



Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2019

for presentation at the 90th Annual General Meeting
to be held at the Synagogue on Sunday 12th January 2020 at 11:00am

Registered Charity No 236711

South London Liberal Synagogue

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(correct at time of going to press in January 2020)

MINISTER Rabbi Nathan Godleman MA

PRESIDENT Louise Freedman

VICE-PRESIDENTS Cedric Briscoe, Eve Samson,
Clive Hershman, Paul Infield

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CHAIR James Krikler

VICE-CHAIR Eve Samson

TREASURER Andrew Hoffman

SECRETARY Paul Infield

COUNCIL Jacqueline Ashton
Julia Goring
Kirst O'Neill
Shula Sinclair
Gillian Walker
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PROPERTY TRUSTEES

Paul Infield, Eve Samson and Shai Wade

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HEAD TEACHERS Aviva Haylor
Sarit Wilson Chen

TEACHER Zach Ashton

ASSISTANT TEACHERS

Simone Ella
Zoë Eve
Arthur H Aubrey
Arthur K Mikaela

WHO'S WHO AT SLLS

Administrator Martina Zabel-Hoffman

Burial and Cremation Scheme

CO-ORDINATOR Louise Freedman

Eitz Chayim Memorial

CO-ORDINATOR Louise Freedman

Friends of Gesher

Co-CHAIRS Shula Sinclair
Emmanuelle Smith

Marriage Secretary

Gillian Walker

Additional Secretaries

Jeromé Freedman
Eve Samson

Membership & Subscriptions

Alice Alphandary

Rites & Practices

SECRETARY Louise Freedman

Security

James Krikler
Ron Mortimer

"South Circular"

EDITOR Louise Freedman

Stewarding

Daniel Schiff

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President's message *Louise Freedman*

As you will read in this report, this has been an exciting year. We marked the 90th anniversary of the foundation of SLLJS and look forward to celebrating the 80th year since we moved into our permanent home in Prentis Road.

Rabbi Nathan Godleman is now our full-time minister and there is an exciting buzz within the congregation. Much of what we seek to do is summed up in the rabbinic concept of 'tikkun olam' - to make the world a better place. However, for this to be truly effective, more members need to take an active role in synagogue life. Involvement is not necessarily onerous and can range from serving on Council, stewarding at services, helping to organise an activity, or something as mundane but as vital as assisting to tidy up the Lily Montagu Hall, or pick up litter defacing our premises. There is so much that needs to be done and every act to help, big or small, is an opportunity to perform a mitzvah. Please ask yourself what you can do to make things happen. To take matters forward, please contact the office, Nathan or any Council member. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Enjoy this year's report!

Chair's Report *James Krikler*

It's safe to say that the past year has been one with plenty of interest and no shortage of important milestones. Aside from the 80th and then 90th anniversaries (in terms of preparation at least, as strictly the latter was after the end of the year under review) we, as a community, have been extremely busy on a number of fronts.

This has notably included successfully delivering the Abraham's Tent flat; first housing and then supporting a refugee family within the building - following months of fundraising and hard work (thanks to Harriet in particular) to create a suitable home and environment. In addition, we have supported via our appeals, the Meketa project - helping Jews in Ethiopia and the local charity, The Friends of St George's hospital. We have also continued our collective support of the food bank in Streatham, providing supplies throughout the year and making it the focus of our Mitzvah day activity.

As a new focus, following on from the AT project, we have associated ourselves with the young charity Feast! who came and spoke in May – this is in support of a new local initiative to feed the homeless in a sustainable way. We will be looking to develop this relationship and the support we can give.

We have had several other interesting speakers visit us, with the standout talk coming from Israeli and Palestinian members of the Bereaved Families Forum taking place in March, which was also opened up to a non SLLS audience.

Commercially, we agreed to an increase of the nursery extents and this meant redeveloping the spaces downstairs, thereby gaining additional funds to help keep us going. We have begun to improve our other space too, with various minor building works taking place over the year and planned for the year ahead - some examples being: responding to the fire inspection report (June

2018) so far by drawing and putting up evacuation plans (thanks to Félicie) and getting quotes to enhance the fire doors, electrical work in the new classroom and planned works (eg appliance testing) also relating to fire safety. We have changed lighting in the sanctuary to accommodate a new member and are generally looking at replacing carpets, other lighting, painting, etc. This will include renovating our frontage in due course. Painsstaking work to restore the original banner above the Bimah was undertaken (thank you Ruth and Marion).

Our new administrator, Martina, joined us at the beginning of 2019 and quickly became a valued part of our team. Jackie, Head of Gesher, stepped down in June at the end of the academic year and I am more than happy to repeat praise here for her long-standing efforts and dedication to our children, thereby also making an enormous contribution to all our future prospects. She will be missed in that capacity but we know remains a committed member and a key figure on council. We are indeed fortunate that Aviva Haylor and Sarit Wilson Chen, who have taught in Gesher for many years, have agreed to become Joint Heads of Gesher from September 2019.

As we go forward into next year, we will be planning and carrying out further renovations and refurbishment works throughout the building, as noted above and subject to available funds, of course.

