



The movement for  
**REFORM JUDAISM**

# Shirei meets Chagigah

A weekend of music and celebrating our Judaism

Some of the sessions waiting for you include:

## Communities that Care

**A Year of Jewish Wellbeing:** Our traditions, stories and practices are lessons for life, helping us to care for ourselves and others, starting with Shabbat as a day of rest. We will explore the cycle of the Jewish year and what each festival can teach us about wellbeing.

**Our presence is the best present: Being with people in difficult times:** In our busy lives, we often focus on what we can DO for people but often the best thing we can do is to BE with people through difficult times. Listening and being present has strong Jewish traditions, from the commandment 'Shema' – 'to listen' – through to the Jewish roots of psychotherapeutic practices, we will explore the power of just being, as well as considering how we look after ourselves in this emotionally demanding role.

## Israel

**Israel-Hamas War: Can Jewish thought help anchor us in this moment?** At such a distressing and confusing time this session will offer frameworks from post-Shoah Jewish thought to help us speak about this terrifying moment which we are living through.

**Engaging with Israel as Progressive Jews:** With special guests Over the last year we have faced unprecedented challenges as Progressive Jews in our relationship with Israel. How do we articulate and enact our core Jewish values while also supporting the Jewish state? How do we both express our love of Israel and play a part in ensuring it reflects the ideals of its founders?

## Progressively Jewish

**How do Progressive Jews put on our shoes?** One of the most fundamental Jewish questions is how we make decisions about personal and community practice. In particular, what is the status of Jewish legal texts and of halakhah (Jewish law). Are there limits to our decisions that bind us to one another or to Jewish tradition?

**Being brave, leading differently** The development of a thriving Progressive Judaism demands brave leadership and a new approach to working in partnership. In this session, the CEOs of Reform and Liberal Judaism alongside their Chairs and other members of the Advisory Group overseeing the process will explore what it means to lead differently in this moment.

## Shirei Chagigah

**"But I just want to sing!"** Whether it's new contemporary repertoire, additional harmonies to music you might already know, or rounds that you can share with others, join us to just sing for the sake of singing!

**Jewish music for mental health** whether it's singing for your soul today or thinking about how to help your community, learn songs and sung prayers that soothe, inspire and comfort.

**Elul:** Using the themes of Psalm 27 and Hashiveinu; Opening the season of change; inviting curiosity; preparing to greet new ways and perspectives in our liturgy and in ourselves, melodically and textually

## Music of the new Machzor

**Licence to Change:** If you don't change the music when you have a new machzor, when will you? Explore the new musical gems available with our new machzor. And if not now, when?

**Learning new music for Yom Kippur Musaf:** The new machzor offers many exciting new musical opportunities. A number of these can be found as options within the YK Musaf service. We'll sing together to make these musical opportunities real.

**Music as Midrash:** Avinu Malkeinu: is a prayer that we sing only during the High Holy Days and usually to the same melody each time. Experience how different settings can be used to express different parts of the text and even consider using different versions at different times.

## Communities that Change

**What is Change?** We will be looking at the meaning of change, how we know it is needed and how to deal with change that was not our choice.

**Politics and Change:** we will consider the community politics and cultural needs around change, the environment in which synagogues operate and how to ensure that we change with our members not against them.

**Communication and Investing in Change:** will turn to the importance of communicating change and how our story of change can become worthy of celebration. Additionally we will look at the resources we need to plan for in order to run a successful change process and then implement it.

**Implementation, Conclusion and Next Steps:** focusing on implementing change and planning for it from the outset, investigating how volunteers can do so effectively and the importance of building an impactful implementation team. We will conclude with a summary of our learning together, how to find sources of support for change, mutual and external, and we will consider evaluating the effectiveness of change.

## Our New Machzor

**SatNav Guide to the High Holydays and our new Machzor:** Get an orientation and overview of the liturgical journey of the High Holydays to appreciate rhythms of the services. We'll explore how our new machzor forms part of a chain of tradition and takes its place in the context of our Reform Jewish liturgy.

**These are a few of my favourite things:** 'All 1378 pages of our new (2 volume) machzor in an hour! This guided tour will take in some of the main features, the liturgical treasures and innovations of the new machzor. Seatbelts required!

**What's happening in Yom Kippur Musaf?** This is not just the 'additional' service! Gain a deeper understanding of Musaf, its central position (as the most significant service?) in the structure of Yom Kippur and the new opportunities it now offers.

**Shirei Chagigah - 14th-17th March**

**Chagigah - 15th-17th March**

