



Tefillah – Express Wonder

I'm not worried about the business of our services on first day Rosh Hashanah. I know it will be busy. Actually, it might even be too busy. For me, it's the Maariv services and Second Day services where I really get to experience Tefillah. I would urge all of us to make the effort to be in Shul at a time when it's easier to find that extraordinary blend of private & communal, reflective & liturgical, song & silence.

Maariv services are beautiful – and short. 6:30 pm Monday and Tuesday night. Or come earlier in the day – we start at 8:30 am. Arrive, sit, let the experience of being in Shul seep in. Expressing wonder takes time and it's actually easier when not surrounded by the scores of lovely people we might not have seen since this time last year. For those who can't join us in our beautiful sanctuary, please consider joining us on the stream – www.newlondon.org.uk/digital. No need to log in, the computer can be switched on before Yom Tov and left to run. We've made a substantial investment in new cameras to increase reliability and visibility.

Tzedakah – Charity

That's a bad translation. Charity, from Latin, suggests a kind of pity. The Hebrew has a stronger connotation, do what is just. But the English translation suggests financial support in a way I find important. In the Mishnah the Rabbis make the clear call that every person has an obligation to give financially, even those supported through charity. It's a nice way of cutting through the thing that stops me - do I have enough for myself, so there is something left over I can give away? The answer to that question is, of course, yes. We have, together with the Magazine, sent out our Kol Nidrei Appeal letter to membership. We are hugely grateful for the financial support which allows the community to survive, and thrive. Donations can be made here - <https://shulcloud.newlondon.org.uk/form/Donations-Payments>.

There are, of course, other extraordinary organisations and causes. I'm honoured to share our Kol Nidrei Appeal efforts with the UJIA. There are causes, too, in this country, other countries, in and beyond not only the Jewish community, but in and beyond the human community of this planet. I encourage us all to take a moment to make a financial contribution that builds towards a better world, even if you think you can't afford to. It might even make you feel richer.

Teshuvah, Tefilah and Tzedakah might not change the decree of our year to come, but they absolutely will sweeten and strengthen us to face whatever this new year brings. May it come to us all in health and sweetness.

This Shabbat

We have several special opportunities to celebrate in our services tomorrow. There is a special birthday – Ad Meir V'Esrin Ed. I will be taking an opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary legacy of Felix Posen of blessed memory. Felix, a long-time member of NLS before moving to the States, is the founder of the Posen Library of Jewish Culture.

And we have a remarkable new gift to celebrate. The Bimah cover at New London is 60 years old. It's faded and, frankly, was never particularly beautiful. In memory of our member of blessed memory, Shulamith Behr, we are delighted to celebrate a brand-new cover with a design embroidered by the Royal College of Needlework. It's stunning. Our thanks to the family for their generous donation and to Ann, Jyll and Lucille for their work on the design.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Jeremy