

# WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

29/30 March 2019

23 Adar II 5779

# SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

## FRIDAY

**6.00pm:**

### **Erev Shabbat Service**

Led by Rabbi Julia and Rabbi Helen  
Sermon by Rev. Dr. John Hall

**Wardens:**

David Chapman, Oliver Walton & Steven Rowe

**Beadle:**

Monica Jankel

## SATURDAY

**10.30am:**

### **Coffee Morning**

**11.00am:**

### **Shabbat Morning Service**

Led by Rabbi Julia and Rabbi Helen  
Sermon by Rabbi Julia

**Wardens:**

David Chapman, Oliver Walton & Steven Rowe

**Beadle:**

Monica Jankel

**Torah:**

Leviticus 10: 1-11 and Numbers 19: 1-10

**Haftarah:**

Ezekiel 36: 23-35

*Please join us for Shabbat kiddush after the service.*

### **Doctor or fully trained first aider?**

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

## PARASHAT SH'MINI/PARAH

*Parashat Sh'mini* opens with Moses' instructions to Aaron and his sons for bringing offerings to the sanctuary as atonement for any sins that they or the people may have committed. Aaron follows Moses' instructions carefully and places the offerings on the sanctuary altar. Afterwards two of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, decide to bring fire offerings of their own. Because they have brought offerings not commanded by God, they are punished by death. Moses tells Aaron and his other sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, not to mourn for them. Later God tells Moses and Aaron which foods are permitted for eating and which are forbidden to the people of Israel.

The Red Heifer is one of the most fascinating and paradoxical portions in the Torah, read each year on Shabbat Parah. Only a perfectly red animal that has not been used for farming will suffice, she seems to represent wholeness and perfection. The ashes of the red heifer cancel out impurity, once the ritual has been performed as described. However, because the rite is so numinous, those that enact it are rendered impure and have to wash themselves and their clothes and are impure until the evening.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

We wish a warm Mazel Tov to:

- Michael Lewis on his second Bar Mitzvah
- Zac Draper on his birthday

## LEVITICUS 10:1-11

וַיִּקְחוּ בְנֵי־אֶהֱרֹן נָדָב וַאֲבִיהוּא אִישׁ מִחֹתְנָתוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ בָהֶן אֵשׁ וַיִּשְׂמִימוּ עָלֶיהָ קִטְרֶת וַיִּקְרִיבוּ לִפְנֵי יי אֵשׁ זָרָה אֲשֶׁר לֹא צִוָּה אַתֶּם: וַתֵּצֵא אֵשׁ מִלִּפְנֵי יי וַתֹּאכַל אוֹתְכֶם וַיָּמָתוּ לִפְנֵי יי: וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אֶהֱרֹן הוּא אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר יי לֵאמֹר בְּקִרְבִּי אֶקְדָּשׁ וְעַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָעַם אֶכָּבֵד וַיִּדַּם אֶהֱרֹן: וַיִּקְרָא מֹשֶׁה אֶל־מִישַׁאֵל וְאֶל אֶלְצָפָן בְּנֵי עֲזִיאֵל דָּד אֶהֱרֹן וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם קִרְבְּו שָׂאוּ אֶת־אֲחִיכֶם מֵאֵת פְּנֵי־הַקֹּדֶשׁ אֶל־מַחוּץ לַמִּחֲנֶה: וַיִּקְרְבוּ וַיִּשָּׂאִם בְּכַתְּנֹתָם אֶל־מַחוּץ לַמִּחֲנֶה כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה: וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אֶהֱרֹן וּלְאֶלְעָזָר וּלְאִיתָמָר בָּנָיו רְאִשֵׁיכֶם אֶל־תִּפְרְעוּ וּבְגָדֵיכֶם לֹא־תִפְרְמוּ וְלֹא תָמָתוּ וְעַל כָּל־הַעֲדָה יִקְצָף וְאֲחִיכֶם כָּל־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל יִבְכוּ אֶת־הַשְּׂרָפָה אֲשֶׁר שָׂרַף יי: וּמִפְּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לֹא תֵצְאוּ פֶן־תָּמָתוּ כִּי־שָׁמֹן מִשְׁחַת יי עָלֵיכֶם וַיַּעֲשׂוּ כַּדָּבָר מֹשֶׁה: וַיִּדְבֵּר יי אֶל־אֶהֱרֹן לֵאמֹר: יִינֹן וְשֹׁכֵר אֶל־תִּשְׁתְּ אֹתָהּ וּבִגְדֶיךָ אֲתָהּ וּבִגְדֵי אֲתָדָּךְ בְּבֹאֲכֶם אֶל־אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְלֹא תָמָתוּ חֲקַת עוֹלָם לְדוֹרֹתֵיכֶם: וְלֹהֲבִדִּיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל וּבֵין הַטָּמֵא וּבֵין הַטָּהוֹר: וְלֹהֲזוֹרֹת אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת כָּל־הַחֲקִים אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יי אֲלֵיהֶם בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה:

