

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08248096 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1149738

Report of the Trustees and
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2013
for
Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Leon and Company
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
100 High Ash Drive
Alwoodley
Leeds
West
Yorkshire
LS17 8RE

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

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Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2013. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

The company was incorporated on 10 October 2012 and commenced its activities on 1 January 2013.

INCORPORATION

The charitable company was incorporated on 10 October 2012.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

08248096 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1149738

Registered office

Roman Avenue
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS8 2AN

Trustees

J Lewis	
P Brook	
M Barrie	- resigned 25.4.13
M Thornfield	
S Brown	- resigned 25.4.13
A Dyson	
D Stone	- resigned 25.4.13
N Dyson	
N Chapler-Smyth	
D Israel	
V Mogendorff	
E Prins	
R Sanderson	
S Marcus	- appointed 26.6.13
R Baumberg	- appointed 25.4.13

Company Secretary

D Mogendorff

Auditors

Leon and Company
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
100 High Ash Drive
Alwoodley
Leeds
West
Yorkshire
LS17 8RE

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Induction and training of new trustees

All trustees are issued with a copy of "CC3 - The Essential Trustee - What you need to know" as issued by the Charities Commission, and are required to sign a trustee declaration form, the content of which is available to view on request.

Either at the first formal meeting of the Board, or prior to the first formal meeting of the Board, all trustees are allocated portfolios. At this meeting, the process for managing portfolios is explained, as is the format and process for Board meetings, and the requirements for Board members participation and reporting. The Governance Committee (a sub committee of the Board) is responsible for determining any new trustee induction requirements. Handover of responsibilities, knowledge and relevant information for individual portfolio holders takes place on a one-to-one basis.

Two training sessions for all trustees are held twice each year covering key governance topics.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objectives of the Synagogue are that of providing and maintaining a place or places of public worship and for the furtherance and advancement of religious, educational and charitable objectives.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The current reserves policies are to:

Maintain the level of reserves (where funds are available) to be sufficient to bridge any deficit between revenue and the normal running expenditure of the synagogue.

In recent years the charity has relied on legacies, without which an underlying annual deficit position would be in place. We expect this reliance on legacies to continue. As the timing and amount of such future receipts cannot be known, the Board recommends to the membership that it prudently designates an appropriate amount of funds to ensure that the deficit can be covered for the foreseeable future. In 2010 the membership, at a general meeting, agreed to designate a sum for this purpose. After accounting for the 2013 deficit, the amount remaining in this fund is £175,000. There is a further £110,000 which has not been allocated for any specific purpose. At the current level of deficit, these would be sufficient to cover a further 5 years.

Where funds are available, money is to be put on deposit so that interest from those funds is available to be spent towards the objectives of the synagogue.

The policy relating to the level of reserves is to be monitored by the Executive with a full financial review once per year and appropriate recommendations made to the Board.

The level of free reserves is £305,195. This has been calculated after allowing for designated funds in the sum of £238,000. These designated funds are made up of:

Building Improvements £53,000
Assistant Rabbi costs £185,000

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

FINANCIAL REVIEW

2013 has been a financially challenging year for our community, although this is in part because we have undertaken some significant refurbishment of the building, and recruited an Assistant Rabbi. The underlying excess of expenditure over income was planned for, and is in line with that budgeted by the Board.

This is our first set of accounts following incorporation of the Synagogue and as a result there are no comparisons with prior years shown. The format of the accounts has also changed as a result, and there is a one-off item of income of £1.6m relating to the transfer of assets to the new company. Ignoring this exceptional item, the deficit for the year would have been £88,303.

Much of the deficit relates to activities that we choose to undertake, with the knowledge that we have significant funds available due to legacies received in previous years. At the end of 2013, our investments, bank account balance and debtors amounted to just over £575,000, which is a strong position for the community.

Although a prior year comparison is not shown in the accounts, a few significant points of note are:

1. The value of legacies received in 2012 was some £23,000 higher than those received this year. Clearly it is not possible to predict or manage how much income may be received in any one year from