



2017 Speech of the Trustee Board/Board of Elders of the Congregation

General

The S&P has had a year of sustained programmatic growth and investment for the future. During the year we have fully implemented a governance review, and we have a new and dynamic board which is formulating strategic plans. We have launched a successful fundraising Patronage Campaign to support several projects including the Office of Rabbi Dweck.

Review of the year's plans

We set the following aims in last year's report for 2015/16:-

- To grow membership within our existing three synagogues by at least 5 families a month. We would set measures for membership including retention of existing members. During the year we grew by 57 people including newly marrieds. This was less than our target and will be of renewed focus in 2016/17
- To set up a formal affiliate structure by examining what we mean by an affiliate and setting benefits and charges for affiliates. This includes defining the difference between affiliation and full integration. We have now refined our affiliate scheme and are in discussion with a number of synagogues.
- The Mahamad intended to also consider interest in communities seeking full integration although the admission of such a community would be approved by membership in an EGM in accordance with the Ascamoto. These plans did not progress.
- To develop and grow a community centre at Bevis Marks. This includes working with Barker Langham Consultants on a Lottery Heritage application as well as establishing a shorter-term plan with Rabbi Morris. A lottery application was submitted and has been revised and resubmitted.
- To establish a fundraising function that includes Trusts, Heritage Funds, Legacies and Major Gifts. The stretched fundraising target is £500k per annum for three years. This function was established and has been a success.
- To ensure that we offer the best possible experience to all our members when they interact with the S&P. This includes attending services; programme attendance; attending Heder classes; using the website; interacting with staff; holding lifecycle events and any other ways members access the S&P.
- In order to facilitate the above, we :
 - Wrote a 3-Year Business Plan which was presented to the Kahal during 2016.
 - Maximised the use of the new brand through sustained marketing.
 - Established the right governance structure for S&P for the future.



The charity has monitored progress against these objectives and the Trustees are pleased that the organisation has put in place steps to ensure it has the correct governance and financial framework for the future. There will be a continued focus on membership growth.

Plans for the coming year

The new Board has set the following objectives for 2016/17

To continue to develop the S&P for the future with an emphasis on financial sustainability by:

- Continuing to grow membership within our existing three synagogues with a continued target of 5 families a month.
- Finalising our affiliate arrangements for those charities that use our Beth Din and burial services with appropriate charges.
- Investigating plans to set up a new synagogue in Hendon.
- Looking at potential partnerships as opportunities arise.
- Continuing to develop and grow a community centre at Bevis Marks. This included resubmitting our Lottery Heritage application as well as establishing a formal shorter term plan with Rabbi Morris that builds on the programmes successes and translates attendance into income.
- We will focus on financial viability by:
 - Aiming for a break even budget for 2016/17
 - Improving transparency of finances at divisional level via improved procedures and reporting.
 - Improve accountability by giving Budget Holders responsibility for ensuring that costs are managed.
 - Agreeing an asset finance plan and in particular agreeing funding plans for the purchase of Vale Close Freehold
- Maximising our fundraising income, increasing the number of patrons and supporters and launching our legacy campaign as well as funding the office of Rabbi Dweck. The stretched fundraising target is £500k per annum for three years.
- Instigating a comprehensive cost review to minimise expenditure.
- We will continue to aim to ensure that we offer the best possible experience to all our members when they interact with the S&P. This includes attending services, programme attendance, attending Cheder classes, using the website, interacting with staff, holding lifecycle events and any other ways members access the S&P.

In order to facilitate the above we will:

1. Revise our 3 year business plan. This will include plans for the assets of S&P.
2. Review the core operational structure of S&P and in particular improve the financial management systems and processes of the S&P.

All the above aims will continue the support of the charitable work of the congregation. Success will be measured against goals at monthly Trustees meeting and KPIs will be set to monitor progress.



In addition to the above the intention is to put in place a Corporate Trustee which will limit the liability of individual Board Members of the charity.

Membership

During the course of the year we welcomed 35 new members to the congregation plus 22 newly married couples. We hope that they will all enjoy a long and happy membership.

Unfortunately, 26 members passed away during this period. (Lauderdale Road – 12, Bevis Marks – 8, Wembley – 6). We wish their families many years free from further sorrow. Others communities -54 funerals of which 27 are non-members (80 funerals in total).

Also 44 members regrettably resigned their membership or were removed from the membership database due to a database clean up. A further 18 members did not take up membership after year one of marriage.

At the end of October 2016 we had 1175 adult members in total, made up of 884 electors of Lauderdale Road Synagogue (representing 75% of the membership), 135 of Wembley Synagogue (representing 12% of the membership), 156 of Bevis Marks Synagogue (representing 13% of the membership).

The charity relies on volunteers (see the committee lists) who spend many hours supporting the work of the community in running the synagogues.