As a longer term objective, we will also be looking to secure the services of our excellent Rabbi, on a continuing full time basis, as we are halfway through his current contract to the summer of 2020.

To these ends, fund raising will gain additional attention and we shall be exploring various avenues and opportunities to improve our financial position.

In conclusion, it feels as though we can be fairly upbeat, with an increasing membership and the nursery income giving us greater stability and something to build on, but we know there are challenges ahead that will need our full attention and redoubled efforts.

All that remains is for me to express our collective thanks to all the people who have made, and will continue to make, the effort required to keep us running, to drive us forward and to ensure we enjoy ourselves along the way: Council, our active members and friends and all our staff; particularly those who lead and steward services, Gesher parents who supervise the door (and supply Kiddush!), our other security volunteers, and all our generous donors. A few tireless individuals deserve special praise and extra gratitude goes to our minister, Rabbi Nathan our administrator Martina and president Louise, who provide the backbone of our operation.

Minister's Report *Rabbi Nathan Godleman*

It has been a packed and vibrant year at the South London Liberal Synagogue; my third as minister and my first as full-time rabbi. Being able to focus on congregational work, without the 'distraction' of the college, has been welcome. Additional duties for Liberal Judaism, about to come to an end, have proved a tiring addition. I look forward to a better work-life balance in 2019-20, with one Shabbat in four off the bimah.

Providing space for lay readers to exercise and develop their skills has been an advantage of my being away on occasion. The pool of service leaders has grown and should continue to do so, via in-house support and/or the Liberal Judaism Ba'alei Tefillah programme. Pairing up for services is

proving an attractive approach for all concerned, including the mentoring possibility and the variety offered to the congregation. Thank you to all those who have helped lead services this year.

Education has continued via the weekly Delving into Judaism class, from which one person completed their conversion, with several others registered, either from the outset or as a result of their delving. (And from which a new and much needed pool of volunteers has come.) Shiurim were held a little too sporadically; something which is being rectified. The highlight, from an adult education point of view, was no doubt Rabbi Professor Jonathan Magonet's series of Sunday morning shiurim on the Early Prophets in February. Jonathan will be returning this coming year. Rabbi Dr Deborah Kahn-Harris, principal of the Leo Baeck College, also visited to hold a pre-service teaching session, which was well attended.

I taught a number of Bar and Bat Mitzvah candidates personally last year, assisted by Beverley Taylor, and culminating in joyful and often very well-attended services. I was proud of all our b'nei mitzvah. One of the advantages of having more time was the opportunity to build relationships which can last into the future. Teaching a large Kabbalat Torah class proved more of a challenge, and I would have a more structured syllabus in place for next time and try to arrange more sessions. Having said that, the class acquitted itself very well on the day and all six confirmees remain to assist in the cheder, which is remarkable. I must thank Jackie Ashton for all she has done for Gesher over ten years and more, setting the tone and bringing along all our young people so well. She will be missed.

Attendances at 'normal' services are up. In the mid twenties, when Gesher is on holiday; in the thirties and forties during term time. More people appear at Kiddush than are seen upstairs, but the most important thing is that they are around. As a proportion of our membership, these numbers compare very well with larger communities. More consistency would be welcome, nevertheless, and if all our able members could commit to attending at least one service per month, this would be achieved! The monthly Friday night group has grown to about a dozen, and a second service per month will be added in the coming year. It is a particularly important feature for those without a Jewish family at home. More of our own families would be welcome, that notwithstanding. At a basic level, engagement with Judaism has to include some kind of Kabbalat Shabbat/welcoming in of the Sabbath, either at home or at shul.

The May anniversary service, part of our year-long celebrations, and as shown in the wonderful calendar photographs, will live long in the memory. Joined by a number of Liberal Judaism's senior figures, we were reminded in the most vivid way of the legacy we have inherited. The ark banner project, organised to coincide with the 90th anniversary, had much the same effect. I was fortunate to arrive full time in 2018-19, realise the significance of the year and then enjoy the support of many others in bringing these set piece events together. Good for our morale and for public relations purposes!

Away from the high profile activities, pastoral work continued quietly and steadily. Our demographic situation means that we seem to be able to operate without a care group, via the involvement of several key people. The Thursday morning friendship group, member led and driven, plays a role here, and I am grateful to its coordinator for all achieved. My work extends to home and hospital visits, plus keeping in touch via phone and text. There is always room for improvement, though I think coverage is reasonably good. Funerals, mostly non-member, with fees being paid into the rabbinic discretionary fund or to LJ, occur regularly, and are a practical demonstration of what we

do as a synagogue, as well as being a rewarding and affirming aspect of my vocation. More weddings would be welcome! A wedding blessing this year, of a new member and his wife, will be the first of many, I hope.

School visits, either to them or to us, are far more frequent. Attending to all these myself, I try to limit them to one a week. Numbers-wise, we are probably seeing two to three thousand children a year and doing untold good, in terms of outreach. Welcoming adult visitors into the synagogue for services also happens, albeit on a smaller scale, as do community-based meetings, which we take our turn in hosting. Community engagement, such as via Faiths Together in Lambeth and the Holocaust Memorial Day event, should increase this coming year.

