sometimes oppression, Judaism carves out its small space in the world for light and sanctity. As we enter our own process of sanctifying a new home, we look to be inspired by the tenacity and dedication of the Hasmoneans. We dedicate ourselves to making our synagogue a source of light and inspiration for ourselves, and for our surrounding community as well.

'Chanukah' also derives from chinuch - education, a concept which also carries within it a sense of preparation and dedication towards some greater purpose. This reflects the mission of the Greek oppressors to oppose Judaism by shutting down its most vital engine:

the study and dissemination of Torah study. Judaism is dedicated to the idea that study and education has the power to change ourselves and our world for the better. This year, entering Chanukah, an appropriate challenge for each of us would be to consider how we can engage with Mosaic's exciting educational programme in the year ahead. What do we not

know now that we would like to have learned before this time next year? As well as our wonderful cheder, weekly Parashah shiurim (Tea and Torah), and our excellent Tuesday night class on 'Untangling' our tradition - this new calendar year I will begin a Talmud class on Wednesday nights, and warmly invite everyone (Mosaic members and friends) to come and learn with me from (I believe) our Rabbinic culture's richest textual tradition.

There is one other project in which I would like to invite participation. Before Covid our Mosaic communities collaborated in the sacred work of Chevra Kadisha - gathering the community of volunteers dedicated to ensuring that deceased members of the community are treated with care and respect, having access to all the rituals our tradition offers to accompany the deceased from death up until the funeral (tahara). At the moment, sadly, our volunteer

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count for the Chevra has waned to a level which is fairly unsustainable - not all members of the Chevra need to be available whenever they are called, but the team needs to be big enough that there are sufficient available whenever the call goes out. Many members of the Chevra find the work incredibly meaningful and powerful, and I would warmly invite you to reach out if you think you might have any interest and capacity. We can have an initial conversation and discuss whether you might like to attend a tahara before potentially joining the Chevra on an ongoing basis. Equally,

as a resource to learn more, I would highly recommend Sally Berkovic's recent, beautiful book *Death Duties: The Chevra Kadisha Burial Society, What Being Around the Dead Taught Me About Life* (2022).

As always, I am happy to meet anyone for coffee and always welcome the opportunity for conversation with members and interested potential-members.

Wishing you all a happy new year

Rabbi Anthony

Tots Shabbat

Starting Friday 6th January at 11 o'clock, join Dina the Dinosaur and Rabbi Anna for songs, stories, and kiddush blessings to get Tots under 5 and their grown-ups into the Shabbat spirit.



at Mosaic Jewish Community
12 Halsbury Close, Stanmore, HA7 3DY

Fridays at 11 o'clock



Celebrating Christmas with the Rabbi

by Rabbi Anna Wolfson

When I am asked where my love of community building comes from or why I think having vibrant, inclusive communities are important, I often give credit to my large extended family and the community we create around our table together. I feel incredibly lucky to be part of a large and very mixed family. Although all my grandparents and parents are Jewish, between my sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, niece, nephews and their spouses and children, we span religions and the world. We joke when we are all out together that people must wonder what our connection is and that we are the United Nations of families. Despite not all living close, we find any excuse for a get-together. Finding time where 32 people all have a day off together is tricky so our get-togethers often coincide with the days around Christmas. So, for many years now my Jewish, Muslim, Humanist, Hindu, Christian family from UK, USA, Guyana, Mauritius, Palestine, Portugal, and Spain have woven together our own 'Christmas' traditions, picking a few days in December to get together, feast and celebrate.

As I am sure you can imagine with such a diverse family, the spread of food is varied and delicious. Our get-together would not be complete without gefilte fish, chopped liver



and tabouleh. There is always a wonderful spread of cheeses and salads and in the past, we've even been known to have curried goat. Each family unit brings its own contribution and together we have an eclectic spread that lasts the days we are together and beyond. While my grandma was alive we used to host our meals in the lower room of her accommodation

and invite some of her friends who lived there too.

It is amazing seeing all the cousins running around together with the older ones looking after the younger ones (and no doubt teaching them things they should not know). Whether it be family or community, the value of those multigenerational spaces, where everyone is allowed to come as they are and be themselves, is second to none.

While it may not be usual for the Rabbi to celebrate Christmas, it is a blessing or a curse of living in a Christian country that most people are afforded time off during that time. Like many mixed families, mine have woven our own traditions and ways to be together and celebrate each other. As we grow in community together, I am excited to hear stories of your family traditions, and see what traditions emerge for all of us as an MJC community.

