Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to Sienna Kattan on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah. Mazel Tov to parents Nigel and Emma, brothers Leonardo and Fabio and grandparents Normy and Melvyn Ross-Field and Yvonne Kattan.

Mazel Tov to Tony and Sarah Zubaida on the occasion of their son Joseph's Bar Mitzvah.

Shabbat Kiddush

Nigel and Emma Kattan invite the congregation to kiddush in the Moritz Gertler Hall after the service in celebration of their daughter Sienna's Bat Mitzvah.

Forthcoming Kiddushim

We kindly ask you to support the Communal Kiddush Fund - even a small contribution can make a difference. Our weekly kiddush is a special time for the community to come together. Please see the dates below where we don't yet have a sponsor.

Shabbat 14th November	Kiddush sponsored by Boris and Rimma Bronfentrinker in celebration of Abigail's Bat Mitzvah
Shabbat 21st November	Kiddush sponsored by Barrie and Susan Roukin in celebration of Ori's Bar Mitzvah
Shabbat 28th November	Kiddush sponsored by Keith and Lauren Breslauer in celebration of the engagement of their son Aaron to Tara.
Shabbat 12th December	**Opportunity available for sponsorship**
Shabbat 19th December	Kiddush sponsored by Cathy Burkeman, Rosanna Burr and Ashley Rogoff in honour of their yahrzeits
Shabbat 26th December	**Opportunity available for sponsorship**

If you have a forthcoming simcha, birthday or yahrzeit and would like to sponsor or partly sponsor the kiddush, please contact Golan Cohen secretary@shulinthewood.com.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS / SIMCHAS

Shabbat 7th November	• Sienna Kattan Bat Mitzvah
Tuesday 10th November	• The Gillian Burr Luncheon Club
Thursday 12th November	• Live Podcast Recording Dame Maureen Lipman in Conversation with Jonathan Harounoff
Friday 13th November	• YP Friday Night Dinner 7.30pm
Shabbat 14th November	• Annual Remembrance Service • Abigail Bronfentrinker Bat Mitzvah
Wednesday 18th November	• Technion UK - Taste the Future - 7.30pm
Shabbat 21st November	• Ori Roukin Bar Mitzvah
Wednesday 25th November	• Ladies Guild visit to The National Gallery - Renoir & Love - 2.15pm
Friday 27th November	• Friday Night Ruach Kabbalat Shabbat
Thursday 3rd December	• 6.30pm | 150th Anniversary Gala Dinner
Saturday 5th December	• 150th Anniversary Ceremony & The Induction of our Senior Rabbinic Couple Rabbi Mendel and Rebbetzen Chai Cohen, by Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis KBE.





WEEKLY EVENTS & CLASSES/SHIURIM

SUNDAYS
after Shacharit

Start of the Week Shiur

SUNDAYS & TUESDAYS

Mimi Dwek Hebrew School
offers an upbeat, inspiring, and interactive Jewish educational experience for children from Nursery to year 7.
Contact us at hs@shulinthewood.com
Register online at www.shulinthewood.com/hs

MONDAYS
11.45am- 12.45pm

"I Believe – Faith in Challenging Times"
with
Rebbetzen Chai Cohen

MON - THURS
8.00am - 6.00pm

FRI
8.00am - 12.00pm

St John's Wood Synagogue's Kindergarten is a loving, creative, vibrant, and nurturing school for 6 months to 5-years-old. We foster curiosity and growth for all children using Jewish values.

Contact Mary Da Costa
nursery@shulinthewood.com

MONDAYS
12.45pm - 4.00pm

Duplicate Bridge
Under the direction of Matthew Hendrickson.
Donation: £12 including refreshments.
Please contact Janet Weisz on 07789 864 054 for further information.
Bridge closed on Bank Holidays.

MONDAYS
11.00am - 12.00pm

Babies in the Wood
A chilled and relaxed space for mums to bring their tots for singing and social.
Book online at www.shulinthewood.com/babies

TUESDAYS
10.00am - 12.15pm

Art Classes run by Hampstead School of Art.

Please contact Lucy Collins
ladiesguild@shulinthewood.com
for further information.

FRIDAYS
9.00am 10.00am

Parsha of the Week
Shiur by Rabbi Yisroel Fine on zoom. Please email rabbi.fine@live.co.uk for link.

SHABBAT
before Mincha

Gemara Shiur
with
Alex Grunfeld

Follow us on **social media** for updates on our events!

@shulinthewood

facebook.com/groups/shulinthewood

If you have any Welfare issues please contact
Lucy Collins 07881 838 657

SERVICE TIMES

SHABBAT	
Shacharit	9.30am
Mincha	After Kiddush
Ma'ariv	5.13pm

SUNDAY	
Shacharit	8.30am
Mincha/Ma'ariv	4.00pm

MONDAY	
Shacharit	7.15am
Mincha/Ma'ariv	4.00pm

TUESDAY	Rosh Chodesh Kislev I
Shacharit	7.00am
Mincha/Ma'ariv	4.00pm

WEDNESDAY	Rosh Chodesh Kislev II
Shacharit	7.00am
Mincha/Ma'ariv	4.00pm

THURSDAY	
Shacharit	7.15am
Mincha/Ma'ariv	4.00pm

FRIDAY	
Shacharit	7.25am
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	3.59pm

NEXT SHABBAT	
Shacharit	9.30am
Mincha	After Kiddush
Ma'ariv	5.03pm

All services, other than on Shabbat morning, take place in the Steinfeld Beth HaMedrash.