One of my briefs in 2018-19 was to increase membership, and a figure of approximately 10% may be quoted. Part of this increase is down to persuading Delving class members to formalise their relationship with the synagogue and join as Friends. Part is down to a healthy and steady flow of newcomers. With the help of the membership secretary, and with a good number of prospective members already known to us, an overall increase of fifteen to twenty per cent by the end of August 2020 should be attained. Without a membership drive as such, we should all be delighted that a very basic equation operates at SLLS. People come, like what they find, stay and join.

Finally, a wonderful seder was held at Pesach. Lots of people, lots of joy. And quite a lot of wine on one table! A number of people made it possible. Please allow me to highlight Kirst O'Neill in particular; someone who could be highlighted and thanked in several sections of this report. I would also like to mention Paul Ashton; for the second Burns' Night supper in a row and for his considerable contribution to SLLS over many years.

With so much going on, I almost neglected to add our early forays into more political waters, via the Bereaved Families Forum visit and that of Luke Akehurst from We Believe in Israel.

Writing my report, and trying not to leave anything out, I am struck by the richness of what we do and the privilege I am accorded as rabbi. It is truly a team effort, and I should add thanks to teachers, assistants, security and stewarding teams, those on the kiddush rota, Council, those who lose their partners to shul business and activities on a weekly basis, our long-serving cleaners and, this year, the calendar crew! Special thanks and appreciation go to three people, the engine house of the operation. Our great new asset, Martina Zabel-Hoffman, administrator and unsuspecting project manager; Louise Freedman, our president and, last but not least, fellow forty-something first year, now second year, James Krikler, our chair. The day to day running of the synagogue wouldn't be possible without them, and would certainly be a far less companionable experience.

The year in review

Births: Reuben Hudson Scott, son of Hannah Nathan and James Scott; Scarlett Lilian Jean Summers, daughter of Harriet Neuberger and Claire Summers.

Marriage Blessing: Daniel and Laura Wayne

Bar/Bat Mitzvah: Eve, Lucien, Mikaela, Reuben; adult/second Bar Mitzvah - Joe Fajerman and Jeromé Freedman

Deaths: Martin Beevers, Alan Feinstein, Felicity Morris and Sadie Raphael.

We welcomed a number of new members during the course of the year and we welcomed six young people who celebrated Kabbalat Torah – Simone, Zoë, Eve, Arthur, Aubrey and Mikaela.

Security

Security has remained an ever-present concern, with an already accepted threat seemingly becoming more acute, due to world events and a tense socio-political climate in this country. We are doing what we can and what we feel is right to manage this in a balanced and sensible way; secure yet determined to remain relaxed, open and inclusive. We have participated in CST (Community Security Trust) activities including individual training and sharing of information and CST have supplied us with three anti-stab vests for personal protection. Door-open alarms have been fitted to the two sets of front doors and a coded mag-lock to the downstairs corridor. A new security group has been created with a handful of volunteers prepared to take a lead in providing door security, as and when required.

Annual Report

The Council of The South London Liberal Synagogue (the Synagogue) presents its annual report together with the statement of accounts of the Synagogue in respect of the financial year ended 31 August 2019. The statement of accounts is not statutorily required to be audited and has been independently examined by Gareth Berney, whose report appears below.

Origin and objectives of the charity

The Synagogue was established in 1929 and is an unincorporated association. Under its current Constitution of 11th February 2017 (the Constitution)^a the Synagogue has the following purpose: to advance Liberal Judaism by actions, teaching and practice, in particular (but not exclusively) by means of:

- (a) providing religious education for children and adults and providing facilities and teaching leading to *Bar Mitzvah* or *Bat Mitzvah* and *Kabbalat Torah* (Confirmation);
- (b) providing and maintaining a place for public religious worship and providing, arranging and conducting religious services;
- (c) providing facilities for the solemnisation of marriages and for burials and cremations.

Review of the activities

A review of the main activities of the Synagogue in relation to the purpose described above is contained in the Chair's Report on pages 1-2, the Minister's Report on pages 2-4 and in the reports on Synagogue activities on pages 5-7.

Governance

The Synagogue and its property and assets are administered and managed by its Council, members of which are the charity trustees of the Synagogue. Decisions concerning day-to-day management of the Synagogue are made by the Chair together with the other officers. In accordance with the Constitution members of Council are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Synagogue (or, in the event of a casual vacancy, appointed by the Council to serve until the next AGM) and serve without compensation.

The Council members who served during the past year were: James Krikler (Chair), Eve Samson (Vice Chair), Paul Infield (Secretary), Andrew Hoffman (Treasurer), Jacqueline Ashton, William Cohen, Julia Goring, Kirst O'Neill, Shula Sinclair and Gillian Walker. Paul Ashton and Harriet Neuberger also served on the Council but resigned from it in April 2019 and May 2019, respectively.

In carrying out their responsibilities the members of Council, as trustees of the Synagogue, have had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (the Charity Commission).

