

WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

18-19 May 2018

5 Sivan 5778

SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

FRIDAY

6.00pm: **Erev Shabbat Service**
 Led by Rabbi Helen

7:00pm: **Shabbat Shirah Service**
 Led by Rabbi David

Wardens: Michelle Ross, Gillian Westwood and Oliver Walton
Beadles: Micky Nathanson and William Campos-Ortega

SATURDAY

10.30am: **Coffee Morning**

11.00am: **Shabbat Morning Service**
 Led by Rabbis Helen and David
 Sermon by Rabbi David

Wardens: Michelle Ross, Rita Yusupoff and Oliver Walton
Beadles: Micky Nathanson and William Campos-Ortega

Torah: Numbers 3:40-4:9
Haftarah: Jeremiah 31:1-14

Please join us for Shabbat kiddush after the service.

Doctor or fully trained first aider?

If you are a doctor or trained first aider please make yourself known to the wardens and beadle.

PARASHAT BEMIDBAR

The second book of the Torah, Exodus, concludes with a description for setting up the sanctuary on the first day of the first month of the second year after the Israelites leave Egypt. The fourth book of the Torah, known in Hebrew as *Bemidbar*, or "in the desert," or in English as Numbers, begins with God commanding Moses to take a census of the entire Israelite community. The commandment is given on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites' departure from Egypt. All males over the age of twenty are counted, and it is reported that there is a total of 603,550. This number excludes 22,000 Levites, who are exclusively responsible for all services of the sanctuary and are to camp around the sanctuary at all times. After counting all firstborn Israelite males over the age of one month, Moses is instructed to compare their number of 22,273 with the total of 22,000 Levites and to charge a redemption tax for the additional 273. It is to be paid to Aaron and his sons for service to the sanctuary. Moses also lists and counts the Kohathites separately from the Levites since the Kohathites are responsible for lifting and carrying the sacred objects of the sanctuary. They are not to be present when the sanctuary is either dismantled or set up.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We wish a warm Mazel tov to:

- Marie Van der Zyl on her election as President of the Board of Deputies
- Emma Kirby and Kane Lewis on their *Auf Ruf*
- Rachel Feldmann-Brummer and her parents Sara and George on Rachel's baby blessing
- Serena Orton on her birthday

The mitzvah of *derech erez-consideration for other people* is really important for us at West London Synagogue, so we would ask you to make sure that your mobile phone is turned off before the service and to leave cameras in your bags. As this is a religious place, we would also ask you to avoid inappropriate clothing or chewing gum during the service. Many thanks for your consideration in following our communal *minhag-traditions*.

The Rabbis and Wardens

NUMBERS 3:40-4:9

וַיֹּאמֶר יְיָ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה פֶּקֶד כָּל־בְּכוֹר זָכָר לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִבֶּן־חֹדֶשׁ וּמַעְלָה
 וְשָׂא אֶת מִסְפָּר שְׂמֹתָם: מֵא וּלְקַחְתָּ אֶת־הַלְוִיִּם לִי אֲנִי יְיָ תַחַת כָּל־בְּכוֹר
 בְּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֵת בְּהֵמַת הַלְוִיִּם תַּחַת כָּל־בְּכוֹר בְּבִהְמַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
 מִב וַיִּפְקֹד מֹשֶׁה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְיָ אֹתוֹ אֶת־כָּל־בְּכוֹר בְּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: מִג וַיְהִי
 כָּל־בְּכוֹר זָכָר בְּמִסְפָּר שְׂמֹת מִבֶּן־חֹדֶשׁ וּמַעְלָה לְפָקְדֵיהֶם שְׁנַיִם וְעֶשְׂרִים
 אָלֶף שְׁלֹשָׁה וּשְׁבַעִים וּמֵאָתַיִם: פ מִד וַיְדַבֵּר יְיָ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: מֵה קַח
 אֶת־הַלְוִיִּם תַּחַת כָּל־בְּכוֹר בְּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֵת־בְּהֵמַת הַלְוִיִּם תַּחַת בְּהֵמַתָּם
 וְהִיוּ־לִי הַלְוִיִּם אֲנִי יְיָ: מו וְאֵת פְּדוּיֵי הַשְּׁלֵשָׁה וְהַשְּׁבַעִים וְהַמֵּאָתַיִם
 הָעֵדֻפִּים עַל־הַלְוִיִּם מִבְּכוֹר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: מֵז וּלְקַחְתָּ חֲמִשָּׁת חֲמִשָּׁת שְׁקָלִים
 לְגִלְגָּלֵת בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ תִּקַּח עֶשְׂרִים גֵּרָה הַשְּׁקָל: מֶח וְנִתְּנָה הַכֶּסֶף לְאַהֲרֹן
 וּלְבְנָיו פְּדוּיֵי הָעֵדֻפִּים בָּהֶם: מֵט וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת כֶּסֶף הַפְּדִיּוֹם מֵאֵת
 הָעֵדֻפִּים עַל פְּדוּיֵי הַלְוִיִּם: נ אֵת בְּכוֹר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָקַח אֶת־הַכֶּסֶף
 חֲמִשָּׁה וּשְׁשִׁים וּשְׁלֹשׁ מֵאֹת וְאֶלֶף בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ: נֹא וַיִּתֵּן מֹשֶׁה אֶת־כֶּסֶף
 הַפְּדִיּוֹם לְאַהֲרֹן וּלְבְנָיו עַל־פִּי יְיָ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְיָ אֶת־מֹשֶׁה: א וַיְדַבֵּר יְיָ
 אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: ב נִשְׂא אֶת־רֹאשׁ בְּנֵי קָהָת מִתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי לֵוִי
 לְמִשְׁפַּחְתָּם לְבֵית אֲבֹתָם: ג מִבֶּן שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וּמַעְלָה וְעַד בֶּן־חֲמִשִּׁים
 שָׁנָה כָּל־בָּא לְצִבָּא לַעֲשׂוֹת מְלָאכָה בְּאַהֲל מוֹעֵד: ד זֹאת עֲבַדְתָּ בְנֵי־קָהָת
 בְּאַהֲל מוֹעֵד קֹדֶשׁ הַקְּדוּשִׁים: ה וּבָא אַהֲרֹן וּבְנָיו בְּנִסְעַ הַמִּחְנֶה וְהוֹרְדוּ אֶת
 פָּרֹכֶת הַמָּסֹךְ וְכִסּוּ־בָהּ אֶת אֲרֹן הָעֵדֻת: ו וְנִתְּנוּ עָלָיו כְּסוּי עוֹר תַּחַשׁ
 וּפְרָשׁוּ בַגְד־כְּלִיל תְּכֵלֶת מְלֻמַּעְלָה וְשָׂמוּ בְדִיו: ז וְעַל | שְׁלֹחַן הַפָּנִים
 יִפְרָשׁוּ בַגְד תְּכֵלֶת וְנִתְּנוּ עָלָיו אֶת־הַקְּעֵרֹת וְאֶת־הַכַּפֹּת וְאֶת־הַמְּנַקִּיֹת וְאֵת
 קִשׁוֹת הַנְּסֹךְ וְלַחֵם הַתָּמִיד עָלָיו יִהְיֶה: ח וּפְרָשׁוּ עֲלֵיהֶם בַּגְד תּוֹלַעַת שָׁנִי
 וְכִסּוּ אֹתוֹ בְּמַכְסֵה עוֹר תַּחַשׁ וְשָׂמוּ אֶת־בְּדִיו: ט וּלְקַחוּ | בַּגְד תְּכֵלֶת וְכִסּוּ
 אֶת־מִנְרַת הַמָּאוֹר וְאֶת־נִרְתִּיָּהּ וְאֶת־מְלַקְחֶיהָ וְאֶת־מַחְתֹּתֶיהָ וְאֵת כָּל־כְּלֵי
 שְׂמֹנֶה אֲשֶׁר יִשְׂרָתוּ־לָהּ בָּהֶם:

NUMBERS 3:40-4:9

40 The Eternal One said to Moses: Record every first-born male of the Israelite people from the age of one month up, and make a list of their names; **41** and take the Levites for Me, The Eternal One, in place of every first-born among the Israelite people, and the cattle of the Levites in place of every first-born among the cattle of the Israelites. **42** So Moses recorded all the first-born among the Israelites, as The Eternal One had commanded him. **43** All the first-born males as listed by name, recorded from the age of one month up, came to 22,273. **44** The Eternal One spoke to Moses, saying: **45** Take the Levites in place of all the first-born among the Israelite people, and the cattle of the Levites in place of their cattle; and the Levites shall be Mine, God's. **46** And as the redemption price of the 273 Israelite first-born over and above the number of the Levites, **47** take five shekels per head—take this by the sanctuary weight, twenty *gerahs* to the shekel—**48** and give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for those who are in excess. **49** So Moses took the redemption money from those over and above the ones redeemed by the Levites; **50** he took the money from the first-born of the Israelites, 1,365 sanctuary shekels. **51** And Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons at God's bidding, as The Eternal One had commanded Moses. **4:1** The Eternal One spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: **2** Take a [separate] census of the Kohathites among the Levites, by the clans of their ancestral house, **3** from the age of thirty years up to the age of fifty, all who are subject to service, to perform tasks for the Tent of Meeting. **4** This is the responsibility of the Kohathites in the Tent of Meeting: the most sacred objects. **5** At the breaking of camp, Aaron and his sons shall go in and take down the screening curtain and cover the Ark of the Pact with it. **6** They shall lay a covering of dolphina skin over it and spread a cloth of pure blue on top; and they shall put its poles in place. **7** Over the table of display they shall spread a blue cloth; they shall place upon it the bowls, the ladles, the jars, and the libation jugs; and the regular bread shall rest upon it. **8** They shall spread over these a crimson cloth which they shall cover with a covering of dolphin skin; and they shall put the poles in place. **9** Then they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand for lighting, with its lamps, its tongs, and its fire pans, as well as all the oil vessels that are used in its service.

JEREMIAH 31:1-14

At that time- declares The Eternal One- I will be God to all the clans of Israel, and they shall be My people.Thus said The Eternal One: The people escaped from the sword,found favour in the wilderness;When Israel was marching homeward The Eternal One was revealed to me of old.Eternal love I conceived for you then;Therefore I continue My grace to you. I will build you firmly again,O Maiden Israel!Again you shall take up your timbrels and go forth to the rhythm of the dancers. Again you shall plant vineyards On the hills of Samaria;People shall plant and live to enjoy them. For the day is coming when watchers shall proclaim on the heights of Ephraim:Come, let us go up to Zion,To The Eternal One our God! For thus said The Eternal One:Cry out in joy for Jacob,Shout at the crossroads of the nations!Sing aloud in praise, and say:Save, O God, Your people,The remnant of Israel.I will bring them in from the northland,Gather them from the ends of the earth--The blind and the lame among them,Those with child and those in labour--In a vast throng they shall return here.They shall come with weeping,And with compassion will I guide them.I will lead them to streams of water,By a level road where they will not stumble. For I am ever a Parent to Israel,Ephraim is My first-born. Hear the word of The Eternal One, O nations,And tell it in the isles afar.Say:The Eternal One who scattered Israel will gather them,And will guard them as a shepherd their flock.For The Eternal One will ransom Jacob,Redeem him from one too strong for him.They shall come and shout on the heights of Zion,Radiant over the bounty of The Eternal One--Over new grain and wine and oil,And over sheep and cattle.They shall fare like a watered garden,They shall never languish again.Then shall maidens dance gaily,Young people and old alike.I will turn their mourning to joy,I will comfort them and cheer them in their grief.I will give the priests their fill of fatness,And My people shall enjoy My full bounty -declares The Eternal One.

RABBI JULIA'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Shavuot is coming up this weekend, one of my favourite festivals. I adore the WLS custom we've reintroduced of rose petals on the ground with the little children dancing on them. I love the Tikkun Leil Shavuot; I like the study sessions and quizzes, the lectures and the iftar, beforehand. And I love the fact we read Torah under a tallit to symbolise a wedding, the wedding between God and the people of Israel...

And it's a big celebration with joy and solemnity, with cheesecake and study, with a royal wedding and a Cup Final to boot. Yet it's been a hard week. The deaths at the Gaza border have been beyond distressing. The pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal by President Trump is terrifying. News from Syria, if you look - it's not front page - is deeply depressing. So it's hard to rejoice unequivocally, and it's hard to put the 'real' world away as we study and pray, laugh and eat sweet things, and celebrate the giving of the law.

Yet one of Judaism's key lessons is that sometimes we have to do just that. I was feeling gloomy earlier this week, and started reading my father's favourite Biblical book, Kohelet, Ecclesiastes. The author, allegedly a tired disillusioned king, has seen it all and thinks everything is vanity, hevel. But he says this:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...

It's all part of human life. The great American novelist, Thomas Wolfe, who died this week, wrote about Kohelet: "[O]f all I have ever seen or learned, that book seems to me the noblest, the wisest, and the most powerful expression of man's life upon this earth.... I am not given to dogmatic judgments in the matter of literary creation, but if I had to make one I could say that Ecclesiastes is the greatest single piece of writing I have ever known, and the wisdom expressed in it the most lasting and profound."

I'm not sure I totally agree, but there is something of huge importance in realising that we have to experience pain and pleasure, joy and sadness, fear and security.... And that some of that is inherent in how to be human.

THIS WEEKEND

WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE IS DELIGHTED TO INVITE YOU TO

The Royal Match of the Day

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT | NIGHT SCHOOL

Saturday 19 May - Sunday 20 May

17.30: RELIGION SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & SUPPER

18.30: FAMILY FRIENDLY COMBO SERVICE

19.15: ENHANCED KIDDUSH

19.45: PLENARY: KINGS & QUEENS QUIZ

20.40: HAVDALAH

21.00: COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS (CCJ)

INTERFAITH LECTURE & SUPPER -

'Spirit of the Mystery: "the wind blows where it wills"' with guest speaker Michael Barnes SJ

OR

21.00: BIG IFTAR SUPPER - ALL WELCOME

22.00: COFFEE & CHEESECAKE

22.15: REVIEWING THE ROYAL WEDDING WITH ROBERT LACEY AND RABBI JULIA

23.15: ALL NIGHT STUDY: *Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Make Me A Match - A Diverse, Late-Night of Relationship*

05.00: SHACHARIT SERVICE ON THE ROOF

Sunday 20 May

10.30am: ShabbaTots Shavuot Special

11.00am: Shavuot Morning Service

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 8 June

7.15pm: Erev Shabbat Dinner

Guest speaker – Simon Stevens

Simon Stevens is a British health manager, public policy analyst and politician. He was appointed as chief executive of NHS England 2014, succeeding David Nicholson.

The cost is £29.50 per adult member and £35 per adult non-member, which includes a catered 3 course meal. For more information or to book, please contact Kathryn Forro on 020 7535 0259.

Saturday 9 June

11.00am: Volunteers Shabbat Morning Service

Special Volunteers Shabbat to honour our many wonderful volunteers, who give so much of their time and energy to the synagogue and its various projects. It is a chance to highlight the amazing work done by so many volunteers in this community.