Rabbi Dweck – 1st November 2015 – 31st October 2016

Rabbi Dweck has amongst other things:

- Held regular weekly Sunday Shiurim at LR – Yabia Omer; Philosophy plus Pre Yom Tob Shiurim
- Held a regular weekly Halacha and Philosophy shiur at Porat Yosef, Hendon, from September 2016 to July 2016 and giving the same weekly shiur at Ner Yisrael to audiences of 150+
- Held a Shabbat shiur on a fortnightly basis at Lauderdale Road; Book Club on monthly basis at LR
- Ran Oriental Services on a Shabbat Morning and High Holy Days
- Held a Sunday Tephilin Brunch
- Promoted and worked with 'Hexagon' to run events at the Synagogue particularly for the French community
- Sept 2016 onwards Regular 'Boyz Nite Learning with Pizza' for participants of the Young Families Lunch Club
- Given Lunch and Learn sessions to law firms in the city and Breakfast classes at other city locations
- Held young couples Dessert and Discussion sessions and Young Family Shabbat Lunches
- Hosted Shabbat and Yom Tob meals regularly
- Private Shiurim evenings in member's homes



- Young Professional Friday night dinners in conjunction with TAL
- Presided over events at LR for the community i.e. 2nd Annual Memorial Day for Jewish refugees from Arab lands organised by Harif; Maisie Meyer Baghdadi Evening and Book Launch
- Young Professionals Simhat Bet HaShoeva at the home of the Dweck's
- Attended Montefiore Endowment Advisory Council Meetings; S&P Board Meetings
- Worked extensively with LSJS and spoken at for example, their annual National Jewish Education Conference
- Spoken at major Jewish schools including Hasmonian Boys Prize Day – Guest Speaker /Prize Giving; Yavneh Sixth Form; Immanuel College entire school
- Visited Side by Side Special nursery, Stamford Hill; Chaverim Boys Club Stamford Hill
- 4 Shabbatonim at Wembley Synagogue; 4 Shabbatonim Bevis Marks
- Been Keynote Speaker at Noam Annual Gala Dinner; Edgware Sephardi Minyan Malava Malka, Tal Inaugural Gala Dinner, GIFT Annual Dinner
- Officiated at weddings both at Lauderdale Road and Bevis Marks
Devised and hosted a 4 day trip for the Rishon L'Tzion, Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel-Rav Yitzhak Yosef to visit the UK
- Worked with Alison and the Board on affiliating other Sephardi communities into the S&P
- Visited other communities for a Shabbat including Keynote Speaker and guest at Sephardi Shabbaton Stanmore organised By The Stanmore Sephardi Service (spoke to over 250 people) throughout the Shabbat
- Attended Debate and Dinner with the Supreme Court Judges
- UJIA Event - SIPPUR (similar to TED) at JW3- Rabbi Dweck invited as Guest Speaker, videoed for online distribution
- Prayed twice a week regularly on Tuesdays and Fridays at Bevis Mark's followed by a Dvar Torah
- Attended regular meetings of the SKA and the London Shechita Board
- Involvement and attendance at meetings with Initiation Society regarding community-wide issues concerning Brit Milah
- Civic Ceremonies such as Commemoration of British Jews who fought at the Battle of the Somme at Bevis Marks; A National Service Of Thanksgiving To Mark The 90th Birthday Of Her Majesty The Queen at St. Paul's Cathedral.
- Attended various meetings of the Board of Deputies of British Jews
- Speaking to Montefiore Semicha students' wives; Teaching the Montefiore Students
- Trips to Manchester to visit Share Sedek Community
- Attended CER International Rabbinic Conferences in Athens; CER Gala Dinner; CER Annual Conference in Vienna; CER Awarding of Lord Jakobovits Prize to King Felipe of Spain
- Spoken at over 30 events for the wider community including Guest Speaker at Marble Arch United Synagogue Breakfast shiur; Belmont Community Pesach Shiur; Rabbi Dweck in conversation with Rabbanit Adina Bar Shalom 'The Future of Leadership in Israel' at Ner Yisrael; Speaker at Conference on 360th Anniversary Of Return Of Jewish Community To England 1656 in Cambridge; United Synagogue Chevra Kaddisha Dinner Speaker; US Chevra Kaddisha Women's Dinner; Speaking to launch Young US Speaking Series; Judge at Etgar Inter School Annual Championship Quiz 2016



