



**Edgware & Hendon Reform Synagogue**

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT  
OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2022**

118 STONEGROVE, EDGWARE, MIDDLESEX, HA8 8AB  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1172458

A constituent of Reform Judaism

SENIOR RABBI:	RABBI MARK GOLDSMITH
RABBI:	RABBI DEBBIE YOUNG-SOMERS
	RABBI TANYA SAKHNOVICH
PRESIDENT:	RICHARD HARRIS



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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

2022 marked a turning point away from Covid and enabled us to look towards the future and new initiatives. It was felt that the synagogue had 'weathered the storm' in general terms, but now was a time to look to grow what we offered to the community; a time to be both grateful and ambitious.

During this year more and more of our activities came in house once more. We have used what we learnt in the pandemic and created more hybrid activities and services, and we have also encouraged members to engage in different ways. I think it has surprised everyone just how much can be split both online and in person, and still cater for all. For example our Talmud classes seem to work wholly on-line, yet we have started many more Together groups in person in the shul. Both work well, each in its own way. It has been really pleasing to see the number and different types of Together Groups expand, and to see different and more members get involved in them, rather than the 'usual suspects'. If anyone has any pet hobby or subject that they are particularly keen on, and feel others may be interested in, please get in touch with the office and we will help to start up another group - the more the merrier.

In order to increase the use and value of the building, in the summer the main kitchen was refurbished to a more catering style of kitchen. It is now more suitable for outside caterers for functions and already we have increased bookings for hall hire. We have also seen increased hire of the upstairs community centre. This has also had a make-over in 2022. A further enhancement to the community centre has been the transformation of the old youth office into a sensory room. EHRS is the only synagogue to have such a facility, and this has and will change what we offer not only our youngsters, but discussions are on-going about how we open this to the wider community. The Jack Senitt Sensory Room will be officially opened in the new year.

During Covid much of the maintenance work of the shul was temporarily suspended as the building was not being used so much. This year the House Committee was reformed and a survey of the whole site has taken place with a list of works that are required. As well as looking at the internal maintenance, Council has been aware of the growing number of comments about the state of the outside of the building (some have said it is off-putting and damaging our hire revenue). Towards the end of 2022

plans were drawn up to enhance the outside, to deal with the crumbling retaining wall at the front and the poor state of the surface in the carpark/courtyard. There will be consultation with the community in 2023 regarding the next steps in the beautification and up-keep of the outside of the building.

Just when we thought we had completed our rabbinic recruitment, in March, sadly Rabbi Mati left us. Over the year we have been helped by Rabbi Jackie Tabick and Rabbi Roberta Harris-Eckstein. We are extremely grateful for their continued support to our community. After the High Holy Days Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich joined us on a one-year fixed contract to bring our Rabbinic team back up to three, and we will be recruiting again to fill that place on a more permanent basis.

All in all 2022 has been another busy year for the shul. We want to thank our hard-working professional staff and all our volunteers for not only just keeping the show going, but also ensuring that EHRS is continuing to grow from strength to strength.

**Janet Brand (pre AGM)**  
**Jeremy Harrod (post AGM)**



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## COMMUNITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Last year I wrote about the Synagogue moving back into some previously familiar use after the pandemic. Hopefully now we do seem to have returned to some sense of normality. I am pleased to inform you that things seem even better. The number of activities has increased significantly with the premises in use by one or another group every day of the week.

With regard to the use of the premises, we now have several outside organisations using our facilities for all sorts of activities. Of course this includes parties for simchas as well as lodge meetings, training programmes, organisation meeting, exercise groups and more. This has all contributed very significantly to the synagogue income. Although weddings at alternate venues are still popular, we have been seeing an increase in couples using the Synagogue for their marriage ceremonies.

Our 'DOROT' membership database has been further updated to support different methods of members paying their subscriptions. Late 2021 finally saw the start and 2022 the first full year of using the direct Debit system. This has proved very popular with members and the number growing who are signing up to the scheme. You can still phone up and pay your membership subscription over the phone with a credit card. Thankfully, we are nearly cashless and chequeless, reducing the need for the staff to have to visit the bank – with many branches closing. Most of the events that have charges are now taking bookings online or by credit card at the door.

