



L'Chayim

1st September - 31st October 2018

21th Elul - 22nd Cheshvan 5779



Shabbat services commence 11am

Date	Parasha /Event	Service Leader	Reading	About
1st Sept. Saturday	Shabbat	Richard Choueke	Deuteronomy 28:58-29:5 Ki Tavo	Penalties for disobedience
8th Sept. Saturday	Shabbat	Susan Fox	Deuteronomy 30:1-14 Nitzamim	Value of Repentance
9th Sept. Sunday 7pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Student Rabbi Peter Luijendijk		Congregants are requested to be seated at least 10 minutes prior to service commencement. Seats are allocated on a first come first served basis. No seats can be reserved prior to the service. Please commence your seating nearest to the Ark.
10th Sept. Monday 10.30am	Rosh Hashanah	Student Rabbi Peter Luijendijk		
15th Sept Saturday	Shabbat Shuvuah	Matt Suher		
18th Sept Tuesday, 7pm	Kol Nidre	Student Rabbi Peter Luijendijk		
19th Sept. Wed. 11am	Yom Kippur	Student Rabbi Peter Luijendijk		Shacharit 11am. Yizkor 5.30pm approx. Shofar/end of service 7.30pm approx. Fast ends 8.04pm.
22nd Sept. Saturday	Shabbat	Fortune Chamberlain	Deuteronomy 32:30-43 Haazinu	Farewell song of Moses
23rd Sept. Sunday, 3pm	Sukkah building Food served 5pm Service 6.30pm	Dr Stephen Waldek		
24th Sept. Monday , 11am.	Sukkot	Dr Stephen Waldek	Leviticus 23:39-44 Deuteronomy 28:1-6	The laws of Sukkot Blessings
29th Sept Saturday, 11am	Shabbat	Joan Brooke	Deuteronomy 8:1-18 Deuteronomy 16:13-17	God's protection of Israel throughout her wanderings The laws of Sukkot
30th Sept. 7pm	Erev Simchat Torah	Student Rabbi Iris Ferreira		
1st October Monday, 11am	Simchat Torah	Student Rabbi Iris Ferreira	The end and the beginning.	The death of Moses Creation

Date	Parasha /Event	Service Leader	Reading	About
6th October Saturday	Shabbat	Susan Fox	Genesis 2:4-25	Adam and Eve
12th October Friday	Friday night service Chavurah at Louise Davies home.	Matt Suher		Address details from office
13th October Saturday	Shabbat	Mina Abram-Hebblewaite	Genesis 6:9-7:5	Noah and the flood
20th October Saturday	Special musical Shabbat	David Hoffman	Genesis 12:1-20	Call of Abraham
27th October Saturday	Shabbat	Matt Suher	Genesis 18:1-19	Promise of a son for Abraham and Sarah

THE PROFESSIONAL SECURITY DETAIL , AT THE FRONT GATE, ON HIGH HOLY DAYS, WILL ONLY LET PEOPLE THROUGH ON THE CHECKED LIST.

**YOU MUST HAVE INFORMED THE OFFICE OF YOUR
INTENT TO ATTEND IF YOU ARE NOT A FRIEND OF THE
SYNAGOGUE OR A FULL MEMBER, OTHERWISE YOU ARE LIKELY TO BE DISAP-
POINTED AT NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND THE
SERVICE.**

NON MEMBERS MAY PURCHASE A TICKET BY APPLICATION
TO THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE (details below)



Member of the Movement
for Reform Judaism



Registered Charity 227576

Synagogue Office:

Lisa Sachs

(Administrator Wed & Fri 10am-3pm),

Princes Street,

Southport, PR8 1EG

Tel. & Fax.

01704 535950

e mail : southportsynagog@btconnect.com

website: www.southportreform.org.uk



Southport Reform Shul

EMERGENCIES: contact the office: if it is closed, there is a directive answer machine.

The Sternberg Centre
home to the Movement
for Reform Judaism



General Enquires:
02083495724
www.reformjudaism.org.uk

Chairman's New Year Message:



On behalf of the Executive and Council of your synagogue, we would like to wish you a healthy and happy forthcoming New Year.

Without your support of the activities associated with your synagogue, Reform Jewish life in Southport would not be as good as it is. Our synagogue is a charity, existing for the benefit of its members and of the wider Reform Jewish community. We can turn to each other in the synagogue and say, 'Thank you'. Thank you for being supportive, thank you for being part of the whole charitable organisation that exists for the good of the Reform Jewish life in Southport and its district.

It is easy to turn up for, say, High Holy Days, and not appreciate the hard work by a large number of people which bring us to the point in the year where we may look backwards and forwards to the activities within the synagogue and community. I am grateful for having so many people contributing to synagogue life. The giving back to the community of something, rather than just taking. A feeling of being part of something bigger than yourself. Doing something for others. Well done to all of you who have been so involved.

There needs to be a real commitment to working together for the good of the community by all of us if we are to survive as a vibrant Reform Jewish community in Southport. How some of our previous members can say that they have brought their son's and daughter's to bar or bat mitzvah and then consider they want nothing to do with membership of the community speaks of a failure to understand what being Jewish is all about. Whilst the pleasing of grand parents is important (I would say this, as I have 4 grandchildren), the pleasing and sharing in the Reform Jewish community locally, and in the wider world, is also important at a time when most young people seem to anonymise their human relationship contacts using their mobile phones and computers, and there is an increased interest in taking a 'selfie'. If does us all good to think of something wider than our self principles. As parents, as Jews, we can pass on our Jewish values in a meaningful, and practical way. Do we practice what we preach?

As Chairman of Council, I am pleased to say we spend every penny of our income wisely. Doing the maximum of good with the minimum of goods! We also try to support other charities, as this is a principle of Judaism. **Please consider giving generously to our Kol Nidre appeal.** Mitzvah Day will be Sunday 18th November this year.

We need your help to support all the festivals over the next few weeks, remembering that shabbat is more important than the festivals, so the late Rabbi Kay used to tell me. I appreciate being in shul more than once per week may be the stuff of religious zealots, however, with our decline in membership numbers, your support is appreciated to keep the Jewish calendar alive for those that are keener than yourself over this aspect of judaism. I really do not appreciate criticism over the lack of religious activity when the very people doing the criticism may be the ones not offering support to the rest. **On that note, you will have appreciated there is no second day Rosh Hashanah service.**

Should you wish to speak to me with regard to any aspect of what I have mentioned, how the synagogue is progressing, ideas for improvement, or just to wish me a Happy New Year, I will be pleased to hear from you whether you see me in the synagogue or using some other communication. 5779 should see us extending an arm to each other and to the wider community. Let us make it a good New Year for each others sake.

