



new london
synagogue



Don't Forget to Play, Don't Forget to Sing

It's a grey, soggy later wintery morning. The news is hard. There is much to gird ourselves towards and against. There always is.

Don't forget to play, don't forget to sing. We can help. This Shabbat we offer a Games Shabbat after services. Next week we are celebrating Shabbat with our M'Shorerim in song.

There used to be a framed print on the corridor behind the sanctuary at New London of old rabbis playing chess. It was always clear that Rabbi Jacobs was behind its presence. Play is how we find ourselves outside our most immediate concerns. It's how we learn, and never stop, working out how to engage with others around us. It's a practice in being human. I'm a big fan of contemporary board games; some silly, some dextrous, some non-competitive, some strategic. All the games, in the large suitcase I'll be lugging to Shul later, are beautifully in keeping with the spirit of Shabbat. If you feel any of this appeals – for any age – come to Shul, stay for kiddush. Stick around. Play.

Next week is Shabbat Shirah. In the parasha the children of Israel sing as they cross the sea in safety. Those of you who were in shul on Kol Nidrei will remember, I'm sure, the atmosphere generated by our M'Shorerim. Members of the community who came together to support Yoav, and all of us, in song. We are looking to develop this strength in our community on a monthly basis. It's open for anyone. Sign up to the email list and you'll get a audio file with a tune for the Shabbat and some other info about the songful plans for that Shabbat and turn up ready to sit centrally and sing. For next week, we'll be singing [this [Na'aritscha - Kvodo - Nishmat kol chai.m4a](#)]. Song lifts our hearts and pulls us together, it reminds us of the power of things beyond the superficial. It's also a wonderful thing to do on a Shabbat. For more information, please email yoav@newlondon.org.uk.

Shabbat Shalom

--

We are sad to announce the passing of Brian Chernett of blessed memory one of the heroes of Masorti Judaism in this country. Brian served as mentor and inspiration to so many in the Movement, particularly through the Ella Forums and the Academy for Chief Executives, organisations he founded and led. Brian was also husband to Masorti's first female Chazan, Jacky Chernett, and father of our Financial Controller, Anna Chernett. We offer our condolences and prayers for comfort to Anna, Chazan Jacky and all the family. For information on arrangements, please contact Rabbi Jeremy. Anna is currently on compassionate leave.