Our Care

by Angela Peters

This year continues to be challenging for many. We have all witnessed the impact of the pandemic, the loss of our Queen, the political instability, the continued conflict with Russia and Ukraine, and more recently the financial challenges with inflation. We must acknowledge that these situations may be having an adverse effect on us, loved ones, family, colleagues and members. Living in this post-Covid era continues to test our resilience to changes and how important it is to focus on our own wellbeing and that of others.

I am feeling very proud to be working for the Mosaic Jewish Community as your community care coordinator. I am certainly feeling a sense of community support as we look towards 2023.

Together with the Rabbis and the Mosaic Culture Hub, we are planning for the launch of in-person social groups to create a space for members to meet each other. We continue to share ideas amongst us on how best we can serve the needs of the community with the implementation of these programmes. More information will be shared once these are finalised, however please do reach out to me directly if you have any ideas you would like to put forward or lead.

Reading can be a great way to give yourself a break and facilitate a mindful moment. I have been reading a book by Rabbi Howard Cooper, called 'Soul Searching, Studies in Judaism and Psychotherapy'. I was particularly inspired by



the 'Prayer for the Community' from the Siddur of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain:

I come before you surrounded by the members of the community in which I live....I share my happiness with them and it becomes greater. I share my troubles with them and they seem smaller....Let me not

separate myself from the true strength of my community...I think of what we could be and the harmony and friendship that could unite us. I think of our loneliness and the friendship that could fill our lives....

This quote clearly illustrates the needs, strengths and possibilities of a community and importance of creating a vision of fulfilling events that will enhance both physical and emotional wellbeing, and help combat loneliness.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you once the new building is ready for us to meet and mingle in person. I wish you a healthy and happy Chanukah.

Angela Peters

Community Care Co-ordinator

**angela@choosmosaic.org.uk 07435
722600 or 020 8864 0133 then press option 9**

For care needs, practical advice, emotional support and a confidential listening ear, please do get in touch with me as I would be delighted to hear from you.

Harrow Rugby Club

by Kevin Ziants

February this year at the MLS Rites and Practices meeting we were discussing options for Purim. Ideally, we wanted this to be a joint in-person service. This is an occasion that would have a diluted impact on Zoom. I recall my feeling of despondency after the meeting thinking this may not happen as we hoped.

The next day Rabbi Rachel rang me stating that potentially she has found the ideal venue from a random phone call she made. I was all ears, as she advised me this was Harrow Rugby Club. I can't remember exactly what I thought and said, which quite possibly was unprintable. Having spent much of my life following rugby the concept of this and religious prayer seemed totally incompatible.

Rachel invited me to join their Chairman, Andrew Smart, for a meeting on 18th February, my birthday, and a day of very strong winds, when all were advised to stay in. I turned up full of apprehension on many levels but immediately

my mindset shifted dramatically. The size of the venue was ideal, kitchen facilities viable for our needs, and I just felt genuine warmth. Purim was booked with our Communal Seder a future

provisional booking.

Purim proved to be a joyous occasion that worked well at the venue. The Seder booking was immediately confirmed. The logistics of providing a Communal Seder was incredibly challenging but again it came together. Harrow Rugby Club quickly went from being our back up plan for Shabbat services to our first choice.

It was further agreed that Harrow Rugby Club would be the location for our

Haggim. The unanimous feedback from our congregants during and after these special services was that this is a superb choice.

I had a spare Saturday afternoon and thought I'd recapture my Rugby formative years, I arrived at Harrow Rugby Club in my old rugby kit. Andrew warmly welcomed

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me and introduced me to his associates, explaining to them how much he enjoys our services especially the singing. I was touched by these words, but then thought this maybe a distraction from his team's woeful performance during their absolute thrashing by London Scottish.

As a community we were becoming excited by our move to Stanmore Hill, although frustrated by delays. I was thinking, take your time, I love it here and would miss the backdrop of Stanmore Common, a favourite place for my walks.

Our last service there I felt the need to give recognition to Andrew's exceptional support for

us. I arranged to present a Cup to him on behalf of MLS with an inscription thanking Harrow Rugby Club. Andrew gratefully received this, being aware this is their Club's only realistic hope of silverware.

Thank you, Andrew and Harrow Rugby Club, for being a temporary home in our time of need, being so accommodating with so many requests regarding catering, storage and tech and forgiving me for being inaccurate on many service finish times. Harrow Rugby Club has played a massive part in helping MLS in the wilderness as wandering Jews in our journey to our Promised Land.



Happy Birthday in November and December:

Max Burzynski, 10
Ruby Grainger, 12
Maia Leigh-Ellis, 7
Naomi Witte, 10
Asher Leigh-Ellis, 5



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

AJEX Parade



Members of the Board of Deputies



Mosaic members marched with the contingent from Stoke on Trent.