Doctor Selwyn Goldthorpe



'May this Rosh Hashanah bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.'

Marie van der Zyl

President of the Board of Deputies for British Jews

September 2018 / Tishrei 5779

Message from the President of the Board of Deputies for British Jews:

5778 will be remembered as the year that the Jewish community came together to say 'Enough is Enough' to antisemitism.

It was unprecedented and heart-warming back in March to see so many people from all parts of the community join like-minded non-Jews and parliamentarians to stand in front of the Palace of Westminster to protest against the antisemitism that, staggeringly, is tolerated in our country's official party of opposition.

Several aspects of this protest were meaningful. I was gratified by the speed with which we, the Jewish Leadership Council and other partners, devised and executed the idea. We were overwhelmed by the response from the 2,000 people who travelled to Westminster at 24 hours' notice, including more than 30 MPs from Labour and other parties, and friends from the Muslim, Christian, Sikh and Hindu communities. Never has our community made a more powerful statement that we will not tolerate antisemitism in the Labour Party. Perhaps most important of all was the near unanimity with which we spoke. And it is this unity which we as a community need as we go forward to face challenges such as this.

Although the overwhelming majority of the community were behind us in our protest against antisemitism, there are issues which do divide us. Of course, we will never agree on everything but there is a right and a wrong way to disagree. For example, when the Kaddish for Gaza event took place following the Hamas-sponsored violent protests at the border with Israel, nobody was more appalled than me. However, the tone and tenor of some of the comments aimed at the protesters has bordered on hateful and abusive.

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Such ferocity does nothing to advance the argument but rather discredits the point being made and leaves our community in a less civil place.

While we must fight against hate, prejudice and injustice, much of my work as President of the Board of Deputies is in promoting projects which work for a positive outcome. My first action as President after my election in May was to travel to Manchester for discussions with leaders of northern communities and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, then on to Glasgow and Edinburgh for talks with Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and discussions with my Scottish Jewish colleagues. I intend to be a leader for all Jews of all denominations across the country and none of us is more important than any other.

We also need to reach out beyond our community which is why I have prioritised interfaith work, in particular, creating links with Muslim partners. This summer, for the first time, the Board of Deputies hosted an interfaith Iftar for senior Muslims and Jews including the Chief Rabbi and I have travelled the country meeting Muslims from Leeds to Luton and points in-between. Jews and Muslims have much in common and my objective is to create relationships which will strengthen us all and fight the prejudice and ignorance which has divided us in the past.

This was also the year that in the United Kingdom we celebrated our crucial role in the creation of the State of Israel, with celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, culminating in the Parliamentary Balfour Reception, attended by many ministers, MPs and peers. And in this 70th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel, we have been promoting a dialogue for peace between Israelis and Palestinians through Invest in Peace. This project, undertaken with Christian communities, is interfaith work at its most meaningful, tackling difficult issues positively and head on. We are determined that, rather than import the Middle East conflict, we should work together to support a constructive conversation towards reconciliation.

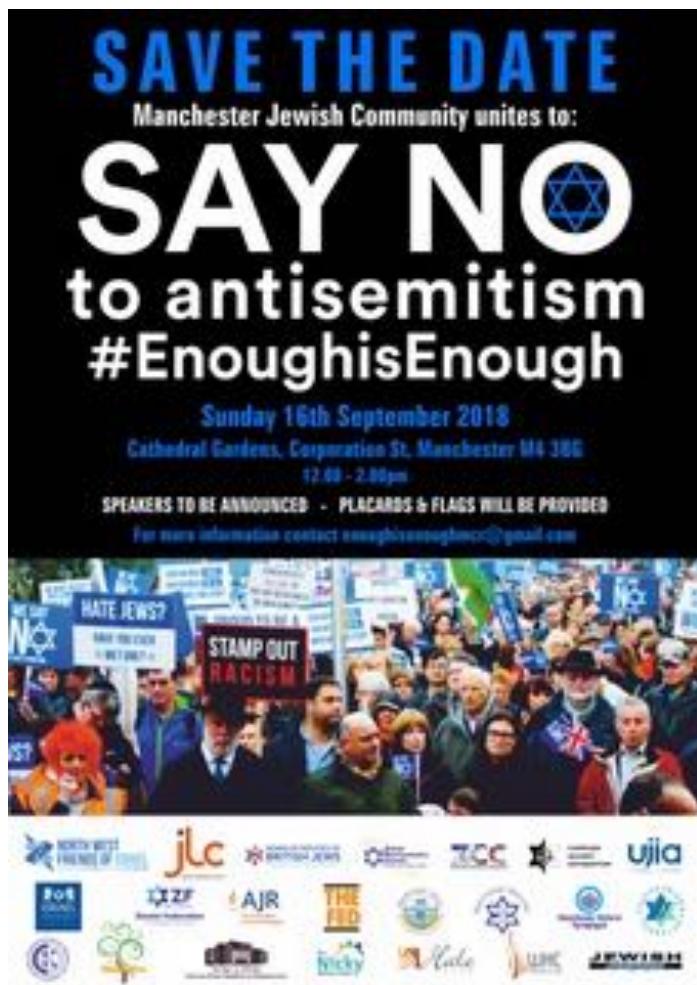
Those of us who love Israel were delighted that the Duke of Cambridge undertook the first official Royal visit to the country. It would be hard not to be touched by his moving message in the Yad Vashem guest book. And the goodwill and friendship in his speech at the Ambassador's reception left an impression on all of us who were present. A key message of the visit was about the importance of engagement. In addition to supporting coexistence with the young Israeli and Arab footballers, the fact that President Rivlin and President Abbas felt compelled to offer messages of peace in their meetings

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with the second in line to the British throne was a real tribute to the enduring ‘soft power’ of the British monarchy. This was clearly a man with a genuine warmth and friendship for the Jewish people and, going into 5779, amid all the political turmoil we have encountered this year, the image of the Duke, both at the Western Wall and, playing football on the beach, gives me wonderful memories to take into the new year.

May this Rosh Hashanah bring you, your families and all of Am Yisrael health, strength and peace.

Marie van der Zyl
President of the Board of Deputies for British Jews



Sunday 16th September 2018
Cathedral Gardens, Corporation Street,
Manchester M4 3BG Noon till 2pm.



make
EXTREMISM
HISTORY

by Selwyn Goldthorpe

Government has a definition of extremism....

