



Note to the Community

Rabbi Julia Neuberger retires today. Many of us have been deprived of our chance to say a final "thank you" to Rabbi Julia for all the marvellous things that she has done for us individually and as a community. It is our plan that events such as the Joanna Lumley Friday night dinner, the service and special kiddush that should have taken place on Saturday 28 March and the "descendants' dinner" should all be postponed until the autumn. Rabbis Helen and David want the community to have the opportunity to show their enormous appreciation for the extraordinary work that Rabbi Julia has done in rebuilding and growing the WLS family over the past nine years.

We have always been proud that Rabbi Julia is a child of the WLS community. This lifetime association has guided her instincts about how to extract and mobilise the potential of the diversity in the WLS community. As a result Rabbi Julia's legacy is broad, a strong foundation, on which we will continue to build. Let us highlight a few:

- Rabbi Julia's vision of and support for the Asylum Seekers Drop In and Winter Night Shelter have attracted many new people, Jews and non-Jews, into the heart of Jewish life.
- Under Rabbi Julia's leadership the number of volunteers has grown steadily and we are now able to mobilise this considerable force.
- Our Social Care programmes for our older and more vulnerable members have Rabbi Julia's imprint on them and are recognised not just in our own congregation.
- The high attendance at erev Shabbat services has in part been generated by the popularity of the Friday night dinners and the Combo Services, which precede them. The Friday night community dinners were another one of Rabbi Julia's ideas.
- The Peace of Mind Programme is another initiative, which has started in the past few years, which has brought new people into the Community [and help build bridges with Marble Arch synagogue].

These are a few of Rabbi Julia's many achievements, which make us all proud to be part of this West London community and family. These initiatives will be built upon, because Rabbi Julia's successors helped her build this legacy and share her vision of an inclusive, progressive Jewish community. We will be dependent on the staff and volunteer teams that have delivered Rabbi Julia's legacy to deliver the support that WLS intends to provide during the COVID 19 emergency.

We are pleased to say that Rabbi Julia and her husband, Anthony, will continue to be part of our community, both because she has agreed to be our first Emerita Rabbi and because we hope that WLS will always be her "home".

Patrick Mocatta (Chairman) and the Board of Trustees

31 March 2020

SENIOR RABBI Julia Neuberger

PRINCIPAL RABBI Helen Freeman

RABBI David Mitchell

RABBI Neil Janes

RABBI Sybil Sheridan

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