Remembrance Parade at Harrow Civic Centre



Robin Goldsmith Laid The Wreath on Behalf of Mosaic Reform

My Bar Mitzvah by Isaac Ashkenazi-Bakes

November was a month of Shechyanus, both for me and the shul.



It was touch and go as to whether or not I would have a bar mitzvah in shul. We were preparing for a Girl Guide Headquarters service, the opening of the Masorti shul having been delayed by floods and technical issues. However, thanks to the dedication and commitment of the Masorti and Reform organisations, in a true spirit of co-operation, they made it happen, and I was happy to be the first Masorti Bar Mitzvah at the new shul on Stanmore Hill.

This started bright and early on the Thursday morning. Not only was it the first Thursday call up at the shul ever, I think it was the first time my entire family managed to get out of the

house, suited and booted and ready for a 7.15 am start and it was my first time laying tefillin, an incredible experience.

The Saturday morning Masorti / Reform co-production at the shul was another first. A shortage of space in the shul was the only issue, but as Rabbi Anthony said, “as problems go, that’s a good one to have”.

The shul was beautiful and is no doubt going to be more beautiful once fully completed. My family and I were so happy on the day and I look forward to playing my part in our community.

Thanks to Hems / Mosaic Masorti and my family, I had the best day!

SAVE THE DATE !!
Sunday 19 March 2023



JEREMY SASSOON'S
MOJO
MUSICIANS OF JEWISH ORIGIN

**Join Mosaic Culture Hub on a Jewish musical journey
through the last 90 years**

Sunday 19 March 2023
1a Halsbury Close, Stanmore Hill HA9 3DY

Watch out for booking details in the new year



Analysis of 2022 Israel Elections

By Michael Reik

The 2022 election resulted in a very workable majority for Netanyahu and his right-wing allies. The right-wing parties have obtained 64 seats compared to 56 seats by the other parties.

Why did this happen and how has Netanyahu managed to return to power after being removed mid 2021?

I will explain the status of the different parties later in this article, but we need to understand that it was not so much that the right won this election, but that the left and centre lost this election.

The coalition that was formed under the Bennett/Lapid leadership came into being in June 2021, not for any specific policy but as an anti- Netanyahu vote.

This coalition brought together parties that were left (liberal), centrist, conservative and Islamic; a cross party coalition. However, this included of course Bennett's own party, Yamina, which was the most right-wing party in the coalition. It was difficult for Bennett to keep all those in the coalition on side. Eventually it was a member from Bennett's own party (under pressure from Netanyahu) who left the coalition and effectively forced Bennett's own resignation. An election was called and Lapid (leader of the Yesh Atid party) took over the leadership of the coalition.

The battleground for the election on



November 1st was formed. The Netanyahu block was far more cohesive. Also, Lapid's leadership was not recognised outside his own party.

In particular, the Liberal (left) parties Meretz (which held 6 seats at the 2021 election) and Labor (which

held 7 seats at the 2021 election) lost out very badly.

To have any seats in the Knesset, a party needs to acquire 3.25% of the votes. Meretz were very much aware that their vote was declining and proposed to Labor that they combine forces to ensure the Liberal Left maximise the number of seats they could acquire.

The leader of Labor, Merav Michaeli, refused this request; (I believe her ego was more important than the needs of her party.) As a result, the Meretz vote fell below 3.25 % and they received no seats in the Knesset, with Labor acquiring only 4 seats. This was a drop of 9 seats in the Knesset for the left-wing parties.

Yesh Atid increased their vote (and acquired 24 seats as against 17 seats in the previous election). However, as I stated at the beginning of this article, confidence in Lapid (the leader of Yesh Atid) is now poor.

The right achieved 49.55% of the vote and the centre/ left, 48.91%.

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ARTICLES

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Also, the Arab party, Balad, would not join the Arab Joint List party (renamed Hadash-Ta'al), so they did not acquire the 3.25% needed.

As a result, the votes of Meretz and Balad had to be redistributed to all the other parties and hence, what may have been almost a tie between centre/ left and the right, resulted in a majority of 8 seats for the centre right.

Other reasons for the final vote:

(1) The far right has acquired more votes because of the growing crime rate in Israel, especially within the Arab society, which the centre / left government was not controlling. (This was also the case with the Ra'am Muslim party within the previous government).

(2) The voter does not vote for any individual but tends to vote the way his parents voted on election party lists. (You get elected to the Knesset based upon your position within your party list).

(3) Israel is quite tribal in the way it votes, based very much on the part of the world

people have come from. Israel's population is growing in a similar way. The Ultra-Orthodox are mainly North African and Middle Eastern and will always vote on the right. Hence with their greater birth rate, the right will continue to grow.

