**Services Report for AGM 14 May2018**

**Summary and Thank Yous**

We wish to begin by making clear how lucky we are to have Rabbi David at our helm, who has worked patiently and calmly over the last year with a new team of wardens. In particular Rabbi David is very accepting and pro-active in advancing women’s involvement as much as is halachically possible.

We would like to say a big Thank You to all those who have helped to make sure services function regularly and seamlessly and who gladly give up their time. We are very grateful to Jonny Morgan for all his tireless efforts, especially the thankless task of making minyans, to Andrew Margolis for maintaining the Haphtorah list as well as to Leon Symons and Neil Cohen, our esteemed predecessors, for their all their support and advice.

Services during the year included spiritual highpoints over the Yamim Noraim and our Civic Service was a notable success. We have increased the number of people who are capable and willing to lead services to some 23 including some teenagers and have streamlined the procedure for Aliyot for the many Simchas we have in the Community.

Bensching Gomel has been introduced into the regular Shabbat morning service. We have a time when the Rabbi will ask the congregation if anyone wishes to recite it. This can be men or women. Ideally you would let the Rabbi know beforehand but if you can’t just let one of the wardens know.

**Where We Can Do Better**

We do feel there are several areas where we can improve. In particular we would benefit from more people helping with our Friday night, Shabbat Mincha and Sunday/Monday/Thursday Shacharit services. It is always disappointing when we are unable to get a minyan especially for those who wish to say Kaddish. Addressing this issue is a responsibility on all of us and something we can all help with in some way.

Having got through the transition of wardens last year we feel we need to work harder at succession planning for the wardening roles.

**Female Warden - a New Role**

The introduction of a female “warden” as one of the honorary officers has the purpose of making it easier for women to become more spiritually involved and thus more active in Judaism both in shul and at home. The role is exists to provide a formal communication mechanism with and support for the Rabbi and male wardens in achieving this goal.

It is now the norm that women can say Kaddish and we should be actively encouraging the women of our community to recite this. For those of you intimidated by saying kaddish you can be supported by another female. Please let Helen know if you wish to recite it with support and help will be made available.

The women’s services are thriving but it would be good to have more volunteers for the leyning.

We have introduced women giving divrei torah which seems to have gone down well. To be able to speak from the pulpit is a step forward.

The Eishet Chayil honour has been re-vamped, giving women equal standing to the men, which was not the case previously.

The introduction of Chief Rabbi’s Ma’ayanot scheme has allowed us to think further expand education in general. The Rabbi and I have met with our proposed Ma’ayan and are developing a run of courses/sessions that she will be able to educate us with.

All these initiatives could not happen without the support of Rabbi David, Sam Clarke or you. Please continue supporting all these schemes and projects.

Daniel Shaw, Mark Sheinfeld, Ron Simon, Helen Style