The UK Government defines extremism as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Extremism also includes calls for death of members of the armed forces. (Revised Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales (originally issued on 12th March 2015 and revised on 16th July 2015, paragraph 7)

Should the public accept this definition?

This may not be the definition we share, after all what are 'fundamental British values'?

In fact I raised this very matter with Sara Khan, the UK Commissioner for Countering Extremism when I met her at an interfaith meeting at Police HQ, Liverpool, this July. Sara Khan (born 1980) is a talented speaker with 10 years experience of trying to

achieve human rights. Her experience is as a British Muslim human rights activist and the CEO of Inspire, an independent non-governmental organisation working to counter extremism and gender inequality. In January 2018, the Prime Minister, Theresa May, announced that Sara Khan had been appointed Lead Commissioner for the Home Office's Commission for Countering Extremism



Sara told us that extremism

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Above : Sara Kahn, UK Home Office's Commission for Countering Extremism with Synagogue Chairman Selwyn Goldthorpe after discussing what is an "Extremist".

threatens religious freedom, human rights, and diversity. It leads to divisions in families and society, creating fear. Resulting intolerance, spread of fear, produces a threat to diversity of opinion and democracy. Young people are particularly vulnerable to online extreme sites. Extremism is complex and multifaceted. We need to challenge extremism, wherever it is found. We need to understand its origins, and its practice. We need a powerful anti-extremism movement. Those trying to do this are frequently targeted by extremists - they need support. Religious freedom is not threatened by counter extremism- it is extremism that threatens religious freedom.

The commission is sponsoring a study into the prevalence and origins of extremism. At present there is not enough debate about extremism. They are asking faith groups to give evidence to the commission as to what they consider is extremism. Being orthodox, or conservative, is not being an extremist. However, no religion is immune from the threat of extremism. To challenge extremism there must be a consistent approach - each group must take ownership of their community and respect human rights in the process. We must begin to educate our children so that there tolerance and respect for the individual. Is this being taught in schools? There is increasing violence in USA schools, and stabbings of young people in the UK, if we are to believe the media. What is happening in Universities to create tolerance and respect of differences?

I think we all agreed that the media could play a bigger role than at present where the emphasis is on highlighting differences and generalising. The media is seen as being inflammatory and not responsible. When I raised this matter with a director of BBC News (I was on holiday with him) after an announcement that a muslim family had been fire bombed, I merely got a shrug of the shoulders. After all, we don't hear that a Christian family has been fire bombed!

Society must challenge extremism. We should be aware of racism, intolerance, and prejudice, and not turn a blind eye to those that have caused us no harm. If you remember Martin Niemöller (1892–1984) who was a prominent Protestant pastor, an outspoken public foe of Adolf Hitler . He spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps.

Niemöller is perhaps best remembered for the quotation:

**First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.**

**Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.**

**Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.**

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.



Tzedaka usually signifies “charity,” but the deeper meaning conveys what kind of human beings we wish to be: tzadikim are people who embody the highest ideals of the Jewish people. Traditionally associated with Yom Kippur.

This year's Kol Nidre Appeal good causes are:



In the 21st century, AJEX has a very important role, focusing on three main areas:

REMEMBRANCE for the sacrifices of the PAST

HELP for those in need in the PRESENT
EDUCATION for the FUTURE

The Social and Welfare division offers grants to members and their families, who find themselves in difficulty, offering help with medical, housing and other essential everyday needs.



Freedom from Torture

We provide therapy and medical evidence to torture survivors living in the UK and we protect and promote torture

survivors' rights. Help us break the cycle of trauma for people who have been tortured.

<https://www.freedomfromtorture.org>

**The lifetime cost of a guide dog is about £55000.
They have about 8000 to support.**

<https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/>



JWA is a national charity, based in London. It supports Jewish women and their children, who are affected by domestic abuse. Its services include a refuge, a helpline and outreach support. It also raises awareness of the existence of domestic abuse in the Jewish community and works to eradicate it through education programmes in schools, talk and training courses for professionals whose clients are affected by domestic violence.





May I wish every member and friend l'shanah tovah umetukah (a good and sweet year) for 5779.

Susan Fox"

*Mina would like to send warmest greetings
to everyone for a Peaceful, Good and
Blessed New Year.*



Lisa and Richard Sachs, together with Jacob, Daisy, Benjamin and Tyler, wish all congregants a Sweet New Year and well over the fast.



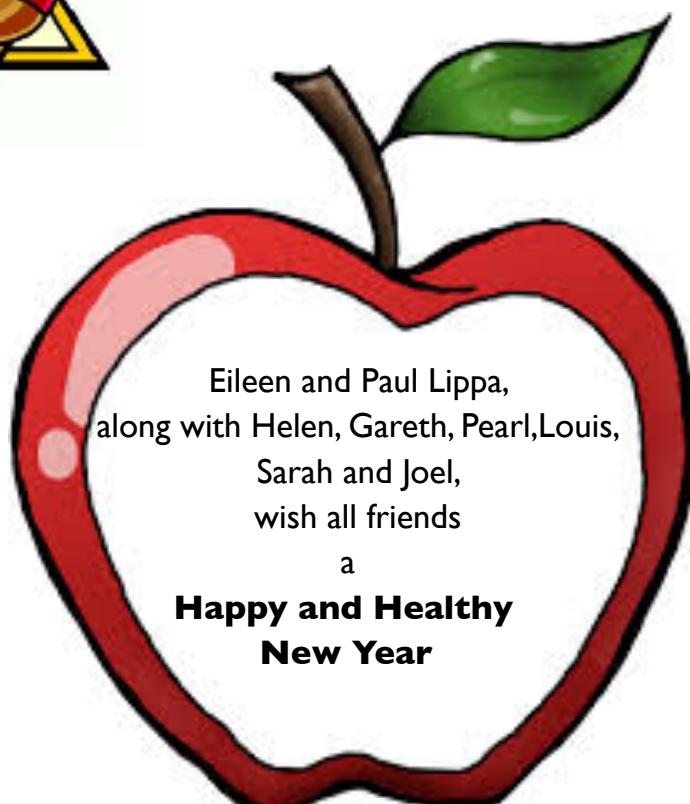
Fortune and Neil Chamberlain would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

Gillian and Selwyn Goldthorpe
wish you all a happy and healthy
New Year.

Shana Tova.