The IT systems move forward into new technology. At the end of the year we initiated a plan to move all our computer based filing off our internal servers to 'The Cloud'. Once completed this will reduce the cost of maintenance of internal infrastructure and provide a much more robust environment.

During the pandemic and periods of lockdown we started providing 'livestreaming' of the Services. This continues to be popular for those that cannot attend in person. Of course nothing can compare with actually being here with fellow members. As technology improves, that used by the livestreaming is updated to improve the quality and reliability. It is a shame that Stonegrove doesn't yet have fibre broadband. The livestreaming facility during services is operated by our excellent 'TechTeam', without whom it would not happen.

With the increase in usage of the premises, sometimes at all hours (the Night Shelter scheme taking place from 7pm to 7am), much more pressure is put on our caretaking team to keep the site clean, tidy, maintained and all the equipment and furniture set up in a timely fashion, even with activities running back-back. Many thanks to Joao Nena and his team for looking after the site and what we need.

Marketing and Communications continues to be a key facility during the year. With so much more happening, there are more leaflets, brochures, posters to produce as well as keeping members up to date with the weekly email newsletter "Our Week Ahead" and our magazine "LeDor VaDor".

I cannot conclude without thanking my PA and Office Manager, Martine Allen with her admin team, for her support and guidance throughout this very busy year. Everyone has worked very hard to get us back to normality often beyond their normal hours showing their commitment to EHRS. Many thanks to them all.

**Perry Newton**

## RABBIS' REPORT:

As 2022 began, Covid-19 pandemic was easing, services in person were possible and life cycle ceremonies could again be open to all with no restrictions. There was still a sense of caution in the community, meaning attendances were smaller, however as the year went on these numbers increased. Online events continued to prove popular, especially learning events, and the high quality of online service livestreams organised by our tech-team, led by Ari Coen, giving the choice to attend in person or at home. Shiva prayers could again be held in members' homes, with June Lewis our PA, working very hard to ensure that through a combination of ourselves and lay members every night of prayers wanted could be led well.

This was a challenging year for our Rabbinic Team. Rabbi Mati, owing to illness, unfortunately left us early in the year and in the summer, student cantor Rachel Weston joined us for a learning placement and shared her skills with the community. Rabbi Tanya Sakhnovich joined us in November 2022 as interim Rabbi so that we could better meet the needs of our members.

We were saddened when Ann Sadan, EHRS's Music Director, resigned her position followed by the two cantorial soloists, Robert Davis and Marc Finer. The Rabbis therefore needed to work closely with the Synagogue choir to continue the EHRS music tradition and to recruit new Cantorial Soloists, Sara Feldmann-Brummer and Nina Kanter, who joined us at the end of 2022.

Throughout the Jewish Year, it was so welcome to be able to bring members back to be with each other to celebrate. All our festivals, were celebrated and commemorated across our generations, we brought creativity as well as tradition into these events, being part of young family celebrations, which were attended by very large numbers of our future members.

We were delighted to host our Communal Seder again and to retain the delight of an online Tikkun Leyl Shavuot with an in person service for Shavuot morning. The High Holy Days saw the return to the Synagogue and we continued our innovations of the past three years, giving choice and a mix of classic and creative services for all generations. We were supported again by Rabbi Jackie Tabick.

Rabbi Jackie's decades of experience, the expertise of Rabbi Debbie and the resourcefulness of High Holy Days Co-ordinator, Michael Weber, Senior Warden Keith Price and head of our Services Committee, Robert Brand and our Shlichei Tzibbur were tested to the extreme when Rabbi Mark's father Walter z"l sadly died on the morning of Yom Kippur. Rabbi Mark is deeply grateful to all of them for enabling the congregation to experience a more than satisfactory Yom Kippur and enabling him to be with his family on an hour's notice.

Being teachers we give shiurim fortnightly, and Beer and Shiur for our Young Adults, our Cornerstone introduction to Judaism classes, our Marriage preparation courses, Talmud Class and many other classes throughout the year. We teach weekly on our B'nei Mitzvah course and enjoyed being part of the B'Mitzvah Shabbaton camp. We help in Orot regularly and frequently visit Nagila kindergarten.

