



new london  
synagogue



## Masorti – On the Twentieth Anniversary of the Passing of Rabbi Louis Jacobs

This Sunday is Yom Masorti – booking still open, see here <https://masorti.org.uk/events/yom-masorti-2026/>. It's a day of celebration for the denomination we, at New London, begat.

I'm incredibly proud of the history of our Shul – it's one of the greatest stories in Anglo-Jewry and this Shabbat is a good time to retell the tale as we mark, today 13<sup>th</sup> Sivan, the 20<sup>th</sup> Yartzheit of our founding rabbi, Dr Louis Jacobs of blessed memory. My rifling through my own memories of the Shul in its earlier years has also been inspired by the remarkable evening held on Tuesday celebrating our long-time Chazan of blessed memory, George Rothschild. For anyone who was unable to be there, there are some videos here - [Memorial evening](#). As well as musical contributions from Yoav and Chazanim Moshe Dubiner and Paul Heller, I particularly recommend Ivor Jacobs' eulogy also on Youtube - <https://youtu.be/gwDBRfy77wA>. Ivor's contribution was incredibly evocative of the feel of New London over the 40 years Louis and George led this remarkable community.

For anyone interested in the contributions of Rabbi Louis, I heartily recommend <https://louisjacobs.org/>. The web-site, brought together by Ivor, and now coming under the umbrella of Masorti Judaism, contains almost everything Louis wrote in his remarkable career including moving biographical and historical material about the life of the man voted the Greatest British Jew in a 2005 poll in the Jewish Chronicle – an accolade Louis acknowledged sharing, “I feel greatly honoured – and rather daft.”

With an eye on our future, it's a pleasure to offer Mazal Tov wishes to not one, but two BM families celebrating with us this Shabbat, and also – again – to warmly encourage anyone able, even at this late stage, to join us for Yom Masorti, held at New North London, this Sunday.

Yom Masorti will be a celebration of the communities of our Movement, with a host of opportunities to learn and celebrate together. I'm in conversation with Professor Colin Shindler looking at “Jews Politics and Geopolitics” and also presenting on my forthcoming edition of Shir HaShirim. There are also sessions of Talmudic learning, singing, music with Oy Va Voi and food. Will there be food? Of course there will be food. The journey to create a strong community able to celebrate, foster and develop Anglo-Jewish life which is engaged, thoughtful, tolerant and vibrant began with us and now stretches from Brighton to Leeds and Manchester numbering thousands of us. If you are able to celebrate that incredible achievement this Sunday, I look forward to seeing you there.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Jeremy