## NUMBERS 19:1-10

וַיִּדְבֵּר יי אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אֶהֱרֹן לֵאמֹר: זֹאת חֲקַת הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יי לֵאמֹר דִּבֶּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּקְחוּ אֶל־יָד פָּרָה אֲדָמָה תְּמִימָה אֲשֶׁר אֵין־בָּהּ מוּם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָלָה עָלֶיהָ עֹל: וַיִּנְתְּתֶם אֹתָהּ אֶל־אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְהוֹצִיא אֹתָהּ אֶל־מַחוּץ לַמִּחֲנֶה וְשַׁחַט אֹתָהּ לִפְנֵיו: וְלָקַח אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן מִדָּמָהּ בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ וְהִזָּה אֶל־לֶכֶח פְּנֵי אֹהֶל־מוֹעֵד מִדָּמָהּ שֶׁבַע פְּעָמִים:

וְשָׂרַף אֶת־הַפָּרָה לְעֵינָיו אֶת־עֵרְבָה וְאֶת־בִּשְׂרָהּ וְאֶת־דָּמָהּ עַל־פְּרֹשֶׁה יִשְׂרָף: וְלָקַח הַכֹּהֵן יַעַץ אָרָז וְאֶזֶב וְשֵׁנִי תוֹלַעַת וְהִשְׁלִיף אֶל־תְּוֹד שׁוֹרֶפֶת הַפָּרָה: וְכִבֵּס בְּגָדָיו הַכֹּהֵן וְרִחַץ בְּשָׂרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְאַחַר יָבֵא אֶל־הַמִּחֲנֶה וְטָמֵא הַכֹּהֵן עַד־הָעָרֶב:

וְהַשְּׂרָף אֹתָהּ כִּבֵּס בְּגָדָיו בַּמַּיִם וְרִחַץ בְּשָׂרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְטָמֵא עַד־הָעָרֶב: וְאַסֵּף אִישׁ טָהוֹר אֶת אֶפְרַיִם הַפָּרָה וְהֵנִיחַ מַחוּץ לַמִּחֲנֶה בְּמָקוֹם טָהוֹר וְהִיִּתָּה לַעֲדַת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁמֶרֶת לְמִי נִדָּה חֲטָאת הוּא: וְכִבֵּס הָאִסָּף אֶת־אֶפְרַיִם הַפָּרָה אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וְטָמֵא עַד־הָעָרֶב וְהִיִּתָּה לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלִגְרָם וְלִגְרָם הָגֵר בְּתוֹכְכֶם לְחֲקַת עוֹלָם:

## LEVITICUS 10:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu each took his fire pan, put fire in it, and laid incense on it; and they offered before Adonai alien fire, which God had not enjoined upon them. <sup>2</sup>And fire came forth from Adonai and consumed them; thus they died at the instance of Adonai. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what Adonai meant when God said: through those near to Me I show Myself holy, and gain glory before all the people." And Aaron was silent. <sup>4</sup>Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, "Come forward and carry your kinsmen away from the front of the sanctuary to a place outside the camp." <sup>5</sup>They came forward and carried them out of the camp by their tunics, as Moses had ordered. <sup>6</sup>And Moses said to Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Do not bare your heads and do not rend your clothes, lest you die and anger strike the whole community. But your kinsmen, all the house of Israel, shall bewail the burning that Adonai has wrought. <sup>7</sup>And so do not go outside the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, lest you die, for Adonai's anointing oil is upon you." And they did as Moses had bidden. <sup>8</sup>And Adonai spoke to Aaron, saying: <sup>9</sup>"Drink no wine or other intoxicant, you or your sons, when you enter the Tent of Meeting, that you may not die. This is a law for all time throughout the ages, <sup>10</sup>for you must distinguish between the sacred and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean; <sup>11</sup>and you must teach the Israelites all the laws which Adonai has imparted to them through Moses.

## NUMBERS 19:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Adonai spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: <sup>2</sup>This is the ritual law that Adonai has commanded: Instruct the Israelite people to bring you a red cow without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which no yoke has been laid. <sup>3</sup>You shall give it to Eleazar the priest. It shall be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence. <sup>4</sup>Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting.

<sup>5</sup>The cow shall be burned in his sight - its hide, flesh, and blood shall be burned, its dung included - <sup>6</sup>and the priest shall take cedar wood, hyssop, and crimson stuff, and throw them into the fire consuming the cow. <sup>7</sup>The priest shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water; after that the priest may reenter the camp, but he shall be unclean until evening.

<sup>8</sup>He who performed the burning shall also wash his garments in water, bathe his body in water, and be unclean until evening. <sup>9</sup>A man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the cow and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, to be kept for water of lustration for the Israelite community. It is for cleansing. <sup>10</sup>He who gathers up the ashes of the cow shall also wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. This shall be a permanent law for the Israelites and for the strangers who reside among you.