Chumash shiur before the Shabbat service at 9.15 am

FRIDAY NIGHT

Dvar Torah after the service given this week by Aviv Handler
Followed by Kiddush L'chaims

SHABBAT DAY

Rabbi Yossi Binstock will lead the Services
Jamie Esterkin will read the Haftarah
Rabbi Mendel Cohen will give the Sermon
Leo Kattan will sing Anim Zemirot

Following the service: Bat Mitzvah Ceremony
Rebbetzen Chai Cohen will introduce our Bat Mitzvah girl Sienna Kattan who will deliver a Dvar Torah, followed by a blessing from Rabbi Mendel, her parents and grandparents.

Koren 139, 1423 - Kaplan 100, 1067 - Artscroll 106, 1136 - Hertz 80, 90

THOUGHT ON THE PARSHA

by Rabbi Mendel Cohen

THE TEST OF TRUE KINDNESS

I was recently stopped at a red light when a man approached the car in front of me, carrying a dirty rag and a spray bottle. He wanted to clean the windscreen. The driver wasn't interested, but he wasn't given much choice. The man simply started cleaning and, naturally, expected something in return.

It reminded me of my travels in Nepal, where street children would appoint themselves as my personal tour guides, showing me around the streets of Kathmandu "for free". They weren't doing it because they thought I was rabbi! They wanted something in return. Fair enough - business is business! They had to survive.

This week's parasha shows us kindness of a different kind. Eliezer, searching for a wife for Yitzchak, sets a test. The woman who offers water not only to him but also to his camels will be the one. Rivka passes with flying colours. Yet the Torah tells us:*"When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a golden nose ring."* (Bereishit 24:22)

Why did Eliezer wait until the camels had finished drinking before presenting Rivka with the jewellery? Hadn't she already passed his test?

The Sforno (Rabbi Ovadia Sforno, Italy, c.1475–1550) explains: *"He saw that she asked for nothing, and that all her actions were motivated by pure kindness."* Eliezer waited to see whether Rivka would expect payment or reward. Only when she asked for nothing did he know her kindness was genuine. When she drew the water, she had no idea that she would receive anything in return.

That was the real test - not just what she did, but why she did it. Nothing transactional, no expectation of reward, just a pure heart. As the Mishnah teaches: *"Do not be like servants who serve their master in order to receive a reward."* (Pirkei Avot 1:3)

And if we're honest, even when we do something genuinely kind, isn't there often a small part of us that hopes for something in return? A little appreciation, recognition, or a favour returned?

So here is our challenge this week: do something kind for someone, expecting absolutely nothing in return. Pay for something anonymously. Help someone who will never know it was you. Don't expect a thank you.

Now that is pure chessed.

SHABBAT SHALOM

Yahrzeits

Chayim Aruchim to the following members who are observing yahrzeit this week:

Saturday 07 November - 27 Cheshvan 5787
Juliet Balcombe for her mother, Jennifer Davis
Lotte Neumann-Burani for her father, Abraham Neumann

Monday 09 November - 29 Cheshvan 5787
Sharon Kamkhagi for her father, Max Kamkhagi
Dr Errol Noik for his wife, Gabrielle Noik
Richard Shaw for his mother, Esther Shaw
Lady Lita Young of Graffham for her mother, Esta Shaw

Tuesday 10 November - 30 Heshvan 5787
Daniel Cogoi for his father, Dario Cogoi
Michael Heuberger for his father, Georg Heuberger
Michael Solomon for his grandfather, Michael Block

Wednesday 11 November - 1 Kislev 5787
Anthony Graff for his aunt, Jeanette Hoffman
Jamie Royston for his father, Leslie Royston

Thursday 12 November - 2 Kislev 5787
Andrew Claremont for his father, Gerald Claremont
Gary Hersham for his father, William Hersham
Andrew Weisz and Alison Klein for their father, Alexander Weisz

Friday 13 November - 3 Kislev 5787
David Balcombe for his mother, Carole Balcombe
Jonathan Caplan for his mother, Jean Caplan
June Kenton for her mother, Rachel Collier
Roberta Krendel for her sister, Janice Lawson
Daphne Scheder-Bieschin for her father, Micky Walker
Daphne Scheder-Bieschin for her mother, Rachel Walker

CONSECRATIONS

Marcelle Lewis	Bushey New	12.00pm	22nd November 2026
Lynne Goldwyn *(sister of David and Rosanna Burr)*	Bushey New	9.30am	13th December 2026
Trevor Shaw	Bushey Old	10.00am	13th December 2026
Jack (Yaghoub) Nouril	Bushey Old	11.00am	17th December 2026

CHILDREN AND YOUTH FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY NIGHT 6TH NOVEMBER
Years 7-8 Teen Friday Night Dinner

THIS SHABBAT 7TH NOVEMBER 10.45AM - MAGIC SHABBAT
Magic Shabbat Kids Shul Service in Saatchi Beth Hamedrash
followed by magic themed Kiddush

Tots Service in the Saplings Classroom with Lyla
Breakfast Club for year 7+ in the Carter Club
Shabbat Morning Coffee Club with Leah 11.15am - Year 10+ Girls

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER
Years 9-10 Teen Friday Night Dinner

SHABBAT 14TH NOVEMBER 10AM
Teen Minyan

MOTZEI SHABBAT 28TH NOVEMBER 6PM-9PM
Years 4-6 Ice Skating followed by Dinner

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 12-2PM
Chanuka Wonderland









CELEBRATING 150 YEARS
1876 - 2026
ST JOHN'S WOOD
SYNAGOGUE

7th November 2026 27th Cheshvan 5787

חיי שרה – שבת מברכים

CHAYEI SARAH – SHABBAT MEVARCHIM

SHABBAT BEGINS 4.10PM | SHABBAT ENDS 5.13PM

MINCHA & KABBALAT SHABBAT 4.10PM
SHACHARIT 9.30AM | MINCHA 12.14PM | MAARIV 5.13PM