Title to the property of the Synagogue was held during the past year by property trustees Paul Infield, Eve Samson and Shai Wade.

Membership – all categories

Total at 31 August 2019: 200 (2018: 183), which included 8 Honorary Members (2018: 7), and 22 Friends (2018: 12).

Members We welcomed: Simone Ashton, Mitch Campbell, Rebecca Churchill, Igor Chwedczuk, Zoë Cohen, Nicola Downes, Eve Elliott-Sidi, Aubrey Heath, Arthur Heath, John Heyderman, Daniel Howard-Schiff, Naomi Hyamson, Mikaela Lennard, Claire Lubert, Jenny March, Linda McDonald, Elinor Milne, Hannah Nathan, Johnny Rich and Daniel Waite.

Friends We welcomed: Gualtiero Bonvino, Diego Giraldo Casas, Nicola Downes, James Gill, Azira Hann, James Scott, Claire Summers and Hiroko Ueno-McIsaac.

Birth Mazel tov and welcome to Rueben Nathan, son of Hannah Nathan and James Scott, and Scarlett Lilian Jean Summers, daughter of Harriet Neuberger and Claire Summers.

Deaths We record with sorrow the deaths of: Martin Beevers, Alan Feinstein, Felicity Morris and Sadie Raphael.

^a A copy of the Constitution is available from the Synagogue office on request.

Reserves policy

The Charity's principal activities are detailed above.

1. The present reserve level is considered realistic in order to maintain liquid reserves to cover the Synagogue's day to day activities. □
2. At each annual Budget meeting, a review of the current level of reserves will be undertaken □against Budget predictions. □

At 31 August 2019 Unrestricted Funds amounted to £114,528 (2018: £130,940) and Total Funds stood at £146,428 (2018: £160,840).

Risk management

Council has decided not to prepare a formal risk review report. However, the Council has given consideration to the major risks to which the Synagogue is exposed and satisfied itself that systems or procedures are established in order to manage those risks. The Council will continue to review areas of potential risk. The principal financial risks identified in the short to medium term are as follows:

- A persistent imbalance between income and expenditure, leaving the Synagogue regularly in deficit;
- Rising costs, including staff costs;
- The limitations on the Synagogue's ability to meet its running costs while maintaining subscriptions at a level affordable to Members and Friends;
- Loss of paying Members and Friends of the Synagogue and difficulties in attracting new Members and Friends;
- Declining numbers of donors and 'donor fatigue' among existing donors;
- The possible need for significant further repairs to the Synagogue building.

Statement of Council's responsibilities

As the charity trustees for the Synagogue, Council is responsible under section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) for ensuring that accounting records are kept in respect of the Synagogue which are sufficient to show and explain all of its transactions, and which are such as to (a) disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the Synagogue at that time and (b) enable the Council to ensure that the statements of accounts comply with the requirements of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (the Regulations).

The Regulations require the Council to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year which include:

- (a) a statement of financial activities showing the total incoming resources and application of the resources, together with any other movements in the total resources, of the Synagogue during the relevant financial year; and
- (b) a balance sheet showing the state of affairs of the Synagogue as at the end of the relevant financial year.

The statement of activities must give a true and fair view of the incoming resources and application of the resources of the charity in the relevant financial year. The balance sheet must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the relevant financial year. The statement of accounts must be prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the "Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (the Charities SORP).

In preparing the statement of accounts, Council is required to: □

- (i) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; □
- (ii) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; □
- (iii) prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume □that the charity will continue in business. □

The South London Liberal Synagogue

Independent Examiner's Report to the Synagogue Council

I report on the accounts of The South London Liberal Synagogue for the year ended 31 August 2019, which are set out on pages iv-vii.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Synagogue Council, as charity trustees for the Synagogue, is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Council has concluded that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the 2011 Act and has appointed me to carry out instead an independent examination under section 145 of the 2011 Act.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts in accordance with section 145 of the 2011 Act; and
- to follow procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (the Charity Commission) under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Gareth Berney
2 Gibson Gardens
Saffron Walden
CB10 1AW

9 January 2020

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

*You have supported the SLLS during your lifetime;
why not also in your Will for future generations?*

LEGACIES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

*By leaving a bequest to SLLS you will
support the future of Liberal Judaism in South London.*

*For further information please contact
office@southlondon.org or 020 8769 4787*



South London Liberal Synagogue

Statement of Financial Activities

Income and Expenditure for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Incoming Resources				
Subscriptions	57,788		57,788	46,601
Donations/Legacies	18,467	640	19,106	11,411
Gift Aid repayment	11,116		11,116	9,701
Appeals income		960	960	15,698
Property lettings	25,928		25,928	6,865
Fundraising income	1,877		1,877	1,947
Burial and Cremation Scheme Fees ^b		858	858	994
Bank interest	34		34	27
Total Incoming Resources	115,210	2,458	117,667	93,244
Resources Expended				
Rabbinic costs	52,188		52,188	16,944
Staff costs (not inc. Rabbi)	11,190		11,190	13,086
Building maintenance	12,709		12,709	52,769
Affiliation fees	13,316		13,316	13,469
Education	6,371		6,371	5,751
Insurance	8,003		8,003	7,833
Utilities	9,598		9,598	6,206
Management and administration	7,423		7,423	6,958
Depreciation	3,505		3,505	3,510
Burial and Cremation Costs		458	458	2,884
Fundraising and property letting related costs ^c	7,318		7,318	9,101
Total Resources Expended	131,621	458	132,079	138,511
Net Movement in Funds £	(16,411)	2,000	(14,412)	(45,267)
 Funds brought forward at 1st September 2018	 130,940	 29,900	 160,840	 206,107
Funds carried forward at 31st August 2019	114,528	31,900	146,428	160,840