- Attended Pre Yom Tov Chief Rabbi's Conference Dinner; 68th Israel Independence Day
- Attended, as speaker and participant, over 8 interfaith national and international events including CCJ Gala Dinner Nov 2015; The Lambeth Conversation with Archbishop Of Canterbury - A Private Discussion on 'Religiously Motivated Violence'; CCJ President's Meeting; Inauguration of New General Synod of C of E in Presence of Her Majesty the Queen; Attended the Chief Rabbi and Rabbi Binstock's Iftar Evening; Lambeth Palace Inter Religious Reception
- Held regular meetings with the Chief Rabbi to discuss communal issues and current matters
- Attended Gala Dinners for various charities including Israel Soldiers (Awis) Gala Dinner; Norwood; Bicom; Camp Simcha; Chazak Annual Dinner; UJIA Gala Dinner; Jewish Care; Kisharon; The Board of Deputies President's Dinner
- Employed Dayan Navon as the new Rosh Beth Din for S&P Beth Din
- Sits on the Beth Din alongside Dayan Navon and Dayan David on monthly week long Beth Din sessions including conversions, Battei Din, Getim
- Reception on behalf of 'the Commonwealth Jewish Council' in House of Lords
- Media: JC interview re Perspectives Video Series; filming talk for Jewish TV; Interview with Hamodia; Monthly JC Sidrah Column
- Worked with Eddie Cohen of SKA to oversee the retirement of David Steinhoff and the subsequent appointment of Mr Chaim Richman and an overhaul of the SKA
- Joint ventures with the United Synagogue, i.e. Rabbi Dweck spoke at a Child Protection Seminar Organised By The United Synagogue; Chief Rabbi's Ma'ayanot Programme - Introductory Address
- Working with the Youth: Dinner with Youngsters to launch Leadership Training Programme
- Presided over interview panel to appoint two new Youth Directors for S&P Sephardi Community

We are privileged to have three wonderful Synagogues all with their own unique history and place in our hearts. Bevis Marks is our cathedral Synagogue. It is Grade I listed and registered with the National Trust and enjoys over 3000 visitors a year.

Bevis Marks and Rabbi Morris

This past year at Bevis Marks Synagogue continues our path of growth and increased activity, both for our membership and for the many other groups who make use of our wonderful synagogue. We are particularly delighted to have welcomed 9 new members in the past year, certainly a record in recent times. This demonstrates the impact that our increased activity has had under Rabbi Morris' leadership.

Shabbat services continue to be led by our "home team" of lay readers. Special mention to Maurice Martin, Lawrence Kilshaw, Jeremy Schonfield, Howard Martin and Frank Martin for all their support of Rabbi Morris in leading these services.

The choir continues in fine voice, and we are particularly delighted that our beloved choirmaster Maurice Martin in on the path to full recovery following his recent period of ill health.



We are maintaining our morning minyan with services led every day by Rabbi Morris. As ever, we would benefit from increased attendance and anyone who finds themselves in the city, or would just like to attend are more than welcome. They will be treated to a hearty breakfast as a reward for their efforts.

The High Holidays were led expertly by Philip Maurice and Nachshon Rodrigues Pereira of Amsterdam, who joined us for Yom Kippur. These two ensured the highest quality of hazanut for the high attendance (over 300 people on Kippur). A particular highlight was Rabbi Morris reading Musaf on Rosh Hashanah for the first time. His sermons also continue to be entertaining and inspiring. For the first time we asked visitors to pre-register and make a donation. This led to well over 100 people doing so and raised over £3000.

Pesach was a notable highlight as ever, with the Seder led by Rabbi Morris on both nights. Nachshon Rodrigues Pereira led for the first time in London the services of 9th Ab with his usual musical mastery. On Purim, Rabbi Dweck read the megillah beautifully in the evening to a packed house with Eliot Alderman reading in the morning with great expertise.

The season culminated in touching renditions of our scriptures by our esteemed communal leader Jonathan Solomons as Hatan Bereshit, and our most revered Senior Rabbi Joseph Dweck as Hatan Torah.

It was with sadness that we saw Rev and Mrs. Gingold move out of their home local to the synagogue, in order to enjoy a more sustainable quality of life in North London.

Our synagogue manager Maurice Bitton continues his sterling work during the week, with the welcoming of tourists and making sure that all of the needs of the synagogue and community are addressed in a most dignified manner.

June 2016 was the centenary of Battle of the Somme and we were delighted to host the Jewish community's commemoration of this important event. The service was moving and poignant with a particular focus on the Jewish contribution to the war effort. Our thanks to Maurice Bitton for ensuring that this event was so well planned and executed so smoothly.

Rabbi Dweck's regular lectures continue to inspire all present. The Dweck family's visits to Bevis Marks on Shabbatot have been particularly appreciated by regular congregants and visitors alike.

Rabbi Shalom Morris continues his ceaseless efforts to reenergise our community in all manners. His arrival has lent energy to our ambitions to grow, as he settled into the illustrious pulpit. Attendance at all our services stabilised, with new contacts established, particularly through social media on which our presence continues to grow.

Our programme of events continues to expand, continuing the journey towards Bevis Marks becoming the Jewish cultural and educational centre for the City.



Once a month the synagogue hosts a midweek social event attracting between 75-150 city workers. These included holiday cocktail evenings, an after dark tour, neighbourhood walking tour, and Israel Independence BBQ.

Every Monday night is now a study night with monthly lectures and weekly lectures covering subjects such as history, philosophy, law, Sephardim, Hebrew, and Holidays. Attendance is typically about 30 individuals.