We are also delighted to work constantly with Sarah Koster and our young families, Jack Murphy and our Youth clubs with which he invites us to help out, and our Head of Education and Youth, Marian Cohen, our partner in learning.

Our Rabbis are central participants in the Movement for Reform Judaism and the Assembly of Rabbis and Cantors. Rabbi Mark co-organised the Rabbinic Kallah this year, a three-day retreat to build our policies and ideas for the future. He Chairs the Machzor Editorial Group producing our new High Holy Days Prayer Book. Rabbi Debbie is a spokesperson for as well as attending national events on our and the movements behalf and recording a popular monthly podcast Rabbiting on. They all teach at Leo Baeck College throughout the year, enabling EHRS to be well known to future Rabbis. Rabbi Mark is a Trustee Rabbi of EcoJudaism and Rabbi Debbie of Faith for the Climate. We are very grateful to work with an excellent, dedicated team of lay leaders, led by Chair Janet Brand, and from June, Jeremy Harrod backed by his vice Chairs, Jo Sigalov and Andrew Woolstone. We are grateful for the support of the administration and facilities teams led by Community Director, Perry Newton whose help is invaluable in all that we do.

**Rabbi Mark Goldsmith**  
**Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers**





## SERVICES:

The Services Committee is responsible for the planning and operation of all Synagogue services in conjunction with the Rabbis, Wardens and Council. The Committee meets quarterly and receives reports from the Senior Rabbi and the Senior Warden on recent and forthcoming services.

Post Covid, the Synagogue building opened up again to allow our services to be attended in person. There was a gradual process of bringing members back for in person services as people became more comfortable meeting communally, with live streaming and online services continuing for those unable to attend in person or who felt uncomfortable returning at this time.

During the year we held approximately 300 Sabbath and festival services. We commenced Friday afternoon Shabbat Club for our younger members and their families, and continued to hold Bar/Bat Mitzvah classes on Friday afternoons, resulting in our Friday night services becoming more popular with families. The tote bags available in our main services, with age-appropriate activities and books to keep our younger members occupied, remain popular. We offer a variety of alternative services, including various forms of musical services, both in person and online, a monthly lay led Hebrew only traditional Shabbat service, and also outdoor services. We are seeking to actively develop new alternative services to encourage member engagement across the community. All our services are greatly enhanced by the choir. We continue to assist the Rabbis in leading Shiva prayers for mourners.

With the unexpected early departure of Rabbi Kirschenbaum, this placed the remaining rabbinic team under considerable pressure to serve the needs of the community. However, with lay leaders, and also on occasion rabbis without a regular pulpit, all services were covered. We are grateful to Rabbi Mark and Rabbi Debbie for seeing us through this difficult period.

In May we held an open forum for members to consider the principles adopted by the Assembly of Reform Rabbis relating to Inherited Jewish Status, following which the Committee recommended to Council that the principles of Inherited Status be adopted by the Synagogue.

The Services Committee expresses its thanks to all those people, too numerous to mention individually, who have assisted in maintaining the spirituality and organisation of all our services.

When planning our services, the Committee have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. EHRS is committed to enabling as many people as possible to pray in our Synagogue and we welcome new members as well as visitors, including those of different faiths. Through our broadcast services, we are able to reach a wide audience both within the UK and worldwide. The Services Committee believes that thereby we maintain our Public Benefit commitment.

## HIGH HOLY DAYS:

This year was the first time for 3 years that we saw ourselves offering the same services as pre Covid but again having alternative options as well as livestream options for those wanting to watch from home. We started in February and held monthly meetings for the next 7 months.

This year the HHD brochure was slimmed down to pocket size and sent with the tickets. We produced a rounded programme, providing classical services as well as alternative offerings for those that wished for something different, being able to swap between the two. Owing to smaller numbers attending in person, we swapped use of the halls using the Community Centre for all the children/youth services which proved to be extremely successful wonderfully decorated by the children.