They expect to receive funding for continuous study and Netanyahu is well aware of this fact.

The actual Government composition has still to be decided. Netanyahu needs to reach agreement with the parties and their leaders to have an acceptable position not only within Israel but also with the outside world. His government is likely to be made up from the parties above that are Right and Centre Right.

Finally, one must bear in mind that Israel has no constitution and Israel's democracy is one that pushes and pulls in all directions with the Judicial system dependent on the government in power.

Netanyahu, therefore, will now hope that he is no longer to be indicted on the three counts outstanding.

The actual allocation of seats in the Knesset are:

Party	Leader	Political Leaning	Seats
Likud	Benjamin Netanyahu	Right	32
Yesh Atid	Yair Lapid	Centre Left	24
Religious Zionism	Gezalel Smotrich	Far Right	7
Jewish Strength	Ben Zvir	Far Right	7
National Unity	Benny Gantz	Centre	12
Shas	Deri	Far Right	11
United Torah Judaism	Yitzhak Goldknopf	Far Right	7
Yisrael Beiteinu	Avigdor Lieberman	Centre Right	6
Ra'am	Mansour Abbas	Muslim	5
Hadash-Ta'al	Ayman Odeh	Muslim	5
Labor	Merav Michaeli	Left	4

NEW BEGINNINGS FOR THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The opening of our new building heralded the permanent return of the Friendship Club.

Our doors opened on Tuesdays 6th December - from 11.00 a.m. -2.30 pm where a warm welcome was guaranteed to all over 65s.

Please join us for coffee/optional mobility exercises/lunch and varied musical entertainment. We are a very lively group who definitely prove that age is just a number - as the attached photos show.



The pandemic highlighted the isolation felt by so many, especially the elderly. We encourage you/family members and friends to come and see us in action - help with transport can be arranged.

If anyone has spare time on Tuesdays and could commit to helping us, we would be delighted to hear from you.

For further details call Bertha Levy or Trudy Segal via the office.

January's Programme

Tuesday 3rd	Club closed
Tuesday 10th	Gayathrie and Bill Patrick entertain with opera/operetta favourites/songs from the shows and more
Tuesday 17th	A warm welcome to the Fab Boys - singing and dancing guaranteed.
Tuesday 24th	Singer/keyboards player Roy Blass entertains
Tuesday 31st	Geoff Bowden presents his audio/visual programme of British popular singers of the 1950's highlighting the life and music of Alma Cogan

Sidney Fenton Foundation

'Are you thinking about going on an Israel Tour in 2023?'

Sidney Fenton Education Foundation offers grants to help with the cost of participating in these (and similar), Jewish educational experiences and courses.

If you are interested, then contact the Trustees c/o the Mosaic office at admin@choosemosaic.org, stating for what purpose you would benefit from our funding.'

Mosaic Liberal Marks a Member's Special Birthday



Rabbi Rachel and Adrian Cohen presenting Hana with Tallit and Kippa as gift from community



Hana Schlesinger and Alan Solomon, who also had a recent birthday, under the chuppah for a special birthday blessing.



Cutting the cake as part of kiddush



Makeshift Noah's ark with animals 2 by 2

Electricity on Shabbat

A Masorti Perspective

by Rabbi Anthony

Question: On Shabbat and Yom Tov, may we enter doors controlled by an electro-magnetic locking system? Also, are lights activated by motion-sensors a Shabbat concern?

AnsWER: A comprehensive prohibition on electrical and electronic devices has become the norm within Orthodox

communities. Against the pull of technology to put us all perpetually in work and on-call, switching off completely ensures that Shabbat remains a call towards local and physical community. Nonetheless, our Rabbinic tradition is clear that, just as it is forbidden to rule that something prohibited is permitted, so is it forbidden to rule that something permitted is prohibited. Hence, I have had to resist the temptation to rule that our synagogue's answer must be the same as our Orthodox neighbours.

What kinds of labour/melakhah are, in fact, prohibited on Shabbat? Firstly, Melakhah is only prohibited if it is Malekhet Makhshvet - intentional labour, which means that the prohibited outcome is in some sense intended by the agent of that outcome. Regarding electricity, it means that not all generation of incidental heat is prohibited as 'cooking' (bishul) or 'burning' (hav'arah). Secondly, one is only liable for violating Shabbat when



melakhto mitkayemet - the outcome of one's labour is enduring. Closing a circuit to activate a luminescent light is neither building (boneh) nor destroying (soter) in any meaningful sense. A category of Shabbat prohibition - mitaken mana, to prepare a tool - might apply to actions such as assembling an

appliance or inserting batteries; but not to activating a light-switch.

