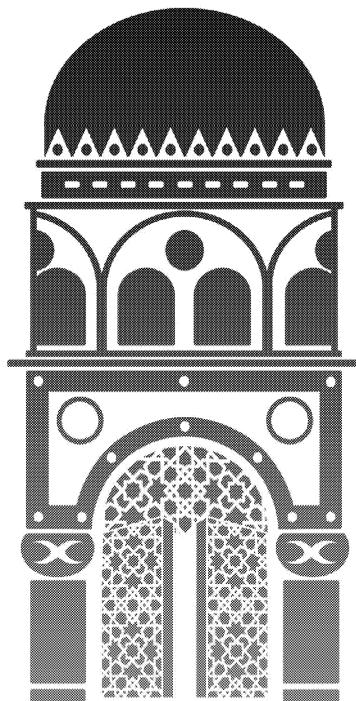


WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

28/29 June 2019

26 Sivan 5779

SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

FRIDAY

6.00pm:

Erev Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Helen and Rabbi Neil

Sermon by: Rabbi Neil

Wardens:

Gillian Westwood, Vivien Feather and Steven Rowe

Beadles:

Micky Nathanson and Orlando Ortega-Medina

SATURDAY

10.30am:

Coffee Morning

11.00am:

Shabbat Morning Service

Led by Rabbi Neil and Rabbi Sybil

Sermon by: Rabbi Sybil

Wardens:

Gillian Westwood, Vivien Feather and Steven Rowe

Beadles:

Micky Nathanson and Orlando Ortega-Medina

Torah:

Numbers 16:1:13

Haftarah:

I Samuel 11:14:12:22

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 KORACH

Parashat Korach tells of the rebellion of Korach, Dathan, Abiram, and On against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. With 250 respected leaders of the community, they accuse Moses and Aaron of acting “holier” than the other Israelites. Hearing their complaint, Moses instructs them to bring offerings to the sanctuary on the next day and tells them that God will demonstrate who is to be trusted as leader of the community. The next morning the leaders of the rebellion and their followers are punished. Some are swallowed when the earth opens; others are killed by fire or plague. The community then accuses Moses and Aaron of bringing death upon the people. God threatens to destroy the entire people, but Moses orders Aaron to place an offering on the altar, which is meant to save the people from harm. Moses then organizes the priesthood to be headed by Aaron and his descendants. They, along with the tribe of Levi, are to be responsible for managing all gifts donated to the sanctuary. Unlike other tribes of Israel, Levites are not given any territory. They are given offerings as payment for their work in the sanctuary.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We extend a warm Mazel tov to:

- Austin Levy and his family on Austin’s Bar Mitzvah.
- Lorca Mingay-Lewis on his baby blessing.

א וַיִּקַּח קִרְחַב בֶּן־יִצְהָר בֶּן־קִהָת בֶּן־לוֹי וְדָתָן וְאַבִּירָם בְּנֵי אֵלִיאָב וְאוֹן
 בֶּן־פִּלֵּת בְּנֵי רְאוּבֵן: ב וַיִּקְמוּ לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה וְאֲנָשִׁים מִבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲמִשִּׁים
 וּמֵאָתַיִם נְשִׂאֵי עֵדָה קְרָאִי מוֹעֵד אֲנָשֵׁי־שָׁם: ג וַיִּקְהֲלוּ עַל־מֹשֶׁה
 וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם רַב־לָכֶם כִּי כָל־הָעֵדָה כָּלָם קֹדְשִׁים וּבְתוֹכְכֶם יִי
 וּמִדּוֹעַ תִּתְנַשְׂאוּ עַל־קֹהֵל יְיָ: ד וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה וַיִּפֹּל עַל־פָּנָיו: ה וַיְדַבֵּר
 אֶל־קִרְחַב וְאֶל־כָּל־עֵדְתוֹ לֵאמֹר בִּקְרֹ וַיִּדַע יְיָ אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ וְאֶת־הַקְּדוֹשׁ
 וְהַקְּרִיב אֵלָיו וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַרְבוּ יִקְרִיב אֵלָיו: ו זֹאת עֲשׂוּ קַחוּ־לָכֶם
 מַחְתֹּת קִרְחַב וְכָל־עֵדְתוֹ: ז וּתְנוּ־בָהֶן | אֵשׁ וְשִׂמוּ עֲלֵיהֶן | קְטֹרֶת לִפְנֵי יְיָ
 מִחֵר וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחַר יְיָ הוּא הַקְּדוֹשׁ רַב־לָכֶם בְּנֵי לׁוֹי:

ח וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־קִרְחַב שְׂמַע־נָא בְּנֵי לׁוֹי: ט הַמַּעֲט מִכֶּם כִּי־הִבְדִּיל
 אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתְכֶם מֵעֵדַת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַקְּרִיב אֶתְכֶם אֵלָיו לַעֲבֹד אֶת־עַבְדַּת
 מִשְׁכַּן יְיָ וְלַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי הָעֵדָה לְשִׁרְתָּם: י וַיִּקְרַב אֹתָם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲחֵיהֶם
 בְּנֵי־לוֹי אֹתָם וּבִקְשָׁתָם גַּם־כָּהֵנָה:

יא לָכֵן אַתָּה וְכָל־עֵדְתְךָ הַנִּעַדִים עַל־יְיָ וְאַהֲרֹן מֵה־הוּא כִּי תִלּוּנוּ [תִּלְיִנוּ]
 עֲלֵיו: יב וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה לִקְרֹא לְדָתָן וְלֹאבִירָם בְּנֵי אֵלִיאָב וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא
 נַעֲלֶה: יג הַמַּעֲט כִּי הָעֲלִיתָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ זְבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבַשׁ לְהַמִּיתָנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר
 כִּי־תִשְׁתַּרְר עָלֵינוּ גַם־הַשְּׁתַרְר:

NUMBERS 16:1-13

Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men. 2 And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. 3 They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Eternal One is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Eternal One?" 4 When Moses heard it, he fell on his face, 5 and he said to Korah and all his company, "In the morning the Eternal One will show who is his, and who is holy, and will bring him near to him. The one whom he chooses he will bring near to him. 6 Do this: take censers, Korah and all his company; 7 put fire in them and put incense on them before the Eternal One tomorrow, and the man whom the Eternal One chooses shall be the holy one. You have gone too far, sons of Levi!" 8 And Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi: 9 is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of the Eternal One and to stand before the congregation to minister to them, 10 and that he has brought you near him, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And would you seek the priesthood also? 11 Therefore it is against the Eternal One that you and all your company have gathered together. What is Aaron that you grumble against him?" 12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and they said, "We will not come up. 13 Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out from a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you must also make yourself a prince over us?"

I SAMUEL 11:14-12:22

¹⁴Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let's go to Gilgal and renew the kingship there. ¹⁵So all the people went to Gilgal; and there in Gilgal, before God, they made Saul king. They presented sacrifices as peace offerings before The Eternal One there, and there Saul and all the people of Israel celebrated with great joy. **12** Samuel said to all Israel, "Here, I have done everything you asked me to do — I have made a king over you. ²There is the king, walking ahead of you; but I am old and gray-headed. There are my sons with you, and I have walked at your head from when I was a boy until today. ³So here I am; now is the time to witness against me before God and before His anointed king. Does any of you think I have taken your ox or donkey, defrauded or oppressed you, or accepted a bribe to deprive you of justice? Tell me, and I will restore it to you." ⁴They answered, "You haven't defrauded or oppressed us, and you have accepted nothing from anyone." ⁵He said, "Adonai is witness against you, and His anointed king is witness against you today, that you have found nothing in my hands?" They replied, "He is witness." ⁶Samuel said to the people, "It was the Eternal One who appointed Moses and Aaron and who brought your ancestors up from the land of Egypt. ⁷Now, hold still; because I am going to plead with you before God regarding all the righteous acts that He did for you and your ancestors. ⁸"When Jacob came to Egypt, your ancestors cried to God; and God sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your ancestors out of Egypt and had them live here in this place. ⁹ But they forgot their God; so he handed them over to Sisera, commander of the army of Hatzor, and to the Philistines, and to the king of Moab; and they fought against them. ¹⁰But they cried to God and said, 'We sinned by abandoning the Eternal One and serving the idols. But now, if you rescue us from the power of our enemies, we will serve you.

I always used to have a sneaking affection for Korach ,the archetypal rebel who is the anti-hero of this week's Torah portion. I think it was probably because he is right in some ways, he is angry with Moses and Aaron for taking too much upon themselves, he argues that the whole community is holy and that God is in their midst. So why, I used to wonder, does Korach and his whole assembly come to such a nasty end? Swallowed up alive into the ground as a punishment for doubting Moses and Aaron's leadership? I think now that it is because he is so polarising, angry and arrogant in his approach and taunts Moses into the show of strength. Being right is no good it turns out, if you do it in the wrong way, he is antagonistic and angry and no one can hear the genuinely democratising instinct that is there somewhere. The Korach-type characters are sadly doomed to frustration, full of passion for their cause, but unable to communicate it to those in power. So maybe the lesson we can learn from Korach and his fate is to speak truth to power, but to do it in a calm, measured and determined way. That way we can enable the whole community to be aware of their responsibility for the future and that God is in their midst.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 5 July

PEACE OF MIND ONEG SHABBAT

6pm: Traditional Friday night service - all very welcome

7.15pm: Oneg Shabbat Dinner, three course Summer menu with wine

As this year's one week in residence by the Peace of Mind team draws to a close, we invite host families and their friends, volunteer cooks and chaperones, project funders and sponsors, and absolutely every member of the community, to join participants in an informal, boisterous yet moving party, sharing thoughts, good food and wine in a convivial atmosphere.

£30 per adult member, £37.50 per adult non member, £18 child, fulltime student, or unwaged, £250 for a table of ten. Tickets from Kathryn on 020 7535 0259.

Saturday 6 July

PRIDE SHABBAT

10.30am: Welcome with coffee and cake

11.00am: Shabbat Morning Service in celebration of 50 years of Stonewall with sermon by Sir Terry Etherton, Master of the Rolls, WLS member and the most senior gay judge in the UK.

12.45pm: Celebratory Pride kiddush

1.15pm: Join the community as we make our way to meet up with the Jewish delegation on the Pride parade. WLS is especially proud to be sponsoring this year's Pride Jewish minibus for the second year, ensuring that irrespective of mobility, all members of the Jewish LGBT+ community are able to participate in this year's parade.

Thursday 18 July

12.15pm: Seymour Group Lunch

With guest speaker: Lili Loebel-Todes – 'Don't ask me where I come from' How a refugee from Nazi Germany became a UN correspondent.

£15 payable at the door. Book early by phoning Hermy Jankel on 020 7722 8489. If unavailable please leave a clear message. Cancellations only accepted before 10am on the preceding Monday. Otherwise you will be charged. Parking? We aim to finish by 2.30pm.