Please note that, due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

^b Previously 'Burial and Cremation Fees'

^c Previously 'Nursery Set up Costs/Legal Fees'

South London Liberal Synagogue

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2019

	<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets		114,780		118,286
Current assets				
Stock	525		384	
Debtors	0		283	
Cash at bank and in hand	42,910		64,645	
		43,435		65,312
Total assets		158,215		183,598
Current liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-8,286		-14,758	
Rabbinic Salary donated, received in advance	-3,500		-8,000	
		-11,786		-22,758
Total assets less current liabilities		146,428		160,840
Income Funds				
Restricted funds	31,900		29,900 ^d	
Unrestricted funds	114,528		130,940 ^e	
Total Funds		146,428		160,840

^d . Please see Note 6 'Restricted Funds' regarding the reclassification of funds.

Notes forming part of the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 August 2019

- 1. The principal accounting policies adopted by the charity are described below.
They have been applied consistently throughout the period.**

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the 2011 Act, the Charities SORP and the applicable Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102).

INCOMING RESOURCES

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the monies are received.

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis when the liability is incurred.

2. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of assets to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives as follows:

- Freehold building & improvements - 2% on cost
- Furniture & equipment - 25% on net book value

Tangible fixed assets	Freehold property & improvements	Organ	Furniture & Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost at 31 August 2018	174,676	6,995	16,820	198,491
Depreciation at 31 August 2018	(56,436)	(6,995)	(16,774)	(76,695)
Charge for the year	(3,494)	-	(12)	(3,505)
Net book value at 31 August 2019	£114,746	-	£35	£114,781
Net book value at 31 August 2018	£118,240	-	£46	£118,286

	Freehold property & improvements	Furniture & Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Direct charitable activities	114,746	-	114,746
Management & admin	-	35	35
	114,746	35	114,781

3. Stock

	2019	2018
	£	£
Stock of books for resale	403	268
Showcase Stock	122	116
	525	384

4. Cash at Bank and in hand at 31 August 2019

	£
HSBC General	9,480
CAF General	17,049
CAF Burial and Cremation	24,693
CAF Gold	1,167
Balance at 31.08.2019	42,910

5. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:

Creditors comprise £5,000 (Loan for ATP) and £3,376 (Board of Deputies levy).
Donations received for Rabbinic Salary, paid in advance of 01/09/2019 for FY2019-20 = £3,500.

6. Restricted Funds	at 31.08.2019	at 31.08.2018
	£	£
Burial and Cremation Scheme Fund	25,520	25,120
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	1,042	402
Building Fund	5,338	4,378
Total	31,900	29,900

It has come to our attention that there was an incorrect classification of funds in the previous year's accounts. A total amount of £4,856 previously reported as unrestricted is in fact restricted. We have therefore increased in the amount for the Burial and Cremation Scheme Fund by £4,110 and the Building Fund by £746, and decreased the amount of Unrestricted Funds accordingly.

South London Liberal Synagogue

Financial Projection 2019 – 2020

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>
Subscriptions	50,000		
Donations/Legacies	18,000	(including Rabbinic Salary Donation Fund)	
Gift Aid repayment	10,000		
Appeals Income	1,000		
Property lettings ^e	54,500		
Fundraising Income	1,000		
		Etz Chayim (Leaf Sales)	100
		Chevra	225
		HHD Tickets	675
			<u>1,000</u>
Burial & Cremation Fees	900		
Bank Interest	40		
Total Income	£135,440		
<u>Expenses</u>			
Rabbinic Costs	54,000		
Other Staff Costs	15,000	(Administrator & Cleaners' Wages + NI)	
Building Maintenance	7,500		
Affiliation Fees	14,200		
		London Citizens	700
		Board of Deputies	500
		Liberal Judaism (inc. rebate)	13,000
			<u>14,200</u>
Education	6,000	(Teachers' Wages + NI + costs)	
Insurance	9,500		
Utilities	8,000		
Management & Administration (excl. staff)	7,000		
Depreciation	3,500		
Burial and Cremation Costs	500		
Fundraising and property letting costs	1,000		
Loan Repayments	5,000		
Total Expenditure	£131,200		
Net Surplus	£4,240		

^e 10% of the rental income from the Abraham's Tent flat is designated for donation to a refugee charity and has therefore been netted out of the projected income from Property Lettings.

