

Chair's Report

I feel privileged to have served our wonderful community as chair for the past 2 years. I'm particularly proud of our services which are consistently joyful, our cheder which is thriving and our recently started programme of adult education that is stimulating and challenging in equal measure.

I am also proud of how outward facing we are, particularly in these challenging times, with our fundraising and our relationships with the wider community.

There are so many people at SBJC who do so much and I want to take this opportunity to thank them. Ruth and Dick have stepped into the breach yet again to lead our R and P committee (myself, Rabbi Charley, Ruth Miller, Vanessa Harker, Adrian Begon and Sarah Murgatroyd). They have been committed to SBJC from its inception and still offer so much.

Amanda and Paul continue to be helpful and supportive. Through their efficiency, hard work and technical ability they have transformed many of our systems.

Helen Cohen and David Silverstone continue to offer friendship, support and wise counsel. I am also grateful to our other council members Debbie, Gerard, Gill and Wallace for the role they play in helping SBJC serve its members the best way it can.

Thank you also to Debbie and James for another year providing the music which adds so much to our services. And to Sally Geneen for her ongoing commitment to making Gan a wonderful place for our youngest members. I would also like to thank Ruth and Gerard for continuing to make KT stimulating and fun.

Thanks to Ruth Mason who, having been here for at least five minutes, was promptly pounced upon and asked to put together our weekly newsletter, which she does with quiet efficiency and for which we are very grateful. Thanks also to Rachael Gillman who stepped up to organise our mitzvot rota.

Sadly, James will be stepping down as cheder headteacher at the end of this academic year. I'm sure you will agree that his thoughtful curriculum, his passion and his drive have made cheder a place that our students enjoy and want to be at on a Saturday morning. He will be greatly missed but - I am pleased to say - will be helping us recruit his successor.

Last but not least, thank you to Rabbi Charley who continues to serve this community with affection and enthusiasm. As well as taking great care of our spiritual, educational and pastoral needs, she is a passionate advocate for us in the wider Liberal Jewish movement. I feel privileged to have worked closely with her for the last two years.

Among the most exciting things as we look forward to the year ahead, is the very real prospect of a new building. Following a meeting that Ian Sollen and I had with Dame Cheryl Gillan MP, Chiltern District Council proposed an idea which, in short, could mean we get a long lease on a brand new building in Amersham. My experience so far is that nothing is done quickly in local government, but this is an exciting prospect and I will share more detail when I have some meat to put on the bones.

Finally I would like to wish our new chair Gerard Geneen every success for the future. Gerard will be an excellent chairman and I am very much looking forward to serving on the council under his leadership.



South Bucks Jewish Community

Annual Report for 2018



South Bucks Jewish Community

Address: PO Box 826, Amersham HP6 5ZZ Phone: 0845 644 2370



Rites and Practices Committee

The committee was reconstituted and held its first meeting in June. Our current members are Ade Begon, Toby Friedner, Vanessa Harker, Ruth Harris, Ruth Miller, Sarah Murgatroyd and Dick Vardy.

Our first focus was on the High Holy Days, continuing the good work that Gill Parker had begun. In addition to the transportation and set up of stuff, the biggest job was allocating and confirming the 50 Mitzvot. Overall we felt that the High Holy Days ran smoothly with a few tweaks to be made next year. We would like to give special thanks to our wonderful shammus Isobel McFeeters who allowed no gaps in the mitzvot schedule.

Of course our work is not restricted just to High Holydays. Thanks to Vanessa for again hosting our Sukkot celebration in her lovely garden.

Looking forward to 2019, plans for communal Seder on 20th April are already in hand. Please make sure that this special event is in your diary. Ade's brilliant work on venue booking has ensured we have already secured venues for the festivals in 2019. He continues the search for the ideal venues, especially for High Holy Days.

We also draw up the service leader schedule every quarter. Thanks to our band of regular service takers. Like vampires, we are always looking for new blood and more lay service takers always welcome. Don't be shy in coming forward!

The big challenge for the community is the choir. We have some singers and an administrator, but the choir will struggle without someone to stand up and lead it. If you have suggestions, or would like to join our efforts, please don't hesitate.

The year in numbers:

6
6 Bar/Bat Mitzvot

25 children enrolled in cheder



197 – individual members of SBJC



£4369.40 raised for Cancer Research UK



31 - cheder sessions delivered

The other challenge was to increase our volunteering network. We have made some real inroads in this area, with a new volunteer for the newsletter, new co-ordinator of Kiddush rota, new Safeguarding Lead and new co-ordinators for the Rites and Practices group. However, there is still scope for much more and I hope that if you meant to volunteer this year and never got round to it, you will know we still need you! Particularly this year I would like to see us developing our musical offerings and if you would like to join the choir or think of a way of enhancing music in the community you will let me know!

I would like to thank everyone who has helped this year, be it with organising the Seder or singing in the Choir on High Holidays, be it our Cheder teachers or the SBJC Council – too many people to list, but I hope you know you are all really appreciated. I must make a special mention though to two people who are stepping away from their current roles at the end of this year. First, James Davies who has led our religion school to its current strong and developed state. He is a real visionary, who cares passionately about the school and all its students. He will really be missed, but he has given the greatest gift of strong foundations – of which I hope he is very proud. Secondly, to Toby. Toby is stepping down as Chair, but not off Council. The term 'he has worked tirelessly' is used all too often, but in Toby's case this is really true. He volunteers for everything and takes everything as his own responsibility, his energy and commitment are commendable. Again, we will really miss him but know he will not be too far away from the heart of the life of SBJC. Thank you Toby and thank you also to his family who have leant him to us and sacrificed family time for the good of SBJC.

From the Rabbi

It is that time of year again when we sit down to write the annual report. It is always hard to know where to begin, but it is also an amazing opportunity to remind ourselves of quite how much we have achieved this year. There have been a number of highlights for me have been a number of quite wonderful Bnei Mitzvah ceremonies. I continue to be impressed at how much our students can achieve and that their ceremonies reflect not only their ability to read Hebrew and lead the service, but their personalities and commitment. The Cheder has continued to go from strength to strength and the integration with the service has worked remarkably well. If you were to come to a Saturday morning service you would witness a group of students who understand and participate fully in the Shabbat tefillah.

I was also incredibly moved by our version of Chanukah in the square where we had a public Chanukah lighting ceremony. Not only was this a wonderful chance for outreach to the community at large, but in a year which has been turbulent for the Jewish community to demonstrate our commitment to being part of the beautiful diversity present in Britain. Our regular Pizza services have been a real success and continue to attract new families and welcome old ones and provide an opportunity to celebrate Shabbat together and eat!

In last year's Annual Report I challenged us to begin Adult Education classes, which we have done and which I am really enjoying and I continue as well to signpost to other exciting learning opportunities in the Jewish community as a whole. I am also writing regularly in the newsletter and hope as we develop a new website we will publish more that I write.



South Bucks Jewish Community
Financial Activities
September 2017 - August 2018

Notes

	Building Fund		General		TOTAL	
	Sep 2017 - Aug 2018	Sep 2016 - Aug 2017 (PY)	Sep 2017 - Aug 2018	Sep 2016 - Aug 2017 (PY)	Sep 2017 - Aug 2018	Sep 2016 - Aug 2017 (PY)
Income						
Net Subscriptions			38,044	37,270	38,044	37,270
Burial Scheme Charges			8,438	9,020	8,438	9,020
Total Cheder Fees			2,467	2,636	2,467	2,636
HHD / Seder Tickets			429	310	429	310
Donations			2,440	2,502	2,440	2,502
Fund Raising	1,293	2,268	2,394	2,479	3,687	4,746
Kol Nidre Appeal			2,795	4,855	2,795	4,855
Gift Aid	156	226	8,402	8,339	8,558	8,564
Grants			250		250	0
Other Income			125	390	125	390
Total Income	1,449	2,493	65,783	67,800	67,232	70,294
Expenditures						
Rabbi's Office			32,498	30,340	32,498	30,340
Funeral & Burial Fees			6,475	7,434	6,475	7,434
Friends Meeting House			3,671	2,582	3,671	2,582
Other Halls			504	983	504	983
Synagogue Expenses			1,805	1,031	1,805	1,031
Cheder Costs			3,993	4,868	3,993	4,868
Fund Raising Costs			1,122	794	1,122	794
Charitable Contributions			1,346	2,595	1,346	2,595
Meals and entertainment			532	262	532	262
Administrative Expenses			1,749	1,891	1,749	1,891
Insurances			835	820	835	820
Bank Charges			311	66	311	66
LJ Congregational Assessment Fee			7,689	7,541	7,689	7,541
Total Expenditures	0	0	62,530	61,206	62,530	61,206
Net Operating Income	1,449	2,493	3,253	6,594	4,703	9,087
Other Income						
Interest earned	1,017	1,392	539	621	1,556	2,013
Net Income/(Expenditure)	2,467	3,886	3,792	7,215	6,259	11,101

South Bucks Jewish Community
Balance Sheet
As of August 31, 2018

Not
e

	Building Fund		General		TOTAL	
	As of Aug 31, 2018	As of Aug 31, 2017 (PY)	As of Aug 31, 2018	As of Aug 31, 2017 (PY)	As of Aug 31, 2018	As of Aug 31, 2017 (PY)
Fixed Asset						
Tangible assets						
Religious Regalia			£ 6,553	£ 6,553	£ 6,553	£ 6,553
Total Fixed Asset	£ 0	£ 0	£ 6,553	£ 6,553	£ 6,553	£ 6,553
Cash at bank and in hand						
BDG Bath	£ 76,555	£ 75,933			£ 76,555	£ 75,933
BDG Santander	£ 13,557	£ 11,053			£ 13,557	£ 11,053
BDG Virgin	£ 70,547	£ 70,196			£ 70,547	£ 70,196
HSBC Current Account			£ 16,429	£ 16,964	£ 16,429	£ 16,964
PayPal Bank			£ 2,503		£ 2,503	£ 0
Skipton			£ 65,076	£ 64,537	£ 65,076	£ 64,537
TSB Current Account			£ 4,480	£ 4,235	£ 4,480	£ 4,235
TSB Deposit Account			£ 478	£ 478	£ 478	£ 478
Total Cash at bank and in hand	£ 160,659	£ 157,182	£ 88,966	£ 86,215	£ 249,625	£ 243,397
Current Assets						
Adjustments	-£ 768	£ 243	£ 798	-£ 243	£ 30	£ 0
Total Current Assets	-£ 768	£ 243	£ 798	-£ 243	£ 30	£ 0
Net current assets	£ 159,891	£ 157,424	£ 89,764	£ 85,972	£ 249,655	£ 243,397
Total assets less current liabilities	£ 159,891	£ 157,424	£ 96,317	£ 92,525	£ 256,208	£ 249,950
Charity funds						
Opening Charity Funds	£ 157,424	£ 153,539	£ 92,525	£ 85,310	£ 249,950	£ 238,849
Surplus/(Defecit)	£ 2,467	£ 3,886	£ 3,792	£ 7,215	£ 6,259	£ 11,101
Total Charity funds	£ 159,891	£ 157,424	£ 96,317	£ 92,525	£ 256,208	£ 249,950

Notes:

- 1 Adjustments: £768 General Funds included in Santander Building Account (prior year: £243 Building Funds included in HSBC General Account)
£30 direct debit suspense account


South Bucks Jewish Community
Balance Sheet
As of August 31, 2018

Not
e

	Building Fund		General		TOTAL	
	As of Aug 31, 2018	As of Aug 31, 2017 (PY)	As of Aug 31, 2018	As of Aug 31, 2017 (PY)	As of Aug 31, 2018	As of Aug 31, 2017 (PY)
Fixed Asset						
Tangible assets						
Religious Regalia			£ 6,553	£ 6,553	£ 6,553	£ 6,553
Total Fixed Asset	£ 0	£ 0	£ 6,553	£ 6,553	£ 6,553	£ 6,553
Cash at bank and in hand						
BDG Bath	£ 76,555	£ 75,933			£ 76,555	£ 75,933
BDG Santander	£ 13,557	£ 11,053			£ 13,557	£ 11,053
BDG Virgin	£ 70,547	£ 70,196			£ 70,547	£ 70,196
HSBC Current Account			£ 16,429	£ 16,964	£ 16,429	£ 16,964
PayPal Bank			£ 2,503		£ 2,503	£ 0
Skipton			£ 65,076	£ 64,537	£ 65,076	£ 64,537
TSB Current Account			£ 4,480	£ 4,235	£ 4,480	£ 4,235
TSB Deposit Account			£ 478	£ 478	£ 478	£ 478
Total Cash at bank and in hand	£ 160,659	£ 157,182	£ 88,966	£ 86,215	£ 249,625	£ 243,397
Current Assets						
Adjustments	1 -£ 768	£ 243	£ 798	-£ 243	£ 30	£ 0
Total Current Assets	-£ 768	£ 243	£ 798	-£ 243	£ 30	£ 0
Net current assets	£ 159,891	£ 157,424	£ 89,764	£ 85,972	£ 249,655	£ 243,397
Total assets less current liabilities	£ 159,891	£ 157,424	£ 96,317	£ 92,525	£ 256,208	£ 249,950
Charity funds						
Opening Charity Funds	£ 157,424	£ 153,539	£ 92,525	£ 85,310	£ 249,950	£ 238,849
Surplus/(Defecit)	£ 2,467	£ 3,886	£ 3,792	£ 7,215	£ 6,259	£ 11,101
Total Charity funds	£ 159,891	£ 157,424	£ 96,317	£ 92,525	£ 256,208	£ 249,950

Notes:

- 1 Adjustments: £768 General Funds included in Santander Building Account (prior year: £243 Building Funds included in HSBC General Account)
£30 direct debit suspense account


HERBERT DANIEL BAKER FCA.FIIA
21 DECEMBER 2018