The synagogue hosts Friday night dinners once a month, whether for the broader community, or for Young Professionals, Ex-Pats, Students, or otherwise. They attract between 30-50 people.

We now also host visitors every Shabbat for dinner and lunch, with bookings for those meals made online and hosted by our rabbi.

With Rabbi Morris at the helm, we have every reason to be optimistic about 2017 and the bright future ahead for us all.

Lauderdale Road Synagogue and Rabbi Israel Elia

Lauderdale Road has continued to deliver our mission of providing a welcoming enriching educational Sephardi Jewish experience and continues to be the pinnacle of our community with the majority of members.

- Rabbi Elia has officiated on many life-cycle events
- Conducted home visits/hospital visits
- Guiding New Rabbis
- Made in Heaven Courses
- Interfaith Pathways – discussions between Jews, Christians and Muslims.
- Education Committee
- Overseeing Talmud Torah Classes
- Heshaim Meetings
- Regular School Children visits to Synagogue e.g. Paddington Academy (most of the children attended where Muslim), St Paul's and Students from Texas
- Shabbat UK
- Talks pre -chagim
- Organising Chagim including Oriental Service, Lulavim
- Shabbat Bereshit Dinner
- Overseeing BA Shabbaton
- Friday night dinners – Newly engaged and married couples
- Lead from the front – Series of shiurim
- Bringing it home – Series of shiurim
- Tu B'Shevat Seder and Shiur
- Friday Night Kiddush and Shiur – in winter months
- Charity Events – e.g. Zichron Menachem (children with cancer charity)
- Dedication of a Sepher Torah

The S&P Sephardi Community

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The home of the Sephardi community since 1656

S&P Sephardi Community is the working name of charities in connection with the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Synagogue
 Registered charity number 212517



- Choral Mincha and Arbit Service

The Lauderdale Road Committee

- Umbrella committee for Lauderdale Road, co-ordinating all the various committees within the congregation
- Responsibility for selection of Parnasim and Hatanim
- Security and Greeters
- Youth services, youth leader, entertainment for children of all ages, Little Lauderdale Club
- Encouragement of new and younger members – New Members Kiddush, LR luncheon club, Welcome Pack
- Caring for the sick, bereaved and older members of the congregation
- Producing future events and co-ordinating seating and appeal over the Hagim
- Running and maintenance of buildings, including the kitchens, courtyard and gardens

Seating Committee

- The role of the seating committee is to allocate seats to Finta paying members at Lauderdale Road
- The committee meets every 2-3 months particularly during the Chagim
- There continues to be a lack of seats available particularly for the ladies.
- The committee regularly reviews the current situation with seats and proposes reallocations. Often seat holders do not wish to be reallocated.
- For the High Holy days, we are regularly reviewing the seating allocations to ensure that congregants are satisfied, whilst minimising the administrative burden for the committee and the office.
- Finta arrears are taken into consideration sensitively.

The Lauderdale Road Synagogue Association

The LRSA carried out the following events during the year:

- 18th November - card evening in memory of Eileen Hakkak
- Supper quiz
- Purim party
- Wine tasting which was kindly hosted by Rabbi & Mrs Dweck
- Friendship Club in memory of Rose Corre
- May - All Aboard charity shop
- Trip to Lille
- 21st June - BBQ
- 28th September - Lunch in succah
- 4th October - Hoshana breakfast
- 5th October - Simchat Torah party



Friendship Club

- Despite having a wonderful team of volunteers, we are regularly finding ourselves short of drivers to bring in the increasing number of people who are joining the club, many of whom are elderly and frail. We now have more than thirty members who need picking up and taking home every week. For the first time in living memory, we had to pay for a minicab to pick up members from Golders Green. We need to attract younger blood to lend a hand - a perennial cry throughout the synagogue committees.
- The club meets every Wednesday afternoon and provides a much-needed venue for the senior members of our synagogue as well as for those not affiliated. We celebrate the Jewish festivals; observe the highlights of the Jewish calendar; organise weekly speakers and entertainers; show films; hold raffles; supply teas; celebrate members' birthdays and organise outings.
- The annual garden party at Lesley's house, which is so looked forward to by both our members and our committee, took place this year on the hottest day of the summer, with the temperature in the 90s. Lesley kept everyone cool, by moving the tables into the shade of the trees; by providing hand held fans; and supplying individual ice creams to one and all. The quality of her teas is renowned, and over seventy people turned up for the afternoon, including Rhoda Nahum, who, despite being very ill, made the effort to dress up and come. It was the last outing she managed - we were very sad to hear of her passing. She dedicated many years of her life to the club, being happiest when she helped out in the kitchen with Vera Morris & Rosie Corre.
- The theatre outing to Mamma Mia was a great success. The music was good, if rather noisy, but those who couldn't cope with the decibel level just removed their hearing aids!
- The average age of our members is creeping up, and we have many sprightly nonagenarians. Lucy Douek celebrated her 95th birthday with a delicious tea - her family donated money towards the club's expenses. Lucy's dearest wish was for the Rabbis Israel & Dweck to join her for tea - they both cleared their diaries, much to her delight.
- We provide a very warm and caring atmosphere, and are a lifeline to many members who are otherwise housebound.