Electricity as such, then, is not forbidden by any Toraitic prohibition. Some electrical items effect prohibited outcomes, but it is the outcome which is prohibited and not the means. Hence, heating water is prohibited, so an electric kettle is prohibited. Opening or closing a door is not prohibited, and so neither should be an electro-magnetic entry system. Even if we felt that electricity should be prohibited by shvut, we note the principle that אם יש סכנה לציבור - אם יש סכנה לציבור - wherever there is a risk to the public, no shvut prohibitions apply. This provides an additional basis for permitting an electro-magnetic security system.

Turning on lights seems to me a more marginal case, and it is for that reason that in our new building a smaller bathroom to the right of the entrance will have a light left on.

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However, widespread Shabbat lamps, which operate by sliding a moveable screen around a pre-lit bulb, indicate that lighting a room is not generally considered a prohibited outcome. Since neither the outcome nor the mechanism are necessarily prohibited on Shabbat, Masorti members who so choose can use the bathrooms without concern for Shabbat violations.

This teshuvah is not a wider permissive ruling for electronic devices on Shabbat. Using such devices typically involves the transgression of Torah prohibitions - notably ketivah (writing) by the recording of data; and fundamentally disrupts the spirit of Shabbat as a day of

localism and restraint from weekday activity. Above all, though, entering our new building we must recall that there are many paths to the goal of Shvut - restfulness. I have chosen a halakhic path, and in our new synagogue I look forward to learning from and with those who have chosen different paths - remembering that Shabbat is a foretaste of the Messianic age to come, when humans will finally learn how to be nice to each other. Amen v'Amen.

This teshuvah was deeply influenced by Rabbi Danny Nevins's 2012 teshuvah on 'The Use of Electrical and Electronic Devices on Shabbat.'

AGM Results

At their AGM on 7th December, the following were elected to the Mosaic Reform Council:

Chairman	Harry Grant
Vice-Chairman	Toria Bacon
Hon. Secretary	Caroline Chadwick
Ritual Chairman	Linda Holman
Senior Warden	Joel Abrahams
President	Jane Prentice
Council members:	Lawrence Chadwick Jonathan Feldman Gillian Goldsmith Beth Kingsley

At their AGM on 13th December, the following were elected to the Mosaic Jewish Community Board:

Chairman	David Leibling
Hon. Treasurer	David Pollak
Chief Administration Officer	Elaine Glass
Adult Education Officer	Ruth Hart
Listening Project Manager	Marilyn Freeman

41ST Bereavement Care Conference - Back to the Future - New ways of Being

by Jane Harrison

ADDICTION can be a cause and consequence of bereavement, our annual conference was told by the least likely looking former addict.

Smartly dressed in knee-high boots, behavioural psychologist Dr Samantha Duggan admitted she did not epitomise the view of an addict, as she told the 41st bereavement care conference of her long battle with addictions and dysfunctional behaviour. She said: We aren't easy to spot. Seventy per cent of alcoholics hold down a full-time job. Lots of addicts look like me and you."

Dr Duggan, went to her first 12-step support group in 2007 and since then has been involved in recovery at local and national level. Since February 2020 she has been secretary of the Westminster based All Party Parliamentary group for 12 Step Recovery.

She told delegates from faith and non-faith groups at Emmanuel Church, Northwood on October 26: "Addiction is associated with grief. We can all develop an addiction to anything that numbs our pain. Addiction means you lose the person you could have been. To most people I looked fine on the outside but inside I was broken. I was an alcoholic. I have been clean and sober for 15 years."

Living through bankruptcy, she said she finally sought help as a 35-year-old mother-of-two.



She spoke about the 12-step programme which includes letting go of "the rucksack" of burdens and emotions, making amends with the people you love and admitting your mistakes.

She said: You have to look at it and let it go. I grew up in a family who didn't say sorry. I still make mistakes but now I admit them. It's difficult to feel and accept our emotions if we don't know what to do with uncomfortable feelings. In recovery we learn to regulate our emotions. You have to give people permission to feel. You have to tell them the difficult truth: they need to change."

Dr Duggan said she heard about death and relapse all the time. She said: "One man in addiction on the street said he would have strangled his best friend for dry cardboard."

Three women a fortnight are killed by a current or former partner and one in four can be affected in their lifetime by domestic violence. These were among the alarming statistics presented by Judy Roth, volunteers

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ARTICLES

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co-ordinator at Jewish Women's Aid.

She said women were affected from all communities and spoke about the various definitions, including gaslighting, coercive control and cyber-technology.

Tell-tale signs to look out for including wearing a lot of make-up, covering up more than usual and social isolation.