Faith and Richard Choueke and family
wish members and friends of the community a
Happy and Healthy New Year



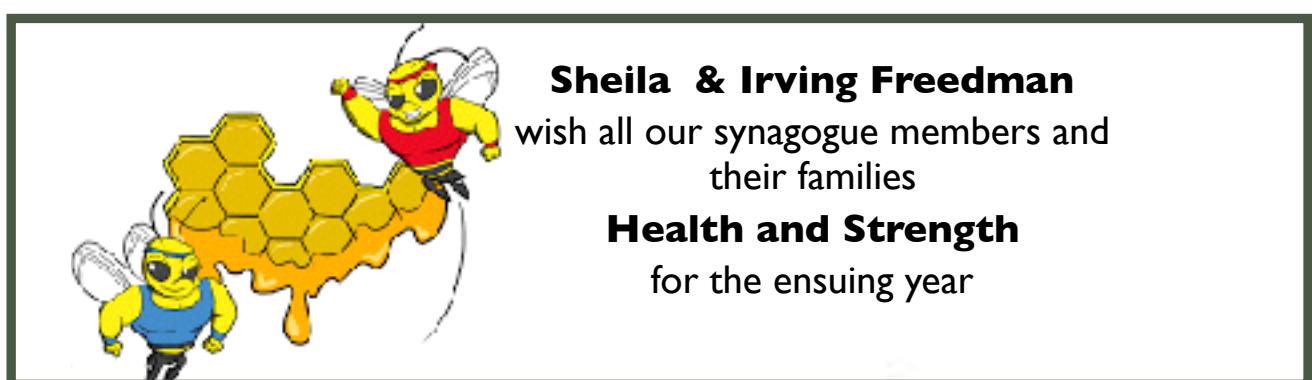
From



The Levines

**Best wishes for the New Year and well over the fast
to all our family and friends**

Grace, Phil, Clare, Daniel, and Deborah



Audrey and Martin Swade and family
wish everybody
all the best
for a Happy New Year
and
well over the fast !



**May the sound of the shofar this Rosh Hashanah
bring us blessings, healing, and joy in our lives.
We wish all the community a wonderful Shanah
Tovah Oom'tuka,
- a Happy and Sweet New Year.
Love and brachot,
from Shelley, Yavetz, Tali, and Maor.**



Stephen, Lynne, the Pavions
and the Parkin families
wish you all
a
very happy New Year



*Selwyn and Gillian Goldthorpe,
editors of L'Chayim*

Editorial

We have a busy time of year ahead of us. The synagogue calendar is packed with festivals and happening over the next few weeks.

We are lucky to have not just one, but two student rabbis joining us for the forthcoming High Holy Days and festivals and with them comes a freshness and insight associated with the enthusiasm of learning. For those of you that like to have the same meal every day of the week, this should whet your appetite. There will be food for thought. Each student brings with them something new to the service. They are the future of Reform Judaism .

We have the pleasure of reporting on the 70th anniversary shabbat. Sadly some of our old friends could not be there to share their stories of life at the synagogue from the past. It is nice to stay in contact with our old friends, some of whom we have not had that much contact with. Whilst there is the web site, and there is social media, such as our facebook site, Council has determined that we need to make a little more effort and will try to have some more formal contact with our old friends. Clearly those older shul members could help the office in this respect and let us know where folk now are and their contact details.

There is a report of Benji Sach's Bar Mitzvah. Our cheder is being restructured for the younger children. As our numbers are so small, as a synagogue we are intent on sharing youth activities throughout the North West.

We like to keep L'Chayim out of politics, however we have been asked to run the advert for the demonstration against antisemitism that is taking place on the 16th September in Manchester. This hardly counts as political in the view of the editors, and so we have included that in this issue.

Once again, a big thank you to all those that take the time and effort to report to L'Chayim. There is a wealth of humour, stories, and happenings out there, within you all. L'Chayim does get updated on the synagogue web site. It is a good way of letting friends know what is happening, especially those that have moved away.

Have a good New Year. Thank you for spending the time to read L'Chayim over the last year. If you do know of any businesses that would like to advertise in L'Chayim, please put them in contact with the office or ourselves.



Many people read the newspaper religiously every day

Community Real News (*none of the fake stuff!*)

Remember you first saw it in L'Chayim

Our 70th Birthday!

Not only was the NHS born 70 years ago, the State of Israel was born, and our synagogue was born 70 years ago. 1948 was a year of rethinking values. Here in Southport there was a desire for a different sort of synagogue service. Out with some of the old, and in with new ways, our synagogue was conceived after a disagreement amongst the congregation of Southport Hebrew Congregation. Now, 70 years later, we were pleased to welcome those that have helped our synagogue (including those from Southport Hebrew Congregation) to get to this day by holding a special shabbat service.



We had the honour of being joined in this service by two of our previous Rabbis, and now life members, Rabbi Norman Zalud and Rabbi Amanda Golby, shown in the photograph with the Senior Rabbi of the Reform Movement, Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner.

We were joined by the Chairman of the Reform Movement, Geoffrey Marx (smaller photograph shown below), and Sarita Robinson, our Northern Communities Partner for Reform Judaism. Rabbi Zalud had the aliyah honour of the first torah reading, and Rabbi Golby, the sermon. Rabbi Amanda related with humour how as a student she came to Southport and was met at the station by all the senior members of the congregation as she realised she was in fact being interviewed for prospective employment.

At that time (1988) it was fairly revolutionary to have lady Rabbis. Southport has always had flexible thinking in its approach to Judaism, and her appointment was no exception.



All those invited were sat next to and surround by, those that have helped make the synagogue what it is today. Thank you all. By that, I don't mean 'the synagogue', rather, 'The Synagogue', meaning the wider Reform Jewish life of Southport community. We welcomed the children of our founder members, for without their parents' inspiration we would not be in existence. Thank you to all those that had the honour to take part

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in the service - you are part of the larger community that have done so much for the synagogue over time. It was impossible to honour everyone, you are so many!

Rabbi Laura was asked to unveil a plaque in remembrance of the occasion (see photograph). Our Tree of Life records significant life events of the community (we still have plenty of leaves left, if you were thinking of recording a special occasion?)



We were presented with a certificate of achievement and contribution to Reform Judaism, by Chairman Geoffrey Marx. (The certificate is now on display on the wall to the right of the cheder door). Thank you.



I asked Rabbi Laura to cut our birthday cake and make a wish. The large community cake was cut into many slices, just as each Reform Jewish person has a slice in the life of Reform Judaism in Southport.

