**Services Report for AGM 19 May2019**

**Summary and Thank Yous**

It is important to start by making clear how fortunate we are to have Rabbi David at our helm, who has worked diligently and tirelessly over the last year with us as wardens. In particular Rabbi David continues to be very accepting and pro-active is advancing women’s involvement in services as much as is possible.

We would like to say a massive thank you to all those who have helped to make sure services function regularly and seamlessly and who give their time voluntarily. We are very grateful to Jonny Morgan for all his endless 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.

A special thank you to Andrew Margolis who is stepping down from running the Haphtorah list after 15 years. Andrew has performed this important task quietly, efficiently and with the minimum of fuss. Andrew a big Shkoyach and we wish you a long and healthy retirement.

Services during the year included spiritual highpoints over the Yamim Noraim and our Civic Service was a notable success. Last Rosh Hashannah day 1 we introduced a new explanatory service led by Rabbi David and Stephen Frosh which was well received. We will look to build on this for the coming year.

We now have close to 25 people who are capable of and willing to lead services including some teenagers. More volunteers are always welcome.

**Where We Can Do Better**

We do feel there are several areas where we can improve. In particular we continue to need more people helping with our Friday night, Shabbat Mincha and Sunday/Monday/Thursday Shacharit services. We have a communal responsibility to help those who wish to say Kaddish by providing Minyanim and it is always disappointing when we fail to do so. Addressing this issue is a responsibility on all of us and something we can all help with in some way.

In particular, the minyanim for services other than Shabbat morning are not as secure as they should be. Sunday, Monday and Thursday mornings are reasonable, but Friday night and Shabbat Mincha in the summer are a weekly struggle. Moving Shabbat Mincha to after Musaph in the winter has been a success, but it has got the community out of the habit of coming back for Mincha in the summer.

**Female Warden**

From this year the female “warden” will become an executive role in many United Synagogues. The purpose of the role is to make it easier for women to become more spiritually involved and thus more active in Judaism both in shul and at home. Formal participation at both Executive and Council level will further help develop this role.

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 (Style) 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.

We now honour Neshei Chayils on the 1st day of Shavuot such that we can as a community give them appropriate recognition.

The introduction of the Chief Rabbi’s Ma’ayanot scheme has provided a series of thoughtful and well received educational talks to both mixed and women only audiences.

All these initiatives could not happen without the support of Rabbi David, Sam Clarke, the rest of the executive or the entire community. Please continue supporting our services.

Daniel Shaw, Mark Sheinfield, Ron Simon, Helen Style