She said: It's about power and control. The most common ages are between 16-25 and the average number of years before asking for help is nine and a half years. If you notice signs, try and talk to her separately and explore the relationship. Don't express shock or horror. Talk about the services available and help them feel believed, not blamed."

When she gave a list of reasons why women don't leave – stigma, shame, nowhere to go -- it was suggested the real question should be why don't men stop. She added the most dangerous time was when a woman has decided to leave. It was vital that they had a plan in place first.

A series of workshops were held throughout the day, ranging from mindfulness to supporting children and young people.

Judy Silverton, chair conference planning group, spoke about the trials of the Covid years with one benefit; the men are helping with the chores. She also thanked everyone for attending and paid special tribute to the work of Jack Lynes, former chairman of Bereavement Care, who died earlier this year.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOME

by Bernard Fisherman

Our new Schul standing proud on Stanmore Hill
Beckons all to come
With religious meetings and exciting debates
Producing moments of learning and fun
A friendly atmosphere on all occasions
On each and every day
A special place for family and friends
To join in or silently pray
It's been a long time coming but certainly worth the wait
A super building in every way and something for all to appreciate
Thanks a bunch to all those folk for making a dream come true
A magnificent job from everyone involved
Made with love and care for me and you.



NIGHT STARVATION

By Janet Byrne

Last night I had a strange dream
I was floating along in the sky
The moon was a slice of challah
And each cloud was a large apple pie

Twinkling stars were little kneidelach
The sea below was chicken soup
All the trees were growing latkes
On each bush grew a cantaloupe

The beach was covered with gefilte fish
And pebbles turned into falafel
Seashells were smoked salmon bagels
And sandcastles made of trifle

Everything looked so delicious
I dropped from the sky to try it
But to my great disappointment
I found I was on a strict diet!



Mosaic Masorti 9, St Albans Masorti 12

by Bernard Fisherman

On Sunday 4th December, the Mosaic Masorti football team took on St Alban's Masorti for their first fixture. The weather was cold, and the AstroTurf springy, at the Watford Power league pitch generously organized by coach and goalkeeping legend John Grant.

SAMS proceeded with a number of underhand tactics - namely bringing along a number of talented players, none of whom (to the best of my knowledge) were above retirement age. Faced with this wealth of talent and youth, Mosaic Masorti initially took fright and found themselves facing a 5-1 deficit just before half-time. After the interval, regrouping especially around the attacking talents of Robert Benson, Harrison Rutstein and Charlie Bright, Mosaic Masorti charged into the lead at 8-7. Unfortunately, with stamina flagging, SAMS recovered to lead 12-9 at the close of play. Dividing goals by membership shows Mosaic Masorti (membership 110) easily beating SAMS (membership ~450) on a per capita basis.

In the new year, future fixtures are planned against other Jewish and non-Jewish communities - including a fixture with Stanmore



Baptist Church planned provisionally for February. We would welcome the expansion of the team to a Mosaic Jewish Community wide endeavour, and we would especially welcome the participation of any female players - this match did not show off our community's egalitarian credentials - although Traci Spivack and Josie Bright carried our team by their enthusiastic support from the touchline. Contact Rabbi Anthony if you are interested in playing in future.

Team: Charlie Bright, Harrison Rutstein, David Amior, Richard Buchalter, Brian Balkin, David Amior, Simon Rutstein, Anthony Lazarus Magrill, John Grant, two of John's friends (not members, yet...)



Can You Offer Hospitality to a Ukrainian Family

Help needed - Harrow Council is looking for families living in the London Borough of Harrow willing to host Ukrainian refugees, including a couple with a baby.

Two Generations is working closely with Harrow Council to assess and match host families with Ukrainian refugees.

We currently have various individuals, as well as a couple with a 2-month-old baby, who are desperate to get out of Ukraine, have no electricity or heating and we have no appropriate host families for them. We also have various refugees who are already in the UK and require a host.

We are looking for hosts, who must be living in the Borough of Harrow, have a spare room they can offer an individual, or perhaps a couple and are happy to share their facilities.

We ask that hosts commit to a minimum of 6 months but shorter terms will also be gratefully received.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme offers £350 per month thank-you payments to hosts, plus an additional £150 per month during the winter months to contribute towards energy bills.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact: lisa@twogenerations.co.uk or call 07568 059 621. Thank you in advance for your support.

**LIVE BETTER.
TWOGETHER.**

Two Generations

Would you benefit from some company, an overnight presence or some help with household chores?

Two Generations can find you a friendly and carefully vetted homesharer matched to your needs and lifestyle. Contact us to find out more.