Youth Directors' Report

Through our dedicated team of Rabbinic and lay leaders together with two new Youth Directors, we ensure that our children and teenagers are encouraged, engaged and entertained.

Toddlers (age 0-4) –

We have continued to hold our service for babies and toddlers which is very popular. We have also brought in a new madricha from the community who will learn to lead the service herself.

Numbers vary (often weather dependent) but the average is 6-10 plus parents.



Children (age 5-11) –

Since the beginning of the year we have held weekly children's services run by our very own madrichim. Numbers have been steady and we have around 8-10 children each week. We are also looking to increase that number by better integrating children from the cheder (who are not regulars at Lauderdale) into our Shabbat and weekday activities. Outside of regular children's services, we have held the following events:

- a Succah crawl
- 'Bnei Torah' celebration to mark Simhat Torah. The boys took part in a joint Aliya where we read the final verse of the Torah, followed by the girls reading the opening verses of Bereshit.
- Ice skating at JW3
- Shabbat lunch for Channuka with children's entertainment. We had around 90 people attend including many non-regulars
- Film-night to mark Tu Bishvat

Youth (age 11-18) –

Our youth programme has two parts. On Shabbat Years 7-10 join us in the flat for hot chocolate with topical discussion and chess games. The numbers do fluctuate (as many of the teenagers have bar mitzvahs in other synagogues), but we consistently have 5-6 and at times have more than 10. The teenagers in years 11-13 spend Shabbat mornings running activities for the younger children. We have spent time training the seven madrichim and have seen an improvement in the quality of children's services, but of course we will continue to work on this. The madrichim have also taken part in planning our upcoming Purim events, and we feel it's important that young people in the community can take part in decision making. We also have plans to hold other social events including games tournaments, group baking and bringing in guest speakers.

We are pleased to say that Wembley Synagogue will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

Wembley and Rabbi Kada

- A turn out of over 20 people to a lecture titled the role of woman in Orthodox Judaism. By R Kada.
- KKWW5 melava malka, follow up from Shabbat UK with over 150 people and a very inspirational talk by Rabbi Tatz.
- Chanukah party at Kada home for all children. Attended by six families and a very enjoyable evening. Entertainment for kids and prizes.
- Installation.
- Chief Rabbi Mirvis visited us. 75 people. Amazing breakfast and talk about Jewish identity by the CR.
- Tu Bishvat Fruity Tooty Kiddush with very good attendance
- Beautiful exotic Tu Bishvat party at Kada home for over 20 people.
- Lecture by R Kada titled 'Why do bad things happen to good people'. Attendance of over 30 people, many from neighbouring communities.



- Pre Purim party in the Kada's house with over 15 people present. Great food, puzzles and entertainment.
- Over 60 people for Purim night with a kids choir and delicious supper organized by the Ladies Guild. Tammy Kada bought and created mishloach manot arrangements for the entire community which was appreciated by all.
- Rabbi Dweck Visit: Beautiful Friday night dinner with inspiring words from RJD. Well-attended shachrit. Mincha Shabbat afternoon with a Q n A session and seudah shlishit.
- Conversation between Rabbi Black of Kenton US and Rabbi Kada with regards to the different customs of Ashkenazim and Sephardim over Pesach. Well attended.
- Yom Ha'atsmaut Kiddush.
- D Benveniste Kiddush.
- Well attended Shavuot service and Lunch.
- Rabbi Israel Elia visited Wembley for Shabbat. We had a full Shabbat which was well attended. There was a Friday night hot Kiddush and Rabbi Elia was subsequently entertained by the Kada's. On Shabbat afternoon Rabbi Elia gave a very interesting talk about his experience meeting the King of Bahrain which was followed by Mincha and Seudah shelishit and Havdalah.
- Brit for Dan Benveniste's son.
- Lecture: why keep Kosher? Well attended lecture.
- Victor Sassoon
- Annual BBQ: Very successful event with over 60 people attending. Good food, weather and fantastic atmosphere. Rabbi Dweck and family joined us.
- Rabbi Kada: Pre Rosh Hashanah Lecture: 'The five most important minutes of YK'. Attendance of over 20 people.