We also linked with the monthly Cookalong to produce honey caked served on Rosh Hashanah day 1. Rabbi Jackie Tabick joined us for the HHD's and was a welcome addition. Rabbi Mark unfortunately lost his father on Yom Kippur and his colleagues plus lay readers stepped up and ran round ensuring all services carried on and with the same standards.



**Honey Cake  
Cookalong 2022**



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A lot of time and effort was put in by all those involved and we strived to ensure that we set out a programme that would encourage members back into the synagogue for.

Whilst not all those applying turned up, it was encouraging to know that a lot more wanted to be in the building (up to 400 in some services) and hopefully will mean that they return to the building in the near future.

## YOUTH & EDUCATION:

This year the departments of Youth and Education merged to allow the professional team to work more closely together and to streamline the management.

**NAGILA:** We used the academic year to explore the cycle of Jewish festivals and learning about different cultures. We worked closely with all members of the Rabbinical Team as well as the EHRS Young Families Lead to promote their activities to our families. To continue the important tradition of giving to charity, we participated in a variety of 'charity days' across the year. In the summer we 'walked a mile to Israel' in support of Ohel Sarah and we came into nursery in our PJs for the Book Trust's Pyjamarama Day! We participated in Mitzvah Day, with parents and children working together to support a number of charities. We also participated in Just ONE Tree day. Through these fun days we hope to help teach our children that their actions, no matter how small, can make a real difference.

A whole staff team training session was held on 'emotion coaching' and working with children on their emotional development has formed a large focus of our curriculum. It is a process that enables us to see emotions as an opportunity to connect and teach children how to recognise and express their own feelings. Staff attend other refresher training on all aspects of the Early Years Curriculum. Nagila (with 37 currently attending) is open to members and non-members alike of all faiths and provides a warm introduction for many young families to EHRS.

**YOUNG FAMILIES:** 2022 saw a huge growth in participation at all young families' activities. Activities include Shabbat Stay & Play, Kuddle Up Shabbat, Shabbat Club & Birthday Blessings, Family Camping Shabbaton, HHD Family Services and other festival celebrations, Mitzvah Day Community Tea Party, the delivery of baby packs to all members and prospective members welcoming new babies, online

information and Q&A session to support parents with the collection of CRP points for Jewish school admission.

Shabbat Stay & Play sees 60 attendees each week enjoying creative activities themed around the week's parasha, festivals and Shabbat plus toys and a wonderful Kiddush joined by one of our Rabbis. Many non-members, alongside members, attend the group and they feel welcomed by EHRS. Leading to new families aided by the new young families offer which supports prospective families to become EHRS members.

Festival events are bigger than ever. The team aim to ensure family events are attended by Orot and youth centre participants. Both Purim and Chanukah saw sell out events with attendances in the 100's. They have a wonderful atmosphere and capture the spirit of family and Jewish community. HHD services for families were also very well attended.

Two highlights this year; 1. Was our first ever-Family Camping weekend. Sarah and Rabbi Debbie led 6 families in a true 'switched off' outdoors Shabbat experience. It was so special and such a successful weekend, and we look forward to planning next year! 2. The completion of our brand-new Sensory Room in December. This is in the Community Centre and provides a safe, calm and interactive sensory space for everyone, but particularly children with additional needs. Attendees of current programming are currently using it, with lots more plans in place for wider use.



Family Camping Trip 2022

**YOUTH:** The youth department has had a busy year. Key highlights are weekly term time Friday club, working with RSY, Pesach Play Scheme and Kaytana Summer Scheme, February & October half term schemes, Madrichim end of year dinner, May Half term B'nei Mitzvah residential weekend, 2 Hadracha classes, and well attended Youth Services.

Schemes have grown from 10 children a day now to 30 across ages 4 to 11. Drop zone (11+) has also grown to a bigger club of 10-15, this led to good numbers for our May Shabbaton.

Our Ofsted inspector in the Summer was very impressed with our programming and how creative it is. Ofsted also commented on how dedicated our staff are and that we have strong leadership. They also note how well we work with parents to build upon children's interest. Finally, Ofsted mentions how good we are at listening to children and making them feel valued. This is also echoed in our feedback from both parents and participants.

