

# WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

ק"ק שער ציון

WELCOMES YOU



שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

SHABBAT SHALOM

24/25 January 2020

28 Tevet 5780

# SHABBAT SHALOM AND WELCOME TO WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

## FRIDAY

**6.00pm:**

### **Erev Shabbat Service**

Led by: Rabbi Neil & Student Rabbi Elliott

Sermon by: Rabbi Neil

**Wardens:**

Oliver Walton, Steven Rowe and Monica Jankel

**Beadle:**

Ivor Epstein

## SATURDAY

**10.30am:**

### **Coffee Morning**

**11.00am:**

### **Shabbat Morning Service**

Led by: Rabbi Julia & Rabbi Neil

Sermon by: Rabbi Julia

**Wardens:**

Oliver Walton, Steven Rowe and Monica Jankel

**Beadle:**

Ivor Epstein

**Torah:**

Exodus 6:29-7:18

**Haftarah:**

Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

*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 VA-EIRA

*Parashat Va-eira* begins with the visit of three men to Abraham. He welcomes them with generous hospitality, and they promise that Sarah will soon bear a son. When the men depart for the city of Sodom, God appears to Abraham and tells him that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are about to be destroyed because of the sinful behaviour of their residents. Abraham protests, asking God not to destroy innocent people along with the guilty ones. God promises that, if there are as few as even ten innocent people in the cities, they will not be destroyed. Afterwards, two men-angels arrive in Sodom and are offered hospitality by Lot. He protects them from the Sodomites, who threaten to harm them. The men-angels warn Lot to leave Sodom. He escapes the next morning as fire rains down upon the cities, but his wife looks back and is turned into a pillar of salt. Abraham travels to the Negev, where Abimelech, king of Gerar, sees Sarah and wants her for a wife. Fearing the king, Abraham claims that Sarah is his "sister". The king takes her as a wife, but God appears to him and reveals Sarah's real identity. Abimelech returns her to Abraham along with a great bounty. As the visitors to Abraham had predicted, Sarah bears a son whom they name Isaac. After a few years, Sarah persuades Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away, claiming that only Isaac should inherit Abraham's wealth and position. Abraham agrees when God tells him that "I will make a nation of him (Ishmael)". Several years later, God tests Abraham's faith by ordering him to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah. Isaac is saved at the last moment when God praises Abraham's loyalty and tells him to sacrifice a ram in Isaac's place.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

We wish a warm Mazel Tov to:

- Rafe Hildebrand on his baby blessing ceremony.
- Rafi Gornsztejn-Jowell and Horacio Howard on their birthdays.

כט וידבר יי אל־משה לאמר אני יי דבר אל־פרעה מלך מצרים את  
 כל־אשר אני דבר אליך: לויאמר משה לפני יי הן אני ערל שפתים ואיך  
 ישמע אלי פרעה: אויאמר יי אל־משה ראה נתתיך אלהים לפרעה  
 ואהרן אחיך יהיה נביאך: ב אתה תדבר את כל־אשר אצוּך ואהרן אחיך  
 ידבר אל־פרעה ושלח את־בני־ישראל מארצו: ג ואני אקשה את־לב  
 פרעה והרביתי את־אתתי ואת־מופתי בארץ מצרים: ד ולא־ישמע  
 אלכם פרעה ונתתי את־ידי במצרים והוצאתי את־צבאתי את־עמי  
 בני־ישראל מארץ מצרים בשפטים גדלים: ה וידעו מצרים כי־אני יי  
 בנטתי את־ידי על־מצרים והוצאתי את־בני־ישראל מתוכם: ו ויעש  
 משה ואהרן כאשר צוה יי אתם כן עשו: ז ומשה בן־שמנים שנה ואהרן  
 בן־שלוש ושמנים שנה בדברם אל־פרעה: פ [רביעי] ח ויאמר יי  
 אל־משה ואל־אהרן לאמר: ט כי ידבר אלכם פרעה לאמר תנו לכם  
 מופת ואמרת אל־אהרן קח את־מטבך והשלך לפני־פרעה יהי לתנין:  
 י ויבא משה ואהרן אל־פרעה ויעשו־כן כאשר צוה יי וישלך אהרן  
 את־מטהו לפני פרעה ולפני עבדיו והיו לתנין: יא ויקרא גם־פרעה  
 לחכמים ולמכשפים ויעשו גם־הם חרטמי מצרים בלהטיהם כן:  
 יב וישליכו איש מטהו והיו לתנינם ויבלע מטה־אהרן את־מטתם:  
 יג ויחזק לב פרעה ולא שמע אלהם כאשר דבר יי: ס יד ויאמר יי  
 אל־משה כבד לב פרעה מאן לשלח העם: טו לך אל־פרעה בבקר הנה  
 יצא המימה ונצבת לקראתו על־שפת היאר והמטה אשר־נהפך לנחש  
 תקח בידך: טז ואמרת אליו יי אלהי העברים שלחני אליך לאמר שלח  
 את־עמי ויעבדני במדבר והנה לא־שמעת עד־כה: יז כה אמר יי בזאת  
 תדע כי אני יי הנה אנכי מכה | במטה אשר־בידי על־המים אשר ביאר  
 ונהפכו לדם: יח והדגה אשר־ביאר תמות ובאש היאר ונלאו מצרים  
 לשתות מים מן־היאר:

## EXODUS 6:29-7:18

29 he said to him, "I am the Eternal One. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you."30 But Moses said to the Eternal One, "Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?"And the Eternal One said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

2Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.3And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.4But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.5And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Eternal One, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.6And Moses and Aaron did as the Eternal One commanded them, so did they.7And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.8And the Eternal One spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,9When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.10And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the Eternal One had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.11Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.12For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

13And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the Eternal One had said.14And the Eternal One said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.15Get thee unto Pharaoh in the morning; lo, he goeth out unto the water; and thou shalt stand by the river's brink against he come; and the rod which was turned to a serpent shalt thou take in thine hand.16And thou shalt say unto him, The Eternal One God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear.17Thus saith the Eternal One, In this thou shalt know that I am the Eternal One: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.18And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.

## EZEKIEL 28:25-29:21

Thus said Adonai: When I have gathered the House of Israel from the peoples among which they have been dispersed, and have shown Myself holy through them in the sight of the nations, they shall settle on their own soil, which I gave to My servant Jacob, and they shall dwell on it in security. They shall build houses and plant vineyards, and shall dwell on it in security, when I have meted out punishment to all those about them who despise them. And they shall know that I Adonai am their God. In the tenth year, on the twelfth day of the tenth month, the word of Adonai came to me: O mortal, turn your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. Speak these words: Thus said Adonai: I am going to deal with you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, Mighty monster, sprawling in your channels, Who said, My Nile is my own; I made it for myself. I will put hooks in your jaws, And make the fish of your channels Cling to your scales; I will haul you up from your channels, With all the fish of your channels Clinging to your scales. And I will fling you into the desert, With all the fish of your channels. You shall be left lying in the open, Ungathered and unburied: I have given you as food To the beasts of the earth and the birds of the sky. Then all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know That I am Adonai. Because you were a staff of reed To the House of Israel: When they grasped you with the hand, you would splinter, And wound all their shoulders, And when they leaned on you, you would break, And make all their loins unsteady. Assuredly, thus said Adonai: Lo, I will bring a sword against you, and will cut off man and beast from you, so that the land of Egypt shall fall into desolation and ruin. And they shall know that I am Adonai—because he boasted, “The Nile is mine, and I made it.” Assuredly, I am going to deal with you and your channels, and I will reduce the land of Egypt to utter ruin and desolation, from Migdol to Syene, all the way to the border of Nubia. No foot of man shall traverse it, and no foot of beast shall traverse it; and it shall remain uninhabited for forty years. For forty years I will make the land of Egypt the most desolate of desolate lands, and its cities shall be the most desolate of ruined cities. And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them throughout the countries. Further, thus said Adonai: After a period of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the peoples among whom they were dispersed. I will restore the fortunes of the Egyptians and bring them back to the land of their origin, the land of Pathros, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom. It shall be the lowliest of all the kingdoms, and shall not lord it over the nations again. I will reduce the Egyptians, so that they shall have no dominion over the nations. Never again shall they be the trust of the House of Israel, recalling its guilt in having turned to them. And they shall know that I am Adonai. In the twenty-seventh year, on the first day of the first month, the word of Adonai came to me: O mortal, King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon has made his army expend vast labour on Tyre; every head is rubbed bald and every shoulder scraped. But he and his army have had no return for the labour he expended on Tyre. Assuredly, thus said Adonai: I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadrezzar, king of Babylon. He shall carry off its wealth and take its spoil and seize its booty; and it shall be the recompense of his army. As the wage for which he labored, for what they did for Me, I give him the land of Egypt—declares Adonai. On that day I will endow the House of Israel with strength, and you shall be vindicated among them. And they shall know that I am Adonai.

## RABBI HELEN'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Next Monday, 27th January, we will mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The date was chosen to mark the liberation of Auschwitz, the most notorious of the Nazi death camps. This year will be 75 years since the liberation, when a horrified world was confronted with the shadow side of human nature, the immense cruelty we can inflict on each other.

If you have visited Poland, as I have, you will know that it was a place where Jewish communities flourished over many centuries, and yet many of them were wiped out during the Shoah.

My husband and I visited Auschwitz the year we got married, partly to say Kaddish for those who perished there, but also to get a realistic sense of the memorial to the destroyed lives. There were not only Jews, but also Roma and gay people and the disabled and Jehovah's witnesses and political opponents of the Nazis. Much Nazi propaganda before the war had built up mistrust of minority groups so that there would be less resistance to their persecution.

The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 'Stand Together', has been chosen to remind us of the power of words to hurt and discriminate so that all communities can 'Stand Together' against them.

## SEE YOU THERE

### **Sunday 26 January**

#### **6.00pm: International Holocaust Memorial Day: Standing Together *How One Synagogue Saved Children's Lives***

Rabbi Baroness Julia Neuberger and Rabbi Neil Janes, on behalf of West London Synagogue and the Lyons Learning Project, invite you to hear the incredible story of how West London Synagogue saved the lives of more than one hundred children in the Holocaust.

With guest speaker: Dr Jennifer Craig-Norton, world renowned scholar of the Kindertransport and refugee experiences.

RSVP for security and catering purposes by 16 January 2020 to Adi Ben-Naim on 020 7535 0291 or [admin@lyonslearning.org.uk](mailto:admin@lyonslearning.org.uk)

### **Thursday 30 January**

#### **6.30pm: Book Launch: Inclusive Judaism: The Changing Face of an Ancient Faith**

One of the best-kept religious secrets has been the revolution that has been quietly taking place within Judaism over the last two decades, as it has sought to grapple with contemporary issues. These include mixed-faith marriages, gay relationships, women's empowerment, declining numbers, atheism and being trans. It has involved a willingness to abandon biblical laws that conflict with modern values. Most ground-breaking of all, it has meant re-defining what it means to be Jewish in the 21st century.

The evening will start with a screening of the Jewish Film Festival's award-winning short film: 100 Faces, which features Rabbi David. There will then be a chance to hear from the authors, who will also be answering your questions.

It will be a fascinating evening, with copies of the book available for just £10 on the night. RSVP to Kathryn Forro on 020 7535 0259.