5777:

- RH: Welcomed Hazan Nachson Pereira Rodriguez who inspired us with his tefillot.
- YK: Welcomed Hazan Amos Hadad who inspired us with his tefillot.
- Succot: A delicious lunch in the Succah which was attended by over 50 congregants.
- Simchat Torah: Lively Hakafot in the evening with lots of kids. Sweets enjoyed by all.
- Simchat Torah: Our Hatan Torah, Charles Dallal read beautifully and we enjoyed a delicious lunch after the service.
- Shabbat Bereishit: Our Hatan Bereishit, Daniel Sassoon read beautifully and we enjoyed a delicious kiddush after the service.
- Shabbat UK-A beautiful and inspirational Shabbat. There was a full day programme. The entire service was led by our youth. Following the service there was a beautiful children's choir. This was followed by each of our youth explaining profoundly what Shabbat means to them with a prize for Sammy and Joe Kaye, the winners. This was followed by lunch and a talk from the visiting Rabbi, Amram Nemeth. Followed by Bingo, Mincha, Seudah 3, Arbit and a musical Havdala.
- Lecture given by Rabbi Kada on Women and Orthodoxy Part 2. Well attended.
- Six rabbinical students from the Montefiore Kollel came and lectured to about 50 people from the local synagogues. They each spoke very well and there was a light supper.



Over the past year Wembley Synagogue has continued to flourish. Rabbi Kada's monthly topical lectures are well attended, not just by our members, but also by members from neighbouring communities. The Shabbat morning Monthly Q & A sessions are invariably interesting and thought provoking. We have hosted Rabbi Dweck, Rabbi Elia and Rabbi Yitsy David for Shabbat and been entertained with a full exciting and inspiring programme. The highlight of the year must be the Chief Rabbi's visit to Wembley in which Rabbi Mirvis prayed Shahrit with us on Sunday morning and addressed us during a community breakfast. The Purim and Chanukah parties and our annual Summer BBQ have all been great fun for young and old alike! We are looking forward to another great year!

Shaare Tikva

Shaare Tikva is our Sunday school which helps our children to be proud of their place in the Jewish community. The classes and educational activities teach our history, customs and our Sephardic traditions to our children.

We have been to visit Shaare Tikva classes to meet the children and organised an activity for them on Sunday 5th February to coincide with their parents coming in to meet their regular teachers. It was a success, with parents praising the activity which was centred around Purim.

Inter-communal activities –

We are in contact with Saint John's Wood, South Hampstead and Brondesbury Park Synagogues planning joint activities, including Purim events, football tournaments and other trips.

Summary –

The period from September to December was very busy and we feel that we have achieved significant success in creating both a social and educational atmosphere at the Synagogue. We are especially proud of our madrichim, and have slowly introduced them into a training programme that will give them the skills to be successful leaders in the community.

Beth Din

The Beth Din is a foundation of our community. It is a court of Jewish law which provides us with a religious legal framework for our Jewish lives.

- Rabbi Isaac Abraham, who held the position of Registrar of the Beth Din from 2000, retired from his duties in June 2016. Rabbi Daniel Kada was appointed as the new Registrar of the Beth Din in mid-May 2016 and worked together with Rabbi Abraham until the end of June 2016.
- During the handover period of approximately 6 weeks, the capable Rabbi Abraham taught Rabbi Kada the dynamics of the Beth Din efficiently.
- Rabbi Abraham was thanked for all his efforts for the Beth Din during a party held in his honour at the Lauderdale Road Succah at the end of June.
- Over the last year the services of the Beth Din were required and used for Marriage Authorisations, Gittin, Conversions, Jewish Status Verification including questions of surrogacy, Dinei Torah and general Halachic Response.



- Rabbi Kada has been in daily contact with the members of the Beth Din in order to respond to Halachic queries as swiftly and efficiently as possible. In this regard, the services of the Beth Din have been modernised and have adapted to the needs of the Jewish Community of the 21st century.
- The Beth Din's services have been availed not just to London but other towns such as Manchester and Amsterdam.
- In addition to their duties as the Congregation's Ecclesiastical Authority, it should be noted that members of the Beth Din are also fully engaged in their capacities as Communal Rabbis, Dayanim and Darshanim, who discharge their righteous and social responsibilities towards their respective Congregations and Communities, assiduously and devotedly. Dayan Navon has lectured in various synagogues across North West London.
- Members of the Beth Din, together with Rabbi Kada, participated in numerous Conferences and other Rabbinic Conventions throughout the year, both at home and abroad.
- Dayan Navon, Dayan David and Rabbi Kada, together with Dayan Ehrentreu and the Dayanim of the LBD participated in a conference of European Batei Dinim, held in Jerusalem. Dayan Navon has worked hard to strengthen the already existing relationship between the Sephardi Beth Din and the London Beth Din.
- Rabbi David Steinhoff retired as the Director of the Sephardi Kashruth Authority in the summer of 2016 and was replaced by Mr. Chaim Richman. Following Mr. Richman's appointment, the Beth Din continued their close scrutiny of all matters pertaining to the Sephardi Kashruth Authority, and has maintained their representation on the Rabbinical Authority governing the London Board of Shechita.

Programme and Marketing

The community enjoys a thriving educational programme which has grown significantly in the last two years.

