



Friday Mincha	שבת Shacharit	שבת Mincha	שבת Ends	Sun Shacharit	Next Friday
7:15PM	9:15AM	7:45PM	8:45PM	8:20AM	7:15PM

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to Julia and Daniel Greenberg on the marriage of their daughter Shira to Yair Halberstadt.

Shabbat Machar Chodesh

When Parashat Shmini coincides with a special Shabbat, we read a different Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18 - 20:42.

Yellow Candle Project

Thanks to Simon Leigh for organising and all those who participated in the Yellow Candle Project, a community wide initiative to commemorate "Yom Hashoa" Holocaust Memorial Day which took place last Wednesday evening. This was a meaningful way of remembering the atrocities that befell our people and others during the second world war.

Stonesetting

The stonesetting for Malcolm Brookes (father of Stewart Brookes and husband of Eileen Brookes) will take place at Bushey Cemetery on Sunday 22 April at 11:00am.

Members Fundraising

Shelley and David Berke are going on a trek to raise money for Camp Simcha. They have a fundraising page which explains about the trek and why they are doing it: <https://bit.ly/2rUxLdo>. Please support if you are able.

Additional Information

Lighting	Earliest time 6:28pm Shabbat at 7:39pm
Chabura	Rabbi Martin Taubman at 9:00am
Leining	Josh Abeles
Molad	Rosh Chodesh Iyar Yiheyey beyom Harishon u'veyom Hasheni Haba Aleinu Letova. The Molad will be on Sunday at 4:37pm and 5 Chalakim.
Children	Magen Minis/Maxis at 10:45am This week's Magen Munchies is kindly sponsored in loving memory of Ahron ben Moshe Yeudah Leib z"l.
Speaker	Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis (Shabbat Morning)
Kiddush	The Kiddush this week is kindly sponsored by Evelyn and Sydney Sunshine to thank the Kehilla for its warmth and hospitality. The Whiskies of the Week are a Deanston 12-year-old and a Bruichladdich Port Charlotte heavily peated.
Speaker	Rabbi Uri Debson (after Mincha)

Message from Daniel Greenberg (emailed before Yom Tov)

The following message was distributed just before last days of Yom Tov.... I just watched a beautiful flash mob rendition of Beethoven's Ode to Spring which is highly appropriate to our Chag HaAviv - <https://youtu.be/fj6r3-sQr58>. It put a thought in my mind that I wanted to share with my friends at Magen Avot half way through this Yom Tov. A shul is a bit like a flash mob – or at least ours is: in particular, it is normally rather less spontaneous than it appears, because someone had to organise it and arrange it. Which makes this a good moment to offer thanks on behalf of us all to Daniel Ebreich who has performed the sole gabbai in residence role with such aplomb, to Simon Leigh for ensuring continuity of morning minyonim and to everyone else who keeps us going. But the organisation isn't the point of a flash mob – it's the mob that it enables to flash in. It's always slightly different, and it always gives a slightly different feel and flavour to old melodies and old words. And that sums up what Magen Avot means to me. One of the reasons why we wanted to set up an open shul and not a closed community back nearly three years ago is that this way every tefillah takes on a slightly different flavour depending on exactly who comes to join us. There are some common and continuous components, but they are given a constant freshness and reinvigoration by being surrounded by a variable cast who place the tefillos in an entirely new setting every time. The Seder Table teaches us many things: one of them is that the table is not complete without the four sons. As the baal Haggadah says, even if we were all chachomim, nevonim and yodei Torah, we would sit and tell the story of the four sons, yearning to be joined by everyone in the widest possible Jewish family, whether they contribute wisdom like the chacham, challenge us like the rashah, offer us an opportunity to help them like the tam, or just stand in silent wonder and inspire us to draw them in and help them to formulate a useful question. Every child's contribution is unique and invaluable and the table is empty without any one of them; in our community everyone who joins us adds something special and irreplaceable to the davening. This Pesach has been wonderful at Magen Avot. We have missed many of our regulars who are away but the fact that so many are in Israel makes us feel closer to the time when we will all be olim l'regel iy'h. The absence of so many has made it even more important for all our remaining members, regular visitors, occasional visitors, and once-off guests to step up to make the flash mob work – and it has, for me and I hope for everyone. On the last day of yom tov that flash mob becomes even more special, when we let into our midst the memories of so many people we loved when they were alive and still love now they are gone. Pesach probably carries more poignant memories than any other yom tov, as the familiar kitchen and dining room items come out of storage again and each one brings a memory of a smile, a laugh or a tear. Yizkor is important for each person who remembers someone, but it is also so important for the community as a whole, to enhance our final flash mob of the yom tov with special memories. Once again, I hope this year those who leave the shul for Yizkor will do so very quietly, as if we were tiptoeing out of the room to leave space and time for our friends to reflect on those they have loved. Sorry for the random thoughts – but that's Youtube for you: chag sameyach l'kulanu, la'rochok v'lakorov.

Daniel Greenberg