Kaytana Summer Scheme welcomed 81 participants, with amazing trips to Go Ape and Inflatation. Workshops included kickboxing, bushcraft, and Magic skills. Our Hadracha course continues to thrive for those in year 9 and above, teaching many different skills in leadership and confidence as well as practical skills about being in the work environment, including creating activities and interview skills.



October Half Term Scheme 2022

**OROT:** We have had another lovely year of learning and celebrations. The children wrote to King Charles to express their condolences at the passing of Queen Elizabeth. We have enjoyed working with our shinshin (Israeli high school graduate student doing a year of service before joining the army) teaching our children topics about Israeli life, as diverse as the Space programme and famous Israeli pop artists. We visited Aldenham Park as enrichment to our project learning about Animals in the Torah and the Jewish East End to enrich our Jews of England project.

Students learnt about the work of Norwood, and we have been inviting Norwood residents to our festival events, attending our Sukkot festivities, only the second time they had been out since lockdown. We were nominated by Norwood for a Volunteers Award, and as a finalist by Mitzvah Day for reaching out to the wider community including inviting Ukrainian guests and Norwood residents to our Mitzvah Day Tea.

We welcomed local schools during the year who wanted to visit the synagogue and we are proud of the excellent programme that the Youth & Education team and rabbis provide for schools.

Our 1:1 tutoring for B'nei Mitzvah Classes continues mostly online. Our BBM mentoring programme goes from strength to strength. The mentors are our post B'nei Mitzvah students who have built a wonderful, warm community of young people who feel they are at home in EHRS. Apart from working with their mentees to build their confidence for their bar/bat mitzvah, they instigated hot topics where each of them prepare and present a hot topic to the whole group. We are twinned with a group of students in Israel, sharing BBM experiences & tzedakah projects. Our BBM sessions based on Torah, Avodah & Gemilut Chasidim end each term with the students sharing their new knowledge and skills and we celebrate with a family dinner after the service.

**UNIFORMED GROUPS:** 3rd Edgware Scout Group is made up of three sections - Beaver (6-8), Cubs (8-10½) and Scouts (10½-14) and is run entirely by a team of devoted volunteers. Highlights from 2022: District Cubs Swimming Gala, Group Winter Camp, District Cubs Night Hike, St George's Day Parade, District Cubs Rafting Day, Beavers/Cubs Summer Camp, Scouts Summer Camp, Scouts cleaning the synagogue silverware for HHD, Remembrance Sunday Parade, Jump'n Sleepover. Offering adventurous outdoor activities, teaching skills for life and three residential experiences a year, the group has seen a sharp increase of membership (now 90) and now has a waiting list.

**ALL THINGS JEWISH:** Apart from our ongoing breakfasts, Talmud classes and Rosh Chodesh, other highlights include:, Rabbi Tanya's Desert Island Texts, The Day of Learning, Emma Brand's play 'The Stove', Who Jew You Think You Are held two special events where Rabbi Steven Katz & Rabbi Danny Smith and Chani shared their life stories. Stonegrove Serenade, and the Together Groups continue to grow, offering a diverse range of activities from Whiskey Tasting to the Shaking Sixties. We welcome suggestions from our members who want to start and lead a new group for our members. Next year All Things Jewish will transition into Stonegrove Life still supporting adult learning. The team is excited at the potential the new Stonegrove Life Committee can achieve.



## COMMUNITY CARE:

Community Care and Wellbeing offer members support, advice & advocacy through difficult times in their lives, offering practical and emotional support often when people are at their most vulnerable. Our strong community networks allow us to work in partnership with external organisations.

There were 71 member deaths in the community during 2022 and an additional 23 families were affected by the deaths of non-member relatives, surviving relatives were offered telephone support. Demand remained high from the bereaved for support and we have three bereavement social groups run by members for different age groups.

The pandemic community circles have mainly ceased although some members have stayed in touch with members they were calling, mainly as they are isolated members of our community and they have built a strong connection. Other calls have been absorbed into Telenet.

Community Care encourages friendships to help reduce loneliness and promote active inclusion in our community and the wider local community through the monthly lunch club that has continued to grow in popularity. We have approximately 25 regular attendees and welcome up to a further 10 additional visitors. We have a team of lunch club volunteers who assist.