☎ 03333 44 77 38
✉ contact@twogenerations.co.uk
🌐 www.twogenerations.co.uk

As seen on:
BBC
sky news

Board of Deputies Plenary Meeting 27th November at the Crowndale Centre

by Michael Reik – Mosaic Reform

About 50 were present at the centre, others online in a hybrid meeting,

We started with a presentation by Rabbi David Meyer, CEO of PAJES (Partnership for Jewish Schools) There are 130 Jewish Schools in the country, and 40,000 students in Jewish Education. The Government provides funding for Leadership Training, Coaching and Mentoring with Bespoke Support. There is major concern with wellbeing, in schools, especially during Covid Lockdown. Training is also provided for School Governors especially on safeguarding.

Michael Ziff then spoke at his first meeting as Vice President, Finance. We then heard from Edwin Shucker, vice president Communities, who advised of a major presentation by Harif at JW3 on November 30th,

Amanda Bowman then spoke as Vice President of the Defence division She was one of 14 of us deputies who attended the Ajax Parade on behalf of the Board of Deputies, at the Cenotaph the week before. She explained that the CPS had dropped charges against those who had carried out an Anti-Semitic tirade on a drive to London in May 2021. The Board publicly condemns this decision as 'inexplicable and Disgraceful'.

Amanda then then referred to Ofcom's findings regarding the Anti-Semitic Chanukah Incident in Oxford Street at the end of 2021. The Ofcom ruling described the BBC as having 'failed to observe its Editorial Guidelines on due impartiality and due accuracy and found that it

engaged in 'serious editorial misjudgement'. The Board spent a considerable amount of money to correct and prove the biased view of the BBC. Two members of the Board requested of Marie Van de Zyl that the BBC consider repaying the Board for their costs in view of the verdict by Ofcom.

Following comments by Louise Ellman, that the decisions by the CPS are extremely serious, Amanda then stated that the level of trust in the judicial system is at an all-time low within the Jewish community.

Comments were made on the programme by David Badiel on Channel 4 that 'Jews Don't Matter'. A suggestion was made that David Badiel even be invited to join the Board.

A reception, involving Board Members took place which honoured the second anniversary of the Abraham Accords. This included the attendance of a special guest, the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

An application was made for "Save a Child's Heart UK" to join the Board. Though this was acknowledged to be a very fine charitable cause, as there has to be a 2/3 majority minimum in favour, it did not receive the required number of votes. This is felt because the Board is not a charitable cause and it would not be correct for one charity to be included which would set a precedent.

To finalise, a deputy spoke about the work of JAMI and that the weekend 20th/21st January had been designated for increased awareness of Mental Health

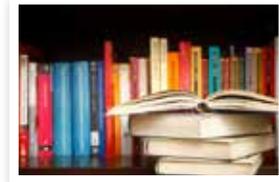
UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 11th January

Mosaic Book Group

The group will meet at 12.30 pm at the Synagogue when they will be discussing "Swing Time" by Zadie Smith.

Please bring your own non-meat packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.



Thursday 12th January

Malts & Megillahs

Join us for a whisky tasting at the new shul, raising funds for vital preservation work on Mosaic Masorti's beautiful megillah.

Donated by Masorti member Cecil Cherns z"l, this likely dates back to 1880s Lithuania. It is written in a beautiful scribal hand, but

is in need of restoration as the letters fade and the parchment dries out. If we do not act now, the megillah will soon be utterly pasul (unusable). This should be a good opportunity to try some boutique and luxury single malts whilst raising money for a good cause. Any excess funds raised will go to Harrow Food Bank.

Wednesday January 25th

Mosaic Culture Hub presents Meet The Author – John Matlin

Join us at 12.30 for a light lunch before Steve Levinson will interview John Matlin about his latest novel 'End Game' which is the final novel in his Driscoll Quartet, focusing on journalist David Driscoll.

Former solicitor and Pinner resident, John Matlin, is releasing his next novel 'End Game' in January. It is the last book in the Driscoll Quartet, focusing on journalist David Driscoll.

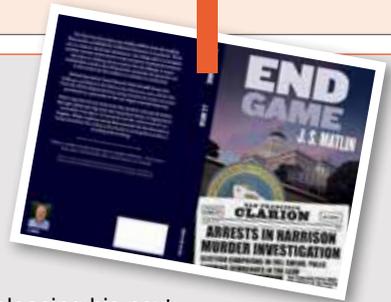
In the novel, Driscoll finds himself investigating the murders of two people, including the Democratic candidate for California governor, with only one piece of physical evidence.

Driscoll ends up assisting the replacement candidate and the San Francisco Police Department to help solve the murder.

Scott Lucas, professor of internal politics at the Clinton Institute at University College, Dublin, praised the novel. He said: "Politics, murder, and the darker side of a bright California – 'End Game' is faster than a Disneyland roller coaster and just as exciting."

