

WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

22/23 November 2019

25 Cheshvan 5780

SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

FRIDAY

6.00pm:

Erev Shabbat Service

Led by Rabbi Helen, Rabbi Sybil and Student Rabbi Elliott
Sermon by: Rabbi Helen

Wardens:

Vivien Feather , Steven Rowe and Paul Jaffa.

Beadle:

Micky Nathanson

SATURDAY

10.30am:

Coffee Morning

11.00am:

Shabbat Morning Service

Led by Rabbi Neil and Student Rabbi Elliott
Sermon by: Rabbi Neil

11:00am:

Explanatory Service

Led by :Rabbi Helen

Wardens:

Vivien Feather , Steven Rowe and Terry Etherton.

Beadle:

Ivor Epstein

Torah:

Genesis 24:1-26

Haftarah:

I Kings I 1:31

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.

SHABBAT CHAYYEI SARAH

While *Chayyey Sarah* may be translated as “Sarah’s lifetime,” this Torah portion actually tells us about Sarah’s death. Abraham seeks to purchase the cave of Machpelah, in Hebron, for her burial. Ephron, the son of Zohar, owns the land, and Abraham bargains with him for the purchase. After the burial, Abraham sends a trusted servant back to his native land to find a wife for Isaac. The servant chooses Rebekah and returns with her to the Land of Israel where Isaac takes her for his wife.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We wish a warm Mazel Tov to:

- Michele Matera on her admission ceremony.
- Miriam Basson on her baby blessing ceremony.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to ongoing stone conservation works on the Ark, we will be closing the Sanctuary from the 2 December 2019 until 5 January 2020.

All services will be transferred to the Stern Hall for that period of time.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

א וְאֲבָרְהָם זָקֵן בָּא בַּיָּמִים וַיִּי בְרָךְ אֶת־אֲבָרְהָם בְּכָל־בּוֹאֵי אֲבָרְהָם
 אֶל־עַבְדּוֹ זָקֵן בֵּיתוֹ הַמְשַׁל בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ שֵׁים־נָא יָדְךָ תַּחַת יְרֵכִי ג וְאַשְׁבִּיעֲךָ בְּיַד
 אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵלֹהֵי הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־תִקַּח אִשָּׁה לְבָנִי מִבְּנוֹת הַכְּנַעֲנִי אֲשֶׁר
 אֲנִכִּי יוֹשֵׁב בְּקִרְבּוֹ׃ ד כִּי אֶל־אֲרָצִי וְאֶל־מוֹלַדְתִּי תֵלֵךְ וְלִקְחַתְּ אִשָּׁה לְבָנִי לִיצְחָק׃
 ה וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הֲעֹבֵד אוֹלִי לֹא־תֵאבְּהָהּ הָאִשָּׁה לְלֶכֶת אַחֲרַי אֶל־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת
 הַחֵשֶׁב אָשִׁיב אֶת־בְּנִךְ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יֵצֵאתָ מִשָּׁם׃ ו וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲבָרְהָם
 הַשְּׁמֵר לְךָ פֶּן־תִּשְׁיֵב אֶת־בְּנִי שָׁמָּה׃ ז וַיִּי אֱלֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲשֶׁר לִקְחָנִי מִבְּיַת אָבִי
 וּמֵאָרֶץ מוֹלַדְתִּי וְאֲשֶׁר דָּבַר־לִי וְאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע־לִי לֵאמֹר לִזְרַעְךָ אֶתֵּן אֶת־הָאָרֶץ
 הַזֹּאת הוּא יִשְׁלַח מַלְאָכָו לִפְנֵיךָ וְלִקְחַתְּ אִשָּׁה לְבָנִי מִשָּׁם׃ ח וְאִם־לֹא תֵאבְּהָהּ
 הָאִשָּׁה לְלֶכֶת אַחֲרַי וְנִקִּיתָ מִשְׁבַּעְתִּי זֹאת רַק אֶת־בְּנִי לֹא תִשָּׁב שָׁמָּה׃ ט וַיֵּשֶׁם
 הָעֶבֶד אֶת־יָדוֹ תַּחַת יְרֵךְ אֲבָרְהָם אֲדֹנָיו וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ עַל־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה׃ י וַיִּקַּח הָעֶבֶד
 עֶשְׂרֵה גַמְלִים מִגְּמַלֵּי אֲדֹנָיו וַיֵּלֶךְ וְכָל־טוֹב אֲדֹנָיו בָּיָדוֹ וְלֶקֶם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־אֲרָם
 נְהָרִים אֶל־עִיר נְחוּר׃ יא וַיְבַרֵךְ הַגַּמְלִים מְחוּץ לְעִיר אֶל־בְּאֵר הַמַּיִם לַעַת עָרֵב
 לַעַת צֹאת הַשָּׂאֵב׃ יב וַיֹּאמֶר יְי אֱלֹהֵי אֲדֹנָי אֲבָרְהָם הַקְּרָה־נָא לִפְנֵי הַיּוֹם
 וַעֲשֵׂה־חֵסֶד עִם אֲדֹנָי אֲבָרְהָם׃ יג הִנֵּה אֲנִכִּי נָצַב עַל־עֵין הַמַּיִם וּבְנוֹת אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר
 יֹצְאוֹת לְשָׂאֵב מַיִם׃ יד וְהִיָּה הַנֶּעֱרָךְ אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֵלָיָה הַטִּי־נָא כַּדָּךְ וְאַשְׁתָּה וְאִמְרָה
 שְׁתֵּה וְגַם־גְּמַלְיָךְ אֲשָׁקֶה אֵתְּהָ הַכַּחֲתָ לַעֲבַדְךָ לִיצְחָק וּבְהָ אִדַּע כִּי־עֲשִׂיתָ חֵסֶד
 עִם־אֲדֹנָי׃ טו וַיְהִי־הוּא טָרֵם כִּלְהָ לַדָּבָר וְהִנֵּה רַבְּקָה יֹצְאָה לְבִתּוֹאֵל
 בֶּן־מִלְכָּה אִשְׁתֵּי נְחוּר אַחֵי אֲבָרְהָם וְכַדָּה עַל־שִׁכְמָה׃ טז וְהַנֶּעֱרָךְ טָבַת מְרָאָהּ
 מֵאֵד בְּתוֹלָה וְאִישׁ לֹא יָדָעָה וַתֵּרֶד הָעֵינָה וַתִּמְלֵא כַּדָּה וַתַּעַל׃ יז וַיִּרְךָ הָעֶבֶד
 לְקִרְאתָהּ וַיֹּאמֶר הַגְּמִיאֵינִי נָא מֵעַט־מַיִם מִכַּדָּךְ׃ יח וַתֹּאמֶר שְׁתֵּה אֲדֹנָי וַתִּמְהַר
 וַתֵּרֶד כַּדָּה עַל־כַּדָּה וַתִּשְׁקֶהָ׃ יט וַתִּכַּל לְהַשְׁקֹתוֹ וַתֹּאמֶר גַּם לְגַמְלֶיךָ אֲשָׂאֵב עַד
 אִם־כִּלּוֹ לִשְׁתֹּת׃ כ וַתִּמְהַר וַתַּעַר כַּדָּה אֶל־הַשִּׁקְתָּ וַתִּרְךָ עוֹד אֶל־הַבְּאֵר לְשָׂאֵב
 וַתִּשָּׂאֵב לְכָל־גְּמַלְיוֹ׃ כא וְהָאִישׁ מִשְׁתָּאָה לָּהּ מִחֲרִישׁ לְדַעַת הַהַצְּלִיחַ וַיִּי דָרְכּוֹ
 אִם־לֹא׃ כב וַיְהִי כֹּאֲשֶׁר כִּלּוֹ הַגְּמַלִּים לְשִׁתּוֹת וַיִּקַּח הָאִישׁ נָזִם זָהָב בְּקַע מִשְׁקָלוֹ
 וַיִּשְׁנֵי צְמִידִים עַל־זְדֵיָהּ עֶשְׂרֵה זָהָב מִשְׁקָלָם׃ כג וַיֹּאמֶר בַּת־מִי אַתְּ הַגִּידִי נָא לִי
 הֵיטֵב בֵּית־אָבִיךָ מְקוֹם לָנוּ לָלוּ׃ כד וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו בַּת־בְּתוֹאֵל אֲנִכִּי בֶן־מִלְכָּה
 אֲשֶׁר יָלְדָה לְנְחוּר׃ כה וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו גַּם־תָּבֹן גַּם־מִסְּפוּא רַב עִמָּנוּ גַם־מְקוֹם
 לָלוּ׃ כו וַיִּקַּד הָאִישׁ וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לַיְי׃

GENESIS 24:1-26

24 Abraham was now very old, and the Eternal One had blessed him in every way. 2 He said to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh. 3 I want you to swear by the Eternal One, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, 4 but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac." 5 The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?" 6 "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said. 7 "The Eternal One, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land' - he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. 8 If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there." 9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore an oath to him concerning this matter. 10 Then the servant left, taking with him ten of his master's camels loaded with all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor. 11 He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water. 12 Then he prayed, "Eternal One, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. 13 See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. 14 May it be that when I say to a young woman, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too' - let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master." 15 Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milkah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor. 16 The woman was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again. 17 The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar." 18 "Drink, my Eternal One," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. 19 After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have had enough to drink." 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. 21 Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the Eternal One had made his journey successful. 22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beka and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels. 23 Then he asked, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" 24 She answered him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milkah bore to Nahor." 25 And she added, "We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night." 26 Then the man bowed down and worshiped the Eternal One.

I KINGS I :1-31

¹ Now King David was old and advanced in years. And although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm. ² Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman be sought for my Lord the king, and let her wait on the king and be in his service. Let her lie in your arms, that my Lord the king may be warm."³ So they sought for a beautiful young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴ The young woman was very beautiful, and she was of service to the king and attended to him, but the king knew her not.⁵ Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. ⁶ His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom. ⁷ He conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest. And they followed Adonijah and helped him. ⁸ But Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and David's mighty men were not with Adonijah.⁹ Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened cattle by the Serpent's Stone, which is beside En-rogel, and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, ¹⁰ but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the mighty men or Solomon his brother. ¹¹ Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king and David our Lord does not know it? ¹² Now therefore come, let me give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³ Go in at once to King David, and say to him, 'Did you not, my Lord the king, swear to your servant, saying, "Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then is Adonijah king?' ¹⁴ Then while you are still speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."¹⁵ So Bathsheba went to the king in his chamber (now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was attending to the king). ¹⁶ Bathsheba bowed and paid homage to the king, and the king said, "What do you desire?" ¹⁷ She said to him, "My Lord, you swore to your servant by the Eternal One your God, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.'¹⁸ And now, behold, Adonijah is king, although you, my Lord the king, do not know it. ¹⁹ He has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army, but Solomon your servant he has not invited. ²⁰ And now, my Lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my Lord the king after him. ²¹ Otherwise it will come to pass, when my Lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted offenders." ²² While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in. ²³ And they told the king, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground. ²⁴ And Nathan said, "My Lord the king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'? ²⁵ For he has gone down this day and has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, the commanders^[c] of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!' ²⁶ But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he has not invited. ²⁷ Has this thing been brought about by my Lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne of my Lord the king after him?" ²⁸ Then King David answered, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king. ²⁹ And the king swore, saying, "As the Eternal One lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity,³⁰ as I swore to you by the Eternal One, the God of Israel, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' even so will I do this day." ³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage to the king and said, "May my Lord King David live forever!"

RABBI NEIL'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This week I met two remarkable people. The first was a volunteer at one of our food programmes - she helps in the kitchen preparing food to be shared in the local community. She has lived here for more than 10 years waiting to receive status as a refugee. She was trafficked here, enslaved for two years and then left in a nightie in a park when those who enslaved her left the country. Her husband, whose whereabouts are unknown - had been arrested as a political prisoner. She fled, leaving her mother and children whose safety she fears for daily.

The second person is a volunteer at our Asylum Drop-In. He arrived here as an asylum seeker having been sentenced to death because he had written a critical article about government corruption. That was 1989. 18 years later the Home Office asked him for evidence of his claims (even though he had sent them everything when he first arrived). He had to make a freedom of information request from the Home Office because they denied having any papers. Having been granted leave to remain and unable to contact his family he thought they had died in conflict. Then one day in 2015, whilst riding a bus in London he was mistaken by another passenger for his twin brother. The passenger knew his family. He was even shown a photograph of the gravestone his family had erected for him, they held a funeral in absentia. This miraculous re-connection is coming to a new chapter as the volunteer is going to see his brother for the first time in 33 years.

This system of keeping people in limbo for such a long time is unspeakably cruel. Make the system so impossible does not deter. The choice between death and limbo is no choice at all. In this period in the lead up to the election with attention focused on major issues like Brexit, climate change, antisemitism and political ideology, let us not forget the voiceless and the powerless. Proper control of national borders does not mean cruel, immoral and slow. People like those I met this week are a hidden part of our society whose protection and fair treatment are mandated by our tradition - they are the equivalent of the Bible's exhortation to protect the widow, the poor, the orphan and the stranger. It seems to me we can either be in the image of Pharaoh - ignoring their cry - or in the image of the One who Harkens to their cry. I know where the call to justice draws me.

SEE YOU THERE

Thursday 28 November

7.00pm: Kolnoa-Cinema Special - Direct from the Jerusalem Film Festival: Elohei Ha'psanter/God of the Piano (2019, Dir. Itay Tal)

By kind permission of the Director, we present this intriguing new film which debuts on the world stage this month.

A pianist takes drastic action when it appears her newborn child is deaf and will not have the life filled with music that she craves for it. In association with LJS. Book in advance at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eretz

Thursday 29 November

Out & About: "Adult Only Biblical Stories" at the Wallace Collection

The Wallace Collection, is rich in suitable art for Rabbi David to indulge his hobby of biblical narrative. He has chosen to limit this first visit to oil paintings in the Great Gallery and others on the first floor, several of which are of lesser known biblical stories – with a risqué twist! There may be follow-on trips to look at the stories found on smaller items such as majolica ware, carved ivory and Limoges enamel. And assuming he is happy and willing, then we should tackle the British Museum!

There are a few places still available, tickets are £20 each; please contact Wendy Pollecoff at wendy.pollecoff@gmail.com

Sunday 1 December

World AIDS Day

6.00pm: Memorial Service, ALL Welcome, Free Entry

7.15pm: Concert, £25 (£20 Concession)

8.30pm: Meat-Free Buffet Supper £10

A Memorial Service, concert and buffet dinner, marking World AIDS Day in aid of AIDS Orphan, Israel AIDS Task Force and JAT (Jewish AIDS Trust). Together with our friends the London Gay Men's Chorus, we come together again to remember those we have lost in the global war against HIV and AIDS and to celebrate the extraordinary advances made by the medical profession and hope for a world free from AIDS.

This year, we introduce an African theme to the event and welcome a new friend, AIDS Orphan, to highlight the situation throughout Africa, especially for children, many of whom have to face the prospect of living their lives without their birth parents.

Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eretz | Kathryn on 020 7535 0259

YAD £15 only by prior registration at liav.yaniv@wls.org.uk - concert only