There then followed a sumptuous sit down kiddush. My thanks to all those of us that helped in its preparation -and the tidying up afterwards.

For some, perhaps the highlight of the day was the reminiscing that took place over the kiddush. So many people had interesting, and sometimes amusing, stories about life in the community. I was very busy with the microphone!

We were able to share our memories of the past. We were able to say what Southport and District Reform Synagogue means to us.



I am grateful to all those that continue to be supportive of the synagogue. I think this reflective birthday celebration emphasised the good that emanates from The Synagogue into the Reform Jewish community of Southport and its surrounding District.

*Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe, Chairman of Council
2017-2018*

Mazel Tov! Benji Sachs on your Bar Mitzvah.

photo
removed
by web master

The synagogue was full, every seat occupied, for a shabbat Benji will remember for ever. On the of 7th July, we were joined by Rabbi Elf, who jointly took the shabbat service with Benji.

We were pleased to be able to hear every word with such clarity, well done! I know it takes some practice, and a lot of study to become so competent at taking a shabbat service in public - not something that comes naturally to anyone, never mind a 13 year old.

On behalf of The Synagogue, I had great pleasure in presenting Benji with a siddur and a book concerning the meaning of his parasha.

Benji, along with Daniel Colwyn, and Emilie Barnett presented the synagogue with a folder of their educational work in cheder (Thank to also to their inspirational teacher, Anne Kletz) concerning the history of their own family's Jewish journey. We hope to keep this in the synagogue along with the siddur that cheder presented previously. I hoped that the friendships formed in cheder will last a lifetime.

One of the challenges we have as a small community is to how to give our young people a continuing foothold to their Judaism in such a demanding world. I hope that our North Western collaborative enterprise may go some way to address this. We continue to make progress at formulating a strategic plan and activities for Northwestern Reform Judaism. Watch this space!

Finally, as a connoisseur of cake, may I say how nice the Bar Mitzvah cake was both in form and flavour. Should Benji ever get a slice of political life, as he aspires to, I am sure that the training he undertook for this Bar Mitzvah will fill him with confidence, and the mark he made on the Houses of Parliament, cutting his Bar Mitzvah cake, will be inspirational to his future.

Selwyn Goldthorpe





Garden Party at The Home

Sunday 29th July

Well it may have been the only wet day in July but that did not dampen the spirits at the 'Garden' Party held at The Southport Rest Home on 29th July. It was a shame the event had to be held inside and they could not use the new garden recently opened by the Chief Rabbi, but there was still a great atmosphere, thanks to the efforts of all the staff.

The residents, including some of our members, their relatives, those connected with The Home, families of those who work there all gathered in the lounge. There were refreshments, burgers, a cake stall, a tombola, a raffle and even music which encouraged some of the residents to get up and dance. Everyone was made welcome, people chatted away and it was clear the residents appreciated the lively afternoon with all the visitors.

(Report from Anne Kletz)



A small number of those not on holiday turned up for **the synagogue's Formby squirrel walk. and picnic on 15th July.** Apparently the attraction this year has seen many more visitors, perhaps due to the good weather. The car parking has been particularly bad, in terms of being full to overflowing with resultant vehicle restrictions. Whilst this may be

good for the National Trust, that charge for the car parking, I cannot believe that it is good for the squirrels.

Anyway, nuts to that! It did not put a damper on the day with squirrels still to be seen bounding around. There was an opportunity for some nice viewing of our copper coloured local residents.

Presently the beach has a number of volunteers out in all weathers trying to minimise the effect on the environment, and our eye, of the deluge of plastics washed up on our coast. I believe there is still more room for volunteers.

photo
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by web master

The Sachs family are immensely proud of Daisy Sachs (shown on the left at Benji's recent bar mitzvah) who has gained 3 A's at A Level and will be continuing to Manchester University to read Psychology.

With love from Mum, Dad,
Jacob, Benjamin and Tyler x



Disability and Ability

Mina Abram-Hebblewaite has volunteered to help Council's awareness concerning problems for the less abled around the synagogue, she writes :

I think it would be really helpful if, when people bring contributions for our chavurah meals, a note of the ingredients could be provided too. This is something that is done at Menorah and makes selection really easy for everyone. Perhaps something may be included along these lines with the L'Chayim invitation to bring something suitable?



Letter to the Editor of the Chester Chronicle

Dear Sir,

My wife and I decided to spend a weekend in Chester and arrived on Saturday morning to find preparations for the Gay Pride march in full swing. There was a tremendous, excited atmosphere with participants and spectators all mixing in a friendly and colourful way on a lovely morning. We stayed to watch the parade which was a friendly riot of colour and sound - marred, in my opinion, by a banner carried in the parade reading "No Pride for Israeli Apartheid". Surely this was not an appropriate occasion for making a questionable, political statement especially as Israel is generally accepted as being the most LGBT friendly country in the Middle East.

Yours faithfully,

Harry Kessler

To all you lovely ,lovely people at Southport. Thank you so much for the invitation to your 70th Birthday. I'm so sorry but I won't be able to come- to say I'm gutted is an under statement!

Have a wonderful time- and make sure you party hard! 70 years!

With much love

(Rabbi) Kath xx (Vardi)

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER

Details removed by web master.

OCTOBER



Go on, have a party!



If you wish to use the synagogue function room for a celebration, please contact the office.

There are reduced rates for synagogue members!





**Build the sukkah
3pm Sunday
23rd September**
followed by
**community eats at 5pm
and service 6.30pm**

Liverpool Jewish Forum

NEXT FORUM SPEAKER ON SEPTEMBER 5th 2018

Meal at 7pm.

Although raised in an antisemitic and anti-Israel education system, **Dr Shadman Zaman** became the first Bangladeshi national ever to visit Israel, earning a ban from his home country. Now living in Manchester, he is converting to Judaism, and is a loud and proud pro-Israel activist. Shadman also warns us about the danger posed by the favourites to win the impending Labour Party National Executive Committee elections, the “JC9,” the 9 Corbynist candidates, who seek to downplay, or not even recognise, the antisemitism that exists within the Labour Party. Fascinating talk in store!

Contact Johnny Cohen for info, or to book. His mobile number 07779556134. (*contact Selwyn for info. as alternative*).

Southport Walks

A leisurely 1½ hour guided stroll along iconic Lord Street & The Promenade

Admire the beautiful buildings and gardens of this magnificent seaside town.
Hear stories of its founders and of its famous locals and visitors.