The EHRS Memory Way Café provides a regular social gathering for people living with dementia and their family carers. The Cafe is popular with contact from both members and non-members in the local area and regularly hosts between 6-8 couples monthly and we operate an entertainment and activity programme. We have two regular volunteers who assist.

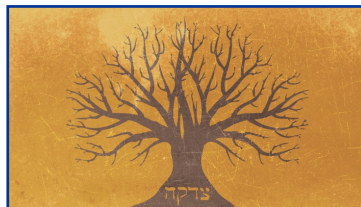
We have 414 members over the age of 85 and Telenet calls are made by volunteers who provide invaluable feedback on each call. Telenet is a vital outreach initiative that has allowed EHRS to get to know its membership, their needs and any concerns are followed up by Community Care staff. During 2022 we had increased contact from members wishing to volunteer, mainly for befriending.

## WITHIN EHRS:

**NEW OPTIONS:** We cater for the retired and semi-retired (60 plus). Our Bridge afternoons are still popular, now 30-35 people attend each week for an enjoyable and sociable afternoon. The monthly light-hearted topical discussions, 'Schmoozing With The Rabbis', were now held 'in person'. All our Rabbis contributed, to make it lively and popular. Another Community Weekend Away was held in May, when we visited Exeter. This informal and social weekend was very successful, with 29 members attending.

**YOUNG ADULTS:** The Young Adults group ran events including Beer & Shiur, Cookalongs and Friday Night Dinners supported by Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers.

**TZEDAKAH GROUP:** Each year a small group of people choose from among the various charities that approach us during the year for help, and decide which charities will best suit our community in our annual appeal. These are put out to you all in the High Holy Days Appeal. In 2022 it was decided not to include our own Community Needs Fund as this held a large amount available for our members who may need assistance. We raised just over £25,000 in our appeal last September for our chosen charities, Gift, My Yard, Resource, Hadassah UK, Krembo Wings, Meketa, Bloody Good Period, Chain of Hope and Our Second Home.



**Pirkei Avot 5:13: A person who gives charity, and wants others to give, is pious.**

**KIDDUSHIM:** The year started off with kiddush still being kept Covid friendly, items being individually wrapped and no sharing bowls. As things improved, we were able to relax our strict rules and add to our offering - this meant that B'nei Mitzvah families were able to offer enhanced kiddushim. We held a special kiddush in Sept for the inauguration of the scroll in memory of the late Rabbi Kraft z'l, it was a pleasure to organise this, attended by so many of the community. For the next 3 months our main kitchen was closed as we invested in completely refurbishing and renewing it- we now have a modern all purpose



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one - ready to provide modern catering both for Kiddushim and functions at EHRS. We look forward to offering even more options going forward.

**NOT THE WOMENS GUILD:** We continue to welcome women of all ages who belong to EHRS. Meeting in the Synagogue rather than members' homes, and we held our first meeting post pandemic in September. We are delighted to welcome members old and new, when we discussed a way forward - future meetings and activities would be held in the afternoon rather than the evening, and a programme was planned. In October Rabbi Debbie gave us a lively and informative talk about her career, and how she came to the Rabbinate. In December we held an enjoyable Chanukah social attended by several new faces, and had the pleasure of Rabbi Tanya popping in to light the Chanukah candles. A lovely way to end the year.

## ASSOCIATED GROUPS:

**JACS:** Because of Covid, JACS did not recommence until February 2022. 36 events were held with attendance varying between 16 and 40. Our talks included Jewish East End, History of Jewish London, The Changing Face of Israel, The Life of Emma Hamilton, How To Avoid Being a Victim of a Scam, Quiz about London, The Making of Movies, Marks and Spencer people, and Current Affairs. These talks were educational and informative to assist the attendees where they could benefit. Other events were music and singers which varied from opera to popular well known artists, and our members particularly enjoy these afternoons.

## SECURITY:

2022 was the first year in a while where full activities took place in the synagogue with no restrictions, with increasing numbers attending various events and services, protecting our community has risen in importance again.