Reports on Synagogue Activities

Gesher Team: Head *Jacqueline Ashton*, Administrator *Louise Cohen*

The past year has been an enjoyable year for Gesher. In Jewish Studies we moved to using the Liberal Judaism curriculum learning about Torah heroes and heroines, and about Liberal Jewish values.

We also adapted to sharing a space with Lucky Beans Nursery, an overall positive experience which saw us sharing newly decorated classrooms and hall.

Six children celebrated their Kabbalat Torah together, and we are pleased to say that all will join us as assistant teachers in the new year.

The year was celebrated with certificates presented at the end of a Shabbat service in June. As always this was a time of celebration and a time to say goodbye to some members of our teaching staff. Three of our teachers left to attend University, Sam Cohen, Dena Wilson and Avigayil Ashton who have all grown up attending Gesher; two are leaving to study at University and one is to spend a *shnat* year in Israel. It was also a time to say an enormous thank you to our Head Teacher, Jacqueline Ashton, who has calmly steered Gesher through many changes - moving from being a teacher to Head Teacher, changing the name from SLLS Religion School to Gesher and updating the style of teaching and the curriculum to being more interactive and adaptable to suit the age range and abilities of each pupil. Jackie has been a patient, inspiring teacher and role model, and will be missed by the children and teaching staff. She has handed on her role to the capable and experienced Sarit Wilson Chen and Aviva Haylor.

Gesher's success is the result of dedicated teachers who work hard to provide interesting and varied lessons. A big thanks to them all.

Friends of Gesher *Shai Wade, Chair*

Friends of Gesher is open to all members and Friends of SLLS and aims to support Gesher activities.

Friends of Gesher held a number of coffee mornings throughout the year, as an opportunity to spend time together, to plan the year's activities and to encourage the involvement and participation in Gesher activities. Friends of Gesher continued to assist with door duties, preparing kiddush during term-time and offering Gesher teachers greater support in preparing break-time refreshments and clearing up.

The end of the academic year (2018/2019) was marked with the annual Gesher Summer Party celebrated for the third time at the Dulwich Woods venue.

At the end of the academic year Jackie Ashton stepped down as the Head Teacher of the Gesher. The Friends of Gesher marked her departure with a gift and our warm wishes.

We look forward to continued activities in 2020 – where we hope to see more and more SLLS members joining in. Please get in touch to be involved or informed of Friends of Gesher plans.

South Circular *Editor, Louise Freedman*

South Circular, the Synagogue's newsletter, is published eleven times each year and, particularly for our more isolated members, is an important link with SLLS (together with the telephone contact from Elizabeth Cove - see below). We welcome news, views, photographs and articles. Please share your news with us because we cannot print what you do not tell us!

Keeping in Touch

Elizabeth Cove continues to lead "Keeping in Touch" for us and contacts elderly, isolated and unwell congregants. We have a continuing need for volunteers to visit people in hospital or who are sick at home, so if you are able to offer help on our volunteers' list, please contact the SLLS office.

Board of Deputies of British Jews *Jeromé Freedman*

The Board has recently released a new film on combatting anti-Semitism. The following are contributions in this film from other major faith leaders:

From The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

"Education towards learning across faiths is becoming ever more vital.

There is a sense of the growing vulnerability of religious and other minorities in the UK today.

The Board of Deputies' work in advocating for UK Jewish communities and challenging anti-Semitism is a necessary task and integral to the better flourishing of our life together as a nation.

In their support of initiatives across faith communities, the Board of Deputies model the positive engagement in the public square that has always been such a hallmark of the Jewish tradition and British Judaism."

From Imam Qari Muhammad Asim MBE, Chair, Mosques & Imams National Advisory Board

"Interaction with, as well as education about other faith communities empowers us to embrace diversity in our society and build communities of mutual respect.

Given the alarming rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in recent years, it's more important than ever that Jewish and Muslim communities collaborate and support each other.

The Board of Deputies' work is critically important in these increasingly polarised times and I'll continue to liaise with them to learn from the Jewish community's lived experiences of hostility and prejudice."

A "Community Briefing" is published weekly together with all the news of the Board's activities at www.bod.org.uk. Why not subscribe?

Abraham's Tent Project *Harriet Neuberger*

This has been an exciting year as the Abraham's Tent project started in 2017 finally came to an end! The building work renovating a part of the synagogue into a self-contained flat was finally completed, a community sponsorship partnership was established, and in April 2019 a Syrian Refugee family resettled in the flat.

This was the culmination of over 2 years' work by SLLS. In 2017 the former chair Alice Alphandary, inspired by the refugee work of former SLLS minister, Rabbi Janet Darley, made an ambitious proposal to respond to the Syrian Refugee Crisis by launching a project to turn part of the synagogue building into a home for refugees.

It was named after the open-sided tent used by Abraham to welcome strangers, a name which emphasised the importance of physical shelter at a time when local authorities and refugee welcoming committees were struggling to source accommodation at local housing allowance rents to enable refugee families to relocate from camps in and around Syria to the UK.