Please let us know if you are joining us for catering purposes and if you require a supervised option, please alert us in advance.

There will be a £5 charge, via our website, up to Thursday 19th January. For catering purposes we would appreciate advance bookings. If you require a supervised option, please let us know. From 20th January and on the door, the charge will be £10.



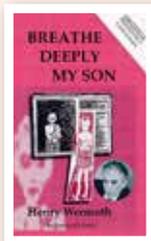
UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday January 29th

Mosaic Culture Hub presents : 'Breathe Deeply My Son'

Join us at 7.00 pm to watch this incredible film.

Henry Wermuth was the last man alive who tried to assassinate Hitler. After watching the film you will have the opportunity to hear the story from his daughter Ilana Metzger.



There will be a £5 charge on the door.

Sunday 5th February - 4.00pm

Mosaic Quiz

Neil Goodman will present another entertaining on-line quiz for the Mosaic Jewish Community & friends. No winners, no prizes, just a lot of fun. Refreshments: whatever is left over from lunch!

Picture round details: Name the cities

hosting these arches
(link to pictures will be available via the website)

For Zoom details, visit www.choosemosaic.org/whats-on/events&activities



Sunday 19th March

Save the Date

Mosaic Culture Hub presents

An Evening with Jeremy Sassoon and MOJO

More details to follow

Sunday 26th March

Guided Tour of Oxford's Medieval Jewish Quarter

Join our guided walk to discover Oxford's Jewish heritage with an opportunity to visit the Ashmolean Museum and see the Jewish objects in their collection. Tea will be hosted by the Oxford Jewish Community. Cost £25 per person which includes return coach transportation from a local pick-up point at

10.00 am sharp. Returning late afternoon. Bring a picnic lunch and drink. We currently have 12 spaces, so please let the office know if you would like to attend.

Please don't send any money now, you will be notified when it is required. Any further questions please email the office and we will respond back with the answers.



MOSAIC CALENDAR

Regular Events

Tuesdays at	10.00	Mosaic Walks (email admin@choosemosaic.org for meeting point)
Tuesdays at	11.00	Mosaic Friendship Club
Tuesdays at	19.00	“Untangling our Traditions” with one of our Rabbis*
Wednesdays at	11.00	“Tea and Torah” with one of our Rabbis*
Wednesdays	20.00	Talmud Class with Rabbi Anthony

*For Zoom details, visit the Mosaic website www.choosemosaic.org/whats-on-events

JANUARY 2023

Fri 6 th	11.00	Tots Shabbat with Rabbi Anna
Sat 7 th		Shabbat Vayechi
Wed 11 th	12.30	Mosaic Book Group
Thurs 12 th	19.30	Malts & Megillahs
Fri 13 th	11.00	Tots Shabbat with Rabbi Anna
Sat 14 th		Shabbat Shemot
Sun 15 th	9.45	HaMakom – new term
	14.00	Tombstone consecration – Allan Bendel. Cheshunt
Fri 20 th	11.00	Tots Shabbat with Rabbi Anna
Sat 21 st		Shabbat Va’ere Mosaic Reform Bat Mitzvah – Chloe Shackell
Wed 25 th	12.30	Mosaic Culture Hub – Meet the Author
Fri 27 th	11.00	Tots Shabbat with Rabbi Anna
Sat 28 th		Shabbat Bo
Sun 29 th	19.00	Film – “Breathe Deeply My Son”

FEBRUARY

Fri 3 rd	11.00	Tots Shabbat with Rabbi Anna
Sat 4 th		Shabbat Beshalach
Sun 5 th	16.00	Mosaic Quiz via Zoom
Wed 8 th		Kehila copy date
Fri 10 th	11.00	Tots Shabbat with Rabbi Anna
Sat 11 th		Shabbat Yitro
Sun 12 th		HaMakom – Half term
Fri 17 th	11.00	Tots Shabbat with Rabbi Anna
Sat 18 th		Shabbat Mishpatim
Sun 19 th		HaMakom – Half term
Wed 22 nd	11.30	Mosaic Culture Hub – to be announced
Fri 24 th	11.00	Tots Shabbat with Rabbi Anna
Sat 25 th		Shabbat Terumah Mosaic Masorti Bat Mitzvah – Cici Rutstein



The Mosaic office
opening hours are:

Monday 08.00 – 17.00
Tuesday 08.00 – 16.00
Wednesday 08.00 – 13.30
Thursday 08.00 – 17.00

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HaMakom (Religion School):

Toria Bacon and Viki Kenton
headteacher@hamakomschool.org.uk

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Directors
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