During the week, paid for security guards are onsite covering daytime events as well as some evening events which was fairly normal process, Shabbat and religion school before Covid were generally covered by the security committee and volunteers, unfortunately due to lack of numbers, both now need to be covered also by the paid security.

During the High Holy Days, security was covered by members of the security council, paid for guards and

some community volunteers, with increasing numbers of members in the building we will need more assistance moving forwards, to assist with this, we intend on trying to encourage members to join the security committee, join us on a basic CST training course and hopefully volunteer more.

As mentioned previously more volunteers are needed for all aspects of security to protect our community and join our security committee, please contact the office for your details to be passed on.

## MEMBERSHIP:

The function of the membership committee is to actively encourage new members whilst also looking after our existing membership. The main projects of the committee in 2022 were to welcome new members and engage with existing members through the first EHRS Fest event.

The membership statistics as at 31/12/2022 are below:

Member families – 1,841

Adult members – 2,679

Children under 21 – 449

Affiliate Members (burial rights elsewhere) - 30

Associate members (non-Jewish with EHRS Jewish partner) - 23

Number of Cornerstone Members (new) - 8

Number of EHRS Friends (new) (Non-Jewish without EHRS Jewish partner) - 0

The main focus for 2022 was planning and running EHRS Fest, an event run on the same day as the AGM (16 October):

1. Met objectives to increase engagement with existing members and increase AGM attendance
2. 246 people registered in advance and 250-300 people attended on the day
3. There 50 stalls including 5 external charities and representation from MRJ, RSY
4. There was overwhelming positive feedback and a real buzz of excitement at the event
5. There has been significant increased attendance at groups and events following the Fest
6. It has been suggested this event is repeated in 2024



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## BEYOND EHRS:

**INTERFAITH:** In 2022, while the community continued to recover from Covid and rabbinic attention was focussed on this task, we remained committed to interfaith relationships being a part of the life of EHRS, and in bringing us into greater connection with the local community. With this in mind Rabbi Mark once again represented EHRS and the Reform Movement at the Barnet Holocaust Memorial Day service, along with the EHRS choir. Rabbi Debbie was invited as part of the interfaith leaders delegation at the Service of Memorial for Prince Phillip, and the annual Commonwealth Day service.

The community were delighted to welcome interfaith speakers, such as the Rev Suzanne Vernon Yorke who led a Shabbat Shiur, and various visitors to our services from other faith communities and Barnet Council. These local connections remain strong at a clergy level and are a part of the life of the community that the Rabbis are keen to develop when time allows. Our rabbis remain engaged and active in a variety of interfaith work and projects, as well as teaching trainee Jewish and Christian clergy about Jewish-Christian relations at our own Leo Baeck College, Ripon College Cuddesdon, Queens Ecumenical Foundation in Birmingham, the Community of St Anselm at Lambeth Palace and the One Spirit Interfaith Foundation. This is an effective way to ensure those preaching from pulpits around the UK over the next decades do so with a living knowledge of Judaism and Jewish people.

**SOCIAL ACTION GROUP:** Due to Covid, the rolling night shelter didn't run for the first part of the year. Instead Together in Barnet housed homeless people in a hotel in Golders Green. Seven volunteers from the EHRS community provided home cooked breakfasts and dinners and delivered them to up to 16 homeless guests on seven allocated nights. A member of the EHRS community has been a trustee of Together in Barnet for the duration of the year. The EHRS community continued to work in partnership with Career Ready, a social mobility charity that prepares A level students for the world of work. Two EHRS volunteers were mentored students in year 12 and year 13. The EHRS community collected donations and sent £1757.18 to World Jewish Relief.

## JEWISH AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS:

**AJEX:** Edgware AJEX and District Branch held a few meetings in the shul and it was nice to make contact once again. We held 2 remembrance services, one at EHRS on 5.11 and the other at Edgware United (12.11) which followed the same format as in previous years. Our members are always happy to meet with the youngsters at EHRS to tell our stories and bring along our memorabilia. The branch held our annual Remembrance Service at the Edgware War Memorial under the auspices of the Royal British Legion coordinated by Andrew Dissmore. We also attended the AJEX National Parade. There was a small contingent from EHRS – it is appreciated that you attend each year to honour those who fought and died in two world wars and other conflicts.

**JEWISH JOINT BURIAL SOCIETY:** All members are covered for their burial through their membership of the shul, and we work closely with the rabbis, administrative staff and care staff dealing with any deaths in the community, arranging the funerals and stone-settings. We see our role as taking care of not just the administration and logistics for a funeral to take place, but also taking care of the family of the bereaved. We cover 44 synagogues who are mostly a mix of Reform and Masorti, but we also have 3 Liberal synagogues & two independent synagogues. We offer mixed faith burial, either in our Woodland Cemetery, or in our Lawn cemetery, or traditional burial in the Western Cemetery, and for ex-Hendon members in Edgwarebury or New Southgate. We also carry out cremations at Golders Green or at other crematoria that may be more local to where the family live. In 2022, apart from the usual deaths, the JJBS also had to deal with the disproportionately high number of stone settings as a result of the pandemic.

**MRJ:** The movement has consolidated its position in the world of progressive Jewry during 2022 in various ways, helping 42 synagogues nationwide to grow and develop their offerings to the individual communities. Some of the highlights during the year have included:

- Setting up working parties to redraft the MRJ constitution and articles of association to align with the Charity Commission's requirements and to reflect the MRJ of today.

- The Movement celebrated its 80th anniversary with a range of events, including a special live podcast of 'Rabbing On' at JW3, featuring our very own Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers.
- Working alongside Liberal Judaism, to help Leo Baeck College, our vitally important rabbinic seminary, to achieve long term sustainability.
- RSY-Netzer, our national youth movement, is showing signs of real recovery from the impact of Covid and the lockdowns. This year five tour groups went on Israel Tour. That's some 210 teenagers participating in this life changing experience.
- Getting better media coverage in the Jewish press, radio and television and aiming for more rabbinic involvement in PR and communications as the year unfolds.
- Gaining better representation at important community events at the House of Commons, House of Lords, No.10 and the Foreign Office. Importantly, Reform Judaism was represented at the Queen's Funeral and Remembrance Sunday.

EHRs now has a stronger relationship with the Movement and with other larger communities through increased dialogue and communication on important issues such as status, the levy and the role of Reform Judaism in both the Jewish and wider world.

**BOARD OF DEPUTIES:** The Board of Deputies is the voice of the British Jewish Community, the first port of call for Government, the media and others seeking to understand Jewish community interests and concerns. Some key highlights of 2022 include holding the BBC to account for inaccurate and irresponsible reporting; promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the implementation of the recommendations of the commission on racial inclusivity in the Jewish Community; supporting Ukrainians affected by the Russian invasion; promoting sustainability and initiatives to combat climate change with our partnership with Ecosynagogue; tackling antisemitism and on-line hate including presenting at the International Forum for Freedom of Religion and Belief; parliamentary advocacy including lobbying for international terror groups and organisations to be proscribed, working hard for stronger economic ties with Israel and welcoming the BDS Bill which aims to outlaw boycotts; promoting interfaith and world peace initiatives, including attending the Abu Dhabi Forum for World Peace.

At EHRs there are 5 representatives on the Board, including some new younger reps who are keen to

make their voices heard on matters such as equality and climate change. The senior Vice President of the Board is also a council member of EHRs.

## TRUSTEES OF THE EDGWARE & HENDON REFORM SYNAGOGUE

ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF EHRs  
16 OCTOBER 2022

Mrs F Aitman  
Mr E Allen  
Mr R Brand  
Mrs D Bryk  
Mr K Darvill  
Mr N Flash  
Mrs S Garson  
Mr J Harrod  
Mr A Hirsh  
Mr B Konyn  
Mr K Maddison  
Mr D Mendoza-Wolfson  
Mr D Mitchell  
Mr M Lerman  
Mr E Sander  
Mrs J Sigalov  
Mr D Stiassny  
Mr B Trainis  
Mrs J Weber  
Mr M Weber  
Mr A Woolstone

Signed by:

J Harrod - Trustee & Chairman

M Weber - Trustee & Honorary Secretary



Edgware & Hendon  
Reform Synagogue  
ק"ק לדור ודור





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Reform Synagogue  
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