Why not end your tour with a relaxing cup of tea and a scone
while browsing with your guide through photos from bygone times.

**At 2pm every Tuesday & Saturday
in June, July, August & September 2018**

See website and Facebook for additional information.
Text or call for additional and late season Walks.

Walk: Adults £7, Children £2

Tea & Scone: £3

No need to book – just turn up a few minutes before the tour starts.

**Departs from outside The Atkinson main entrance
on Lord Street (PR8 1DB).**

t: 07752 552548
e: info@southportwalks.co.uk
 southportwalks.co.uk
 [/southportwalks](https://www.facebook.com/southportwalks)

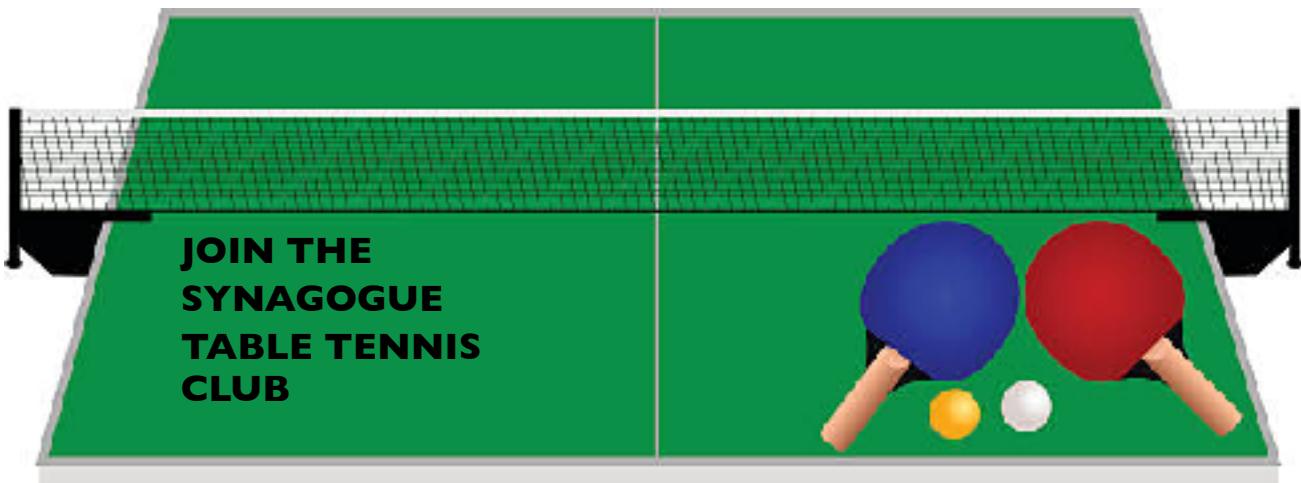
**Walks for Societies & Groups at discounted rates
- any day & time - please enquire.**



Following last year's successful launch season, our Honorary Treasurer Tony Kletz has re-launched his popular 'Southport Walks' for summer 2018.

Tony leads a leisurely 90 minute guided stroll along iconic Lord Street and The Promenade, admiring the buildings and gardens, and telling the tales of the towns' founders and famous locals and visitors. Illustrated throughout with vintage pictures and photographs, his Walk finishes with the option of the popular tea & scone - and a chance to sit down, chat and marvel at further old photographs of the town.

(To advertise in L'Chayim please contact the editors or the synagogue office)



Princes Street Table Tennis Club is meeting in the synagogue for practice and match play in the evenings. A real opportunity to improve your game. If you wish to join contact either Selwyn or the office for further details.



We are looking for a new lap top computer for the office . If you have a resource or wish to donate, it would be much appreciated.

Many thanks.



Have you had enough to eat?

Remember to put your spare in date food cans, packets, and toiletries in the charity box near to the front doors of the synagogue.

Nothing goes to waste.

Support the food bank.

Nottingham June 22nd-24th



Chagigah 2018

A personal view from Susan Fox



As always, there was a diverse, interesting and stimulating programme of events on offer for those who

attended the nationwide Chagigah at Eastwood Hall, a Georgian country house, set in beautiful grounds a few miles away from Nottingham. I take a keen interest in animals and noticed that there was a herd of distinctive native English Longhorn Cattle grazing in one of the fields in the grounds, as I entered the venue.

The weekend began with an innovative Kabbalat Shabbat which was a joyful service, designed to help Chagigah attendees come together for the weekend. That was followed by a pleasant Shabbat meal, a little participation in the Oneg afterwards and then joining in the discussion about whether the

effect of the 'Blue Planet' has stimulated and/or renewed our commitment to protecting the environment as Jews and Christians. The discussion, mainly focusing on plastic and its harmful effects (although there is much more to protecting our environment, including light pollution) was led by Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers and the Rev. Anna Alls.

On Shabbat morning I attended a very meaningful chanting meditation with Rabbis Lisa Barrett and Danny Newman, celebrating the joy and peace of Shabbat in silent meditation. I felt this session really set me up spiritually for the day and was very therapeutic.

The next session I attended was the first of a series of four on Beit Midrash, "Biblical Beginnings", exploring the text "Love your neighbour as yourself" from the perspective of the Medieval commentators. It was an enlightening session led by Rabbis Shulamit Ambalu. As we are aware, the Torah is never as simple as it seems from a first reading and is open to a variety of interpretations. There were four different Shabbat Shacharit services (part 1) available for people to attend, my choice being "Wake up to life" with Rabbis Naomi Goldman and Danny Lichman. We sang repetitive chants, using movement and silence, connecting mind and body, creatively using the traditional structure of the service to help deepen our Jewish prayer practice. The Torah service, the second part of Shabbat Shacharit, was a communal gathering, where everybody gathered together to acknowledge the challenges our communities face and equally the successes that Reform Judaism has enjoyed so far.

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I went to "Covenant Conversations" for an interesting early afternoon session with Rabbi Fabian Sborovsky and Keith Price. The Covenant represents our mutual commitment as communities and clerics to create a positive and trusting partnership which echos the partnership of the Jewish people with God through the Reform Movement. "Covenant Conservations" will be ongoing for the foreseeable future within Reform Judaism.

Mid afternoon, I attended the second of the Beit Midrash sessions "Loving your neighbour; love the Rabbis", exploring Midrashic interpretation of the text through the Rabbis and what can be learned from them, with Rabbi Daniel Lichman.

Late afternoon, I attended the third of the Beit Midrash sessions, exploring the text "Love thy neighbour" through 14th Century Kabbalistic and 18th Century Chasidic interpretations.

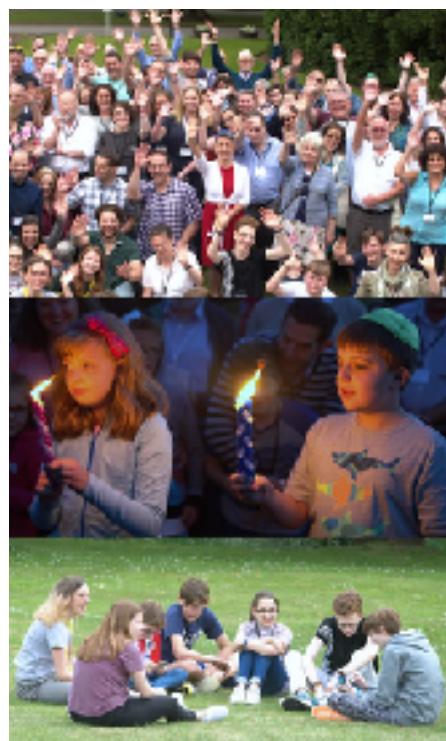
There were various activities organised to honour the memory of the late Jo Cox, MP, in "The Great Get Together" in the early evening, culminating in Havdalah, including a circus with Northern Chagigah stalwarts, Jo, Martyn and children performing from Newcastle Reform; Bouncy Castle and Bouncy Fun Run and a BBQ.

Following Havdalah, I went to Kriyah Kedosha, to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of a contemplative psalm reading with Rabbis Lisa Barrett and Danny Newman. Hardly drawing breath as I went from session to session on Shabbat it was a restorative time. Afterwards there was an interesting discussion with Rabbi Robyn Ashworth-Steen about the Talmudic story, the Oven of Akhnai (a tale of exclusion and miracles).

On Sunday morning, I attended the final session of the Beit Midrash talks, contemporary applications of "Loving your actual neighbour", discussing ways of how to apply the teachings in the modern world through present day philosophy and thought.

Overall, my Chagigah experience was enjoyable, interesting, spiritually meaningful and stimulating. Looking forward to the next one in 2020, but before that, there is Northern Chagigah in 2019!

Memories of the Chagigah



Can you spot our synagogue members in the group photo at the top?
(editors)



It was part of the Shabbat Service last Shabbat, 28 July 2018.led by Mina

SHABBAT NACHAMU Parashat VA-ETCHANNAN

D'var Torah

"Nachamu, Nachamu, ami", "Comfort, comfort My people"/"Be comforted My people". So begins our Haftarah for today from the prophet Isaiah. This is the first of the Seven Haftarot of Consolation leading to the Shabbat before Yom Kippur. It follows the 9th Av, a day of mournful recollection of the many historical tragedies befalling our people on that day. Unlike other Haftarot throughout the year, these seven have no direct connection to the Torah readings they accompany, rather they are 'time-linked' to our calendar.

Nevertheless, I would like to suggest that perhaps there is a subtle link we may discover by looking a little closer at our Torah portion, particularly today's section. The whole Parashat begins with the words: "Va-etchannan" meaning: "I pleaded" and refers to Moses entreating God to allow him to enter the Promised Land. Moses is permitted only to see the Land and so we have the book of Deuteronomy: a recapitulation of earlier Instruction received by Moses for how the Hebrew escapees families from Egypt are to live out in their lives the covenant agreed at Mount Horeb [Sinai in Exodus] as they go forward into the 'land flowing with milk and honey'.

What then do we find in our reading? Immediately after the commandments (instruction/teaching) we have the Shema. Those so familiar words which form part of all our services, are repeated morning and evening, encased on our door-posts, imprinted in our hearts and minds. Often are amongst the first phrases taught in childhood, aspired by many to be their dying words.

Said to encapsulate the fundamentals of the Jewish faith, in saying the Shema this is what we declare. In fact it is so familiar, we may find ourselves repeating it merely out of habit, sometimes even carelessly, maybe just casually without much thought. We could say it prayerfully (although it is not a prayer). Ideally perhaps it should be a mindful exercise. For if we take it seriously it raises crucial questions. For example: Yes, we are Israel, but what does it mean to 'hear' (or "listen" as it is sometimes translated)? We need to know, especially as it is an imperative - pay attention! take heed! be aware this is a critical matter! Are we meant to 'listen' to the words with our minds rather than literally with our ears? In our times, we may prefer to be very cautious indeed about any claim that we have heard the Eternal One speaking to us directly! Yet this question really matters as the Shema is primarily written in the present tense: hear/listen **now**, hear/listen **today**. If we are to apply the Shema to our lives we need to find a satisfactory answer. And what does it mean that God is One? We need to know. And if we should ask: How is it possible to "Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart ...?" Rashi comments that as the word lev (heart) here has two rather than the usual one vav it means to love God with your two inclinations [the good and the evil].

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It soon becomes apparent that any close examination of the Shema leads to many more questions, opening us to a wider, deeper, richer understanding than any surface reading may render. Why should this matter? Precisely because the Shema is not only a formal statement of who we Jewish people are and the covenant we have as the chosen people. It signifies the ideal pattern for our lives. All else flows from this. And it is good for us! Two years ago in the Manchester Day Limmud, Michael Capek led a session on 'The Shema and Mental Health'. Why does the Shema prove to be psychologically good for our mental health and well-being? In short, because it confirms our identity, gives us a sense of belonging, roots us in our history.

In some ways this echoes the psychotherapist Viktor Frankl's assertion in his book *Man's Search for Ultimate Meaning*: G-d is not dead, not even 'after Auschwitz'. [Frankl was an Auschwitz survivor.] He "identifies four key psychological elements ... that have made it [the Shema] the bedrock of our faith". These are: 1) **Relevance** - *Listen, Israel* - this message is calling to you. 2) **Belonging** - that sense of community is one of our strongest assets. 3) **Personalisation** - G-d who is transcendent and infinite is also "our" personal G-d - with us in times of need, joy and pain. 4) **Individuality** - the "oneness of G-d" should empower us to discover and cultivate the G-dly oneness and uniqueness within each of us."

This usefully brings us round to the initial suggestion of a subtle link between the Hafтарah and the Parashat, between the Omnipotent God who would have His people comforted, doubly comforted, and Moses the imploring individual whose pleas were not responded to in the way he most earnestly hoped. And what do these have to do with time? Ecclesiastes may have just the right answer: "A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven."

May we, the people of the Shema, always find the comfort we need and may our pleas be answered only for our good. Shabbat Shalom.



Need a rabbi, have a crisis, need a talk, have a family religious milestone, need religious advice.....

The synagogue, affiliated to Reform Judaism, has contacts with all the local rabbis for your needs.

Please speak in confidence to the office or member of Executive.





yahrzeits (ארציט)

during this issue of
L'Chayim

We remember their contribution to our lives:

YAHRZEITS IN SEPTEMBER

Isaac Zachariah, Brother of Marcel Zachariah
Louis Swade, Father of Martyn Swade
Max Schneider, Father of Bella Chilton
Leslie Katz, Father of Deborah Hirshman
Millie Freedman, Mother of Irving Freedman
Ann Kessler, Mother of Harry Kessler
Norman Stephens, Husband of Lilian
Stephens
Harry Pavion, Father of Stephen Pavion

YAHRZEITS IN OCTOBER

Minna Mayze, Mother of Gina Luxemberg and Rodney Jackson
David Hirshman, Husband of Nives, Father of Paul, Michael, Alex and Sam
Minnie Green, Grandmother of Andrea Cook
Mina Samuels, Mother of Richard Choueke
Sheila Fay Oleesky, Mother of Anne Kletz
Samuel Rivilis, Father of Estelle Mannheim
Joe Sefton, Father of Lynn Pavion
Denise Kletz, Mother of Tony Kletz

The congregation on shabbat have the opportunity to reflect on those that have helped to make us, make our community, and contribute to the world we at present live in. **MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING.**

Please be in shul so we can together remember our loved ones.

Yahrzeit candles are available for purchase from the synagogue. Do try to be in shul for your yahrzeit.

If you wish to sponsor a page in L'Chayim, this can be done for a minimum of £10. You can pay more if you wish. Please contact the office.

To advertise a business or an event, there is £10 minimum charge, or for a full page £40. L'Chayim is distributed around the Jewish community with an interest in Southport and District Reform Synagogue, this includes country members, and friends of the synagogue. (ed).

Why waste postage? Place a greeting in L'Chayim to all your friends.

חִזָּק וְנִתְחַזֵּק

Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik.

"Be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen each other,"

These words are recited as we end each book of the Torah. It reminds us of the strength of the community as a whole.

Until sometime between the 9th and 12th centuries (depending on whose history you accept), different parts of the Jewish world followed different cycles of reading the Torah . Then the triennial system [of reading the entire Torah in three-year cycles] ending before Passover used in the land of Israel was dropped in favour of Babylon's annual cycle. Nowadays, Reform Judaism uses the three year cycle of reading the Torah, and Orthodox Judaism still uses the annual cycle.

As we celebrate Simchat Torah (Rejoicing of the Torah) a celebration of the conclusion of one and the beginning of another annual cycle of readings from the Torah, this holiday probably originated during the medieval period. The occasion was soon accompanied by vivacious dancing and hymn singing in synagogue and lavish festival meals at home. The impetus for the exuberant support of and adherence to Torah was provided by persecutions of the 14th century, when expulsions, blood libels and Crusades were directed against Jews who refused to forsake the text.

With symbols and activities of marriage, such as a service suggesting the wedding of Israel to the law, the celebrations demonstrated that the Jews' devotion was unflagging and their feeling insuppressible. (The British diarist Samuel Pepys noted, in rather disdainful terms, the carryings on in a London synagogue in 1663, in disbelief that he was watching a "decent" religious community. The congregation later regulated itself to display greater decorum.) Soon it became customary to immediately turn to the beginning of the Torah and start the reading cycle again, expressing the desire to continually study Torah.

The origin of making, decorating, and carrying flags during the service is unclear. Some scholars hold that marching with flags recaptures the history of the 12 ancient tribes of Israel, when each tribe had its own banner. Other scholars believe that this practice originated in the Middle Ages and was borrowed from certain Christian customs.

**Have a happy Simchat Torah,
enjoy the synagogue celebrations.**



(Article by Selwyn Goldthorpe)

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break?

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The Home is looking for volunteers to take chair-bound residents out to the nearby local park and amenities.

If you can spare a little time for this mitzvah, please contact Julie on the above number. You are only young once!



A rabbi was once passing through a field where he saw a very old man planting an oak tree. ‘Why are you planting that tree?’ Said he. ‘You surely do not expect to live long enough to see the acorn grow up into an oak tree?’

‘Ah,’ replied the old man, ‘my ancestors planted trees not for themselves, but for us, in order that we might enjoy their shade and fruit. I am doing likewise for those who will come after me’

Talmud Ta'anit 23a

A legacy to Southport and District Reform Synagogue today is a special gift to our tomorrow.

After considering your family and friends, you may also want to leave an amount in your will to charities. Please consider making S&DRS one of your charities. S&DRS future will be all the more secure so that our children may continue to practice the religion of their choice in Southport.



The responsibility to protect what was given to us, build on it and pass it on to the next generation in a better, stronger state is incumbent on us all. The gift of continuity in your will, whether large or small, will help to ensure that our community will continue for generations to come.

L'dor v'dor—from generation to generation.

Remember S&DRS when writing your will. Even if you have already made a will, you can amend it at any time and make your gift by using a simple document, a codicil. We can provide the correct wording for this. It is always advisable to seek professional advice when drafting something as important as a will. S&DRS can supply you with details of a number of local solicitors who are willing to offer advice.

Please give this some thought - your contribution can make a significant difference.





The following kind people have been elected to serve on the Council of Southport Reform Synagogue

Chairman	Dr Selwyn Goldthorpe
Vice Chair	Gillian Goldthorpe
Honorary Secretary	Fortune Chamberlain
Honorary Treasurer	Tony Kletz
Presiding Warden	Duly Platt

Other members of the Synagogue's Council :

Mina Abram-Hebblethwaite	Joan Brooke
Faith Choueke	Richard Choueke
Sue Fox	Harry Kessler
Anne Kletz	Matt Suher

'Let us come together in God's name and prepare to do God's will'

from Prayer for Committee Meetings, p 366 Siddur, Forms of Prayer 2008



Southport Reform & District Synagogue is a **registered charity, number 227576.**
Please be advised that our complaints procedure is available from the synagogue office.

As a synagogue member should you not wish to receive the membership copy of L'Chayim and wish to unsubscribe, please e-mail the synagogue office or send a message via the web site to the synagogue office.