A group of committed SLLS volunteers (Sam, Simon, Gemma, Alice, Emmanuelle, Shelley, Harriet) and Tamara from Liberal Judaism worked to fundraise for the project, design and manage the building renovation and furnish the flat into a home. In total over £52,000 was raised which covered all the infrastructure work, replacing the windows, structural alterations, kitchen and bathroom installation, decoration and furnishing. This was made possible by the many generous donations from members of the SLLS community, the local Lambeth community, the Jewish community, and the wider public who heard about the project through the media or their social networks.

More than 300 individuals contributed and particular thanks are owed to Fowl Mouths Food, Ealing Liberal Synagogue and Bedfordshire Progressive Synagogue who all held events raising money for the project. Grants were also gratefully received from the NLPS Trust for Progressive Judaism and the Edith M Ellis Foundation as well as an award from the Faith & Belief Forum for Promoting Inclusion.

The initial phase of the project proved so inspiring that SLLS was able to partner with other organisations across the Jewish community in order to offer ongoing support to resettle the family through Community Sponsorship. The partnership between South London Liberal Synagogue, West London Synagogue and Liberal Judaism undertook extensive planning to develop a volunteer network sufficient to ensure that the family received a proper welcome, and support integration into the heart of the community. In late 2018 the Abraham's Tent Community Sponsorship Scheme received approval from the Home Office building on the capacity, commitment and networks of citizens established through the project, to provide support beyond housing to the refugee family housed in the Abraham's tent flat.

So while the Abraham's Tent Project is now complete SLLS members continue to volunteer to assist the family in their resettlement through Abraham's Tent Community Sponsorship Scheme. For more information, make contact via email abrahams.tent.cs@gmail.com or speak to Sam Infield, our lead member, next time you see him in shul.

Lambeth Commemoration for Holocaust Memorial Day, January 2019

For the eleventh year we were actively involved in planning the Lambeth HMD commemoration, again held in the Lambeth Assembly Hall following its refurbishment. The keynote speaker was George Vulkan, Survivor of the Holocaust, with contributions from Refugees Welcome, Dunraven School and the choir from Corpus Christi School. The theme this year was "Torn from Home".



SOUTH LONDON LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE IS A PROUD CONSTITUENT OF LIBERAL JUDAISM WHICH IS PART OF THE WORLD UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM (EUROPEAN UNION) AND IS A SUPPORTER OF LEO BAECK COLLEGE.

Liberal Judaism affirms the dynamic, developing character of our Jewish religious tradition. Judaism has never stood still. Its history is a history of continuity and change. Questing and questioning, Liberal Judaism is an authentic and modern form of Judaism, rooted in a deep and meaningful engagement with Jewish texts, values, culture and history. It is a movement with a sense of purpose, engaged in community life, study, spirituality and social action. It believes in personal freedom and responsibility and the shared and collective bonds that unite us as Jewish people and members of humanity. Liberal Judaism welcomes those who grew up as Jewish and those who, later in life, have become accepted into Judaism. Liberal Judaism is inclusive and egalitarian, giving equal status within Judaism to those traditionally excluded, helping all its members to embark on their personal Jewish journeys. Liberal Judaism should be a positive, joyous and active part of our members' lives, to be used to enrich their relationships with those around them.



www.liberaljudaism.org/

The World Union for Progressive Judaism's over 1,200 congregations around the world – both large and small, some established and others just starting – currently affiliate with Reform, Progressive, Liberal or Reconstructionist Judaism. With an estimated 1.8 million members in 45 countries, the liberal streams of Judaism represent a global community with diverse practices but a similar goal: a contemporary, creative expression of Jewish spiritual and cultural identity that is rooted in our rich Jewish traditions.



The European Union of the World Union, based in London, focuses particularly on the challenges of continental Europe where the increasing Jewish population now provides enormous potential for growth. Communities destroyed during the Nazi period are re-emerging and rebuilding themselves from both survivors who returned after the Second World War and immigrants from the Former Soviet Union, many of whom are settling in Germany where there are now 18 congregations and many education programs. Two rabbinical seminaries, in Germany and the Netherlands, are complementing the work of the Leo Baeck College in the UK in training rabbis for Europe.

Outside the United Kingdom, there are substantial congregations in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, as well as smaller ones in the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Spain and Sweden. A well-organized European Union Beit Din provides a coherent structure for emerging communities and offers a modus vivendi for individuals and for new groups living under difficult circumstances particularly in former Communist countries.

www.eupj.org/

Leo Baeck College is a preeminent institution of Jewish scholarship and learning that is the heart of the intellectual and spiritual life of the Progressive Jewish community. Leo Baeck College combines inspirational, high calibre teaching with a commitment to developing rabbis, other professionals, and lay leaders who will build sustainable, accessible, and thriving Progressive Jewish communities.



The college library, second to none, is a resource not only for its students, but for the whole community. Reader's tickets are available to those interested. Its resource centre is well-stocked with teaching resources to support RS teachers.

www.lbc.ac

WHO WE ARE AT SOUTH LONDON LIBERAL SYNAGOGUE

South London Liberal Synagogue includes a wide range of people: Jewish families, mixed Jewish/non-Jewish families, and those from diverse backgrounds who have become Jews by choice. Our synagogue is a proud constituent of Liberal Judaism, the national movement, and part of the European Union for Progressive Judaism, part of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. As with other LJ congregations, we consider as Jewish anyone who was raised as a Jew or who has converted under the auspices of any recognized authority in this country or abroad.

Some SLLS members have non-Jewish partners whom we also welcome. Some maintain their connections with their own cultures and traditions but at the same time they make a valued contribution to our community. Many will have children in Gesher (Religion School) and are welcome to become involved with Gesher and other synagogue activities. Any Jewish person may become a member of SLLS regardless of gender, sexual orientation or marital status. We welcome all individuals who are sincerely interested in converting to Judaism and who want to learn more about Jewish life and religion. We have a membership category of "Friend of SLLS" for those who are not eligible for full membership.

AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS:

Liberal Judaism; Board of Deputies of British Jews; Faiths Together in Lambeth; London Citizens

COMMUNITY LIFE AT SLLS INCLUDES:

SERVICES

SHABBAT MORNINGS AT 10:45AM

SERVICE AND FRIDAY NIGHT MINYAN (BRING-AND-SHARE MEAL) AT 7PM ON THE 4TH FRIDAY IN EACH MONTH
(STOP PRESS: ALSO TO BE THE 2ND FRIDAY IN EACH MONTH - COMING SOON!)

HIGH HOLYDAYS AND FESTIVAL SERVICES – FOR DETAILS SEE SOUTH CIRCULAR

Regular Shabbat morning **family service** led by **GESHER** pupils & members at 10:45am

Torah portion of the week on Saturday mornings before the service

GESHER, is for children from 5 –15 years, meets on Saturdays, 9:45am – 12:15pm

Pupils are prepared for *Bar / Bat Mitzvah* and *Kabbalat Torah*

Little Stars Toddler Group meets on Saturdays during **GESHER** term time at 10:00am

FRIENDS OF GESHER

SOCIAL ACTION

Interfaith programmes with other local communities

Pastoral care, visiting and other types of support

Visitors are always welcome.

For more details, contact the Synagogue office: 020 8769 4787

or visit the Synagogue's website: www.southlondon.org

*Full details of all activities appear in our monthly **South Circular** and our weekly **e-bulletin***

5780 – 5784

Notable Jewish Dates

2019 – 2024

FESTIVAL	2019/2020 5780	2020/2021 5781	2021/2022 5782	2022/2023 5783	2023/2024 5784
ROSH HA-SHANAH <i>1 Tishri</i>	Monday 30 September	Saturday 19 September	Tuesday 7 September	Monday 26 September	Saturday 16 September
YOM KIPPUR <i>10 Tishri</i>	Wednesday 9 October	Monday 28 September	Thursday 16 September	Wednesday 5 October	Monday 25 September
1ST DAY SUKKOT <i>15 Tishri</i>	Monday 14 October	Saturday 3 October	Tuesday 21 September	Monday 10 October	Saturday 30 September
SHEMINI ATZERET / SIMCHAT TORAH * <i>22 Tishri</i>	Monday 21 October	Saturday 10 October	Tuesday 28 September	Monday 17 October	Saturday 7 October
1ST DAY CHANUKKAH <i>25 Kislev</i>	Monday 23 December	Friday 11 December	Monday 29 November	Monday 19 December	Friday 8 December
TU BI-SH'VAT <i>15 Shevat</i>	Monday 10 February	Thursday 28 January	Monday 17 January	Monday 6 February	Thursday 25 January
PURIM <i>14 Adar</i>	Tuesday 10 March	Friday 26 February	Thursday 17 March	Tuesday 7 March	Sunday 24 March
1ST DAY PESACH <i>15 Nisan</i>	Thursday 9 April	Sunday 28 March	Saturday 16 April	Thursday 6 April	Tuesday 23 April
7TH DAY PESACH <i>21 Nisan</i>	Wednesday 15 April	Saturday 3 April	Friday 22 April	Wednesday 12 April	Monday 29 April
YOM HA-SHO'AH <i>generally 27 Nisan</i>	Tuesday 21 April	Thursday 8 April	Thursday 28 April	Tuesday 18 April	Sunday 5 May
YOM HA-ATZ'MA'UT <i>generally 5 Iyar</i>	Wednesday 29 April	Thursday 15 April <i>(3 Iyar)</i>	Thursday 5 May <i>(4 Iyar)</i>	Wednesday 26 April	Tuesday 14 May
SHAVU'OT <i>6 Sivan</i>	Friday 29 May	Monday 17 May	Sunday 5 June	Friday 26 May	Wednesday 12 June
TISH'AH B'AV <i>generally 9 Av</i>	Thursday 30 July	Sunday 18 July	Sunday 7 August	Thursday 27 July	Tuesday 13 August
S'LICHOT (night of)	Saturday 12 September	Saturday 28 August	Saturday 17 September	Saturday 9 September	Saturday 28 September

The dates above refer to the days of festivals.

All festivals begin at sunset the evening before and end at sunset the following day.

Most Progressive Jews in the Diaspora observe the eighth day of Sukkot as Simchat Torah,
some may follow the orthodox practice and instead observe the next day.