



### **A Vision of Israel**

There is a vision of Israel, as a land and a home of a language. There are poppies and snow-capped mountains, ibexes and coral. The Song of Songs weaves through the blessings of the morning and into the poetry of the twentieth century – plumes of smoke rise from the desert as the moon prays in the stream.

This last Shabbat, and in our Salon on Wednesday night we've had the opportunity to engage with that vision, in draft designs, as we work to transform the appallingly ugly plastic shells along one side of our otherwise beautiful sanctuary.

We've launched a consultation on the first three designs for our windows; the southern triptych from Eilat to Beer Sheva. We've a full-scale image up in the sanctuary and you can see the full series at [www.flickr.com/photos/195566824@N05/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/195566824@N05/) – though many of the designs currently posted are only first sketches. There's plenty to work out; from how to present the text to how to hold the conflicted narratives that make Israel a place of such complexity. We warmly welcome all feedback on the designs, as well as questions and concerns raised. This is art for our community, made possible by a generous donation in memory of Cyril Korn of blessed memory, but for us all. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and can be shared at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd\\_K3gH3NADcZiAI2s\\_r4SCd-Uq27O8830b\\_txPPEH6Pvog0Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_K3gH3NADcZiAI2s_r4SCd-Uq27O8830b_txPPEH6Pvog0Q/viewform) - or by email.

We're also sharing that David Finberg, our Head of Cheder has announced he wishes, as we had expected, to return to full-time education. He will be leaving us at the end of the academic year. I want to record our appreciation of David and his leadership. David has led us, if not quite as miraculously as Moses on the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, from a time of great challenge with energy, decency, and considerable skill. The Cheder is a place of learning and skill-acquisition but also joy and celebration, and David deserves much of the credit for that.

We are beginning the process of recruiting his successor, it's a great job and I have every confidence we will be able to hand over the leadership of the Cheder to a worthy successor. A job description will be posted to [www.newlondon.org.uk/recruitment](http://www.newlondon.org.uk/recruitment) soon after the weekend.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Jeremy