



## Pouring out Hope

My teacher, Josh Kulp, has been researching early and pre-state Israeli Haggadot. This comes from a 1943 Haggadah for British women soldiers serving in the ATS in Tel Kabir, Tel Aviv where most of these women were serving.

The printed text reads “Shfoch Chamatcha – Pour out Your Wrath.” The passage from Psalms is recited after the third cup is drunk. It’s an angry call for violence to be inflicted on those who wish us harm. And it’s impossible not to read that call in the context of the date, 1943, that hangs over the Haggadah, surely, more heavily than 7th October hangs over our Seder plans this year. But underneath the printed text, someone has written another verse, from Jeremiah 31.

Restrain your voice from weeping, Your eyes from shedding tears; For there is a reward for your labor —declares GOD: They shall return from the enemy’s land. And there is hope – Yeish Tikvah – for your future —declares GOD: Your children shall return to their country.

And the page is illustrated with a gentle image; a resting shepherd.

As Rabbi Kulp remarked, “More than ever we need to balance the anger of Shfokh Hamatcha with the hope of Jeremiah. If they could do this in 1943, we can do so now.”

As we enter the week of Pesach, I want to warmly welcome members to our weekday Yom Tov services. It’s one of my favourite services of the year, songful and vibrant, and it’s a wonderful time to feel part of the community. The first days of Yom are on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th April, and the last days are marked on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th – with Maariv services on all previous evenings. All are most welcome.

This Shabbat we celebrate with song! Yoav and Mo will be sharing well-known Seder favourites, including a Judeo-Arabic absolute banger – after a brief Kiddush sponsored by and in honour of our member, Ian Govinder. Happy Birthday Ian, and many more in health and strength.

Rabbi Jeremy

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## Tree Down

As you arrive at Synagogue, particularly if you come from the South, you’ll notice something is amiss. The wonderful lime tree at the corner of Abbey Road and Marlborough Place fell during the winds of Tuesday afternoon. There are photos and a reflection from Rabbi Jeremy on the Synagogue’s Facebook feed.