November 2015 – October 2016

- Continued Production of the S&P Sephardi Community programme three times a year
- Large and upgraded social media presence for the S&P Sephardi Community
- Promotional Marketing for Weekly Bevis Marks Educational Programme with a variety of classes and lectures
- Event management of the Induction service of Rabbi Daniel Kada and Rabbi Shalom Morris at Bevis Marks
- Ashley Blaker Comedy Evening at Bevis Marks
- Young Professional Friday night dinners at Lauderdale
- Young Professional Friday night dinners at Bevis Marks
- Cooking courses with Margalit and Linda throughout the year
- IsraAid speaker event at Lauderdale
- Lauderdale Lunch Clubs through the year for Young Families
- Tu Bishvat Seder and Shiur at Lauderdale
- Rishon Le'Zion visit to London

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- Weekly Classes in Hendon with Rabbi Dweck
- Communal pre-Pesah Lecture with Rabbi Joseph Dweck
- Passover Pairing event in the City for Young Professionals
- Communal Yom Ha'Zikaron/Yom Ha'Atzmaut event
- After work Yom Ha'atzmaut BBQ at Bevis Marks
- Shabuot Tea and Torah joint with SJW Synagogue
- Summer Wine and Whiskey Tasting event for Young Professionals
- Tisha B'ab programming
- Online booking systems for all High Holy Days tickets
- New Hendon Monday night classes in partnership with Ner Yisrael
- Bevis Marks after Dark event
- Palm tree Succot event at Bevis Marks
- Simhat Bet HaShoeva at the Dwecks Succah for YP'S
- Shabbat Bereshit Dinner at Lauderdale and Bevis
- Community Pre HHD lecture with Rabbi Dweck
- Hendon Shabbatons with Rabbi Dweck with a variety of speaking appearances across various communities

Choir

- Choristers are requested to rotate their attendance in order to help build a solid choir each week.
- A successful Installation Service followed by a concert was well attended by 14 adults and 18 children in Bevis Marks during Hanukah. A series of rehearsals was held on Sunday mornings with the children before Shaare Tikva commenced - the idea being to get the children of the community used to singing in a large group publically.
- The focus must be on the children and getting them into the choir.

Records and Treasures Committee

The Records and Treasures Committee:

- Continued to provide assistance for enquirers and researchers at home and abroad and received a number of visitors
- Provided confirmation of Sephardi descent for several people wishing to claim Spanish and Portuguese nationality
- Played an important part in arrangements for the sale of the Archives to the Bodleian Library in Oxford, and to its reception into the Leopold Muller Memorial Library at the Oxford Centre for Jewish Studies.



- Provided assistance for a researcher on the TV programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?'
- Had the frame of the cartoon-portrait of Haham Gaster re-glazed.

Vestments Committee

- The Committee has continued to repair and maintain the Community's Vestments and replace those which are worn out. Fabric has been purchased to make a new set and Lily Dwek has kindly agreed to donate and make a new mantle in the chosen fabric.
- The rosettes were prepared for the Lulabim at Succot
- There is a need to recruit more people who are free during the day to expand our work on displaying and preserving the community's historically important collection

Archives

- Spent much time providing assistance to enquirers, particularly those seeking confirmation of Sephardi ancestry for Portuguese or Spanish nationality claims. Fees were charged for certificates.
- Assisted other enquirers and arranged access to our archives at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) for a number of researchers.
- To celebrate the Centenary of the Records and Treasures Committee, we arranged (seemingly) the first and very successful afternoon of talks, slides, display and tea in the Montefiore Hall to which some 80 people came.
- Obtained a Rothschild Foundation grant, thanks to Edgar Samuel's efforts, for LMA to repair and conserve our earliest Mahamad Minute Book, which they did beautifully, and for the digitisation of other Mahamad Minute Books.
- A talk by Rachel Montagu on the relief of poverty in the early years of our Congregation at a conference convened by Clemens Nathan in 2015 was published in a volume of the proceedings.
- The reception of the archives' Printed Book Library at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies was celebrated with an exhibition of photographs of title pages on the occasion of a lecture by Professor David Abulafia at which Edgar Samuel and Dr Jeremy Schonfield were our representatives.

Heshaim

- Work is almost complete on the new edition of the part of the *Daily and Occasional Prayer Book* covering all services from Friday afternoon to the end of Shabbat. It is hoped that copies will be on sale by the summer.
- Work is well advanced on new editions of the Funerals book, a Birkon, and of the weekday and lifecycle prayers from the existing *Daily and Occasional Prayer Book*, to compliment the new Shabbat volume.
- A beginning has been made on a new edition of the Minor Fasts Book, the first in Britain since the early nineteenth century.



- A stock-take was completed. A new online presence for books sales and music is to be launched in the coming months.

Burial Society and Cemeteries

The S&P operates a burial society which provides funeral services for many of the Sephardi communities of Great Britain at the Edgwarebury and Hoop Lane cemeteries.

In the last year there were 85 funerals, 62 at Edgwarebury and 23 at Hoop Lane. Sadly, an increase compared with last year, in contrast with the other communities we share the grounds with. Major improvements continued to be made at both cemeteries, including the Prayer Hall and access to it at Edgwarebury and pathways and perimeter at Hoop Lane. More are planned for this year and subsequent years, which are necessary to ensure the best possible service to our communities. We continued to provide Tahara services to all the Sephardi communities. There is a need for more Lavadoras/es as the lack of volunteers is proving a strain.

Society of Lavadores

The society continued to carry out its holy work during the year. We continue to look for both male and female volunteers for this work and the Parnas would be happy to talk to anyone interested in helping.

Building Committee

This year the biggest achievement of the Building Committee was completing the scaffold licencing at Bevis Marks, bringing in revenues that assisted in lowering the deficit for the Kahal. However, although this was seen as a windfall we still are operating the building committee budgets on reactive mode as opposed to a proactive mode. We would like to highlight and remind Yehidim that for the past 8 years this committee has operated on an extremely tight budget, as all cyclical decorations were halted. Now we are getting close to considering the options of the redecorations of both Bevis Marks and Lauderdale Road. The Portfolio that comes under the building committee is comprehensive including all communal buildings, Rabbi's houses and administrative offices.

We are pleased to report that the extension of the kitchen to Rabbi Elia's house at Marlborough Place has now been completed following the replacement of their windows to the entire house last year. There have been some minor repairs to the Dweck's residence at Vale Close and also minor repairs to both Lauderdale Road and the Montefiore Hall. The heating at Ashworth Road / LR continues to cause us problems as does the Succah roof at Lauderdale Road. The Succah at Bevis Marks has been decommissioned due to the excessive maintenance costs to keep the glass roof open and water tight.

We would like to thank the committee for all of their guidance and hard work during the course of this year and especially Andrew Abdulezer for his work on Marlborough Place.



Finance Committee Summary 2015-16

Finance Committee

Following the change in the Ascamot the Finance Committee is now chaired by the Gabbay.

The committee holds quarterly meetings to discuss the finances of the community. The key concern of the committee has been to improve the financial reporting system and to address the funding deficit. The options to reduce the deficit include:

1. Increasing membership
2. Increasing donations
3. Fundraising
4. Legacies
5. Sale of assets
6. Naming of buildings
7. Increasing finta
8. Monitoring and cutting costs where appropriate

Other areas addressed include the funding of the freehold of Vale Close and the office of Rabbi Dweck

Fundraising

- Creation of a fundraising committee of those with a predisposition to fundraising was set up and met in February, May, June, August and September 2016. This act as conduits for fundraising information from around the Kahal. Chaired by Adam Musikant, the committee comprised of David Ereira, Robert Yentob, Edward Misrahi, Howard Martin, Marc Pereira-Mendoza, Caroline Jackson, Simon Tobelem, Rabbi Joseph Dweck, and Alison Rosen.
- A fundraising consultant, Ben Morrison started at the end of January (2 days a week, increasing to 3 days a week from May - August), to create a prospect list, case for support and to put in place a coordinated approach to fundraising across the S&P Sephardi Community, fundraising practises and processes and has helped to increase the fundraising capacity of the S&P Sephardi Community.
- Data and systems
- The organisation has updated and implemented systems and procedures to manage and process donations, including using ShulCloud in a more advanced way in the absence of a fundraising database.
- A new Legacy Campaign was launched including a brochure which is available on the website. The campaign will be officially launched in November 2016 with an afternoon tea event with guest speaker Lord Woolf
- A new Legacy Endowment Campaign has been set up.
- Successful application to Children's Aid Committee for a grant of £5,000 per annum for two years to support the children and youth provision.



- 75 people attended the Launch of the new Patron's Programme and Supporter's Circle – September 22nd at Rabbi Dweck's House, which included a review of the successes of the previous 12 months activity for the Kehal
- Bevis Marks HLF
- For the High Holy Days in October 2016, three bespoke

Board of Deputies

The Board is the body that represents British Jews to government. The S&P sent 3 members as deputies to the Board (Jonathan Sacerdoti, Richard Sassoon and Anthony Tricot). In the July Divisional elections, Richard was elected to the Finance & Organisation Division, whilst Anthony narrowly missed out on the International Division.

Selected highlights of the last year at the Board include:

- Pledges of support from all three main party leaders for the Jewish Manifesto for prospective Parliamentary candidates in the general election.
- Golders Green Together campaign against a planned neo-Nazi rally, which was eventually moved by police elsewhere, defusing potential conflict.
- Publication of a 14-page Employers' Guide to Judaism.
- Recent meetings to represent Jewish interests to political leaders, including the Prime Minister David Cameron at Downing Street, the leader of the opposition Jeremy Corbyn, and Russian President Putin.
- The Board publish a weekly electronic Community Briefing-subscribe at their website www.bod.org.uk or follow the link at the bottom of the S&P News weekly email.