## EZEKIEL 36:23-35

I will sanctify My great name which has been profaned among the nations--among whom you have caused it to be profaned. And the nations shall know that I am the Adonai declares God--when I manifest My holiness before their eyes through you. I will take you from among the nations and gather you from all the countries, and I will bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: I will cleanse you from all your uncleanness and from all your fetishes. And I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit into you: I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh; and I will put My spirit into you. Thus I will cause you to follow My laws and faithfully to observe My rules. Then you shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers, and you shall be My people and I will be your God. And when I have delivered you from all your uncleanness, I will summon the grain and make it abundant, and I will not bring famine upon you. I will make the fruit of your trees and the crops of your fields abundant, so that you shall never again be humiliated before the nations because of famine. Then you shall recall your evil ways and your base conduct, and you shall loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abhorrent practices. Not for your sake will I act--declares Adonai--take good note! Be ashamed and humiliated because of your ways, O House of Israel! Thus said Adonai: When I have cleansed you of all your iniquities, I will people your settlements, and the ruined places shall be rebuilt; and the desolate land, after lying waste in the sight of every passerby, shall again be tilled. And men shall say, "That land, once desolate, has become like the garden of Eden; and the cities, once ruined, desolate, and ravaged, are now populated and fortified."

## RABBI DAVID'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When someone asks 'do you keep kosher?' what do you respond?

Amongst our near 3000 members, there must be at least 2000 different and nuanced responses to that question. Such is the nature of Progressive Judaism that each of us makes our own informed choices about what we will and will not eat. Moreover, Progressive Judaism encourages us not to judge the other by what is on their plate, but, instead, to respectfully ask questions in order to reinforce or refine our own informed choices. There's wisdom in this, for both blindly following and rejecting rules is relatively easy; it is much harder work and requires real dedication to learn about a Jewish ritual before deciding whether to follow it. It is this intellectual side of Progressive Judaism which can be so easily forgotten in the rush to find simple solutions to our complex lives.

My personal response to the question of whether I 'keep Kosher', is that I'm a vegetarian. If people probe a little deeper I will explain that alongside this, I have a kosher home with separate utensils and plates for milk and meat. If they enquire further, I will explain that there are three overriding principles which inform my household kashrut choices: 1. that any of my 3000 congregants, no matter their observance of kashrut, is welcome and able to eat in my home. 2. That having come from a seriously Orthodox family, it is essential that my home is a place where all members of my family (Orthodox and Reform) are always welcome for a meal. 3. That we strive to be conscious consumers, looking at animal welfare and environmental issues, as our eco-kashrut.

So, irrespective of how you would answer the question of 'keeping kosher', as we read this week's Torah portion, with its long lists of kosher and non kosher animals, let's take a moment to reflect not just on what we do, but why.

# SAVE THE DATE

## **Tuesday 2 April**

### **Grief Works – Julia Samuel In Conversation with Rabbi Julia**

Refreshments from 6.15pm, start promptly at 6.45pm

Julia Samuel and Rabbi Julia will be 'in conversation' about Julia Samuel's best-selling book, 'Grief Works'. Julia Samuel is a trained psychotherapist, working in the field of grief, and she has many insights to impart. The two Julias are old friends, and Rabbi Julia will be asking Julia about how we can think differently about approaching grief. RSVP to Jenny Browning on 0207 535 0273.

## **Friday 12 April**

### **7.15pm: Friday Night Dinner**

#### **Guest speaker: KAREN ARMSTRONG, OBE**

Karen Armstrong, OBE is a leading author and commentator. A former Roman Catholic religious sister, Karen's work focuses on the commonalities of the major religions such as the importance of compassion and the Golden Rule – the principle of treating others as oneself would wish to be treated.

The cost is £29.50 per adult member and £35 per adult non-member, includes a catered 3 course meal. Bookings: Kathryn Forro on 020 7535 0259. Please note that places cannot be guaranteed without payment and that we are unable to offer refunds up to one week prior to a dinner.

## **Sunday 28 April**

### **7.00pm: Classic Gershwin - *Doors open at 6.15pm***

In our very first partnership with the stylish much acclaimed 7Star Arts, we present the moving story of the life and music of composer George Gershwin, brought to life in this multi genre production featuring narration, live music and visual projections.

ALL WARMLY WELCOME – a real Sunday evening Spring treat for you, your friends and family.

Classic Gershwin weaves the vibrant music of the ever popular composer, with his fascinating life story from birth in the colourful, teeming New York of 1898, to his tragically early death in 1937.

Prize-winning pianist and famed Gershwin interpreter Viv McLean, joins RSC, National Theatre and TV actress Susan Porrett as narrator, in an intriguing, eclectic mix of Gershwin's music – from the much loved Rhapsody in Blue, I got Rhythm Variations, and Swanee, to the rarely played Classical Preludes.

Online discount: All tickets £20 at [ticketsource.co.uk/eretz](http://ticketsource.co.uk/eretz)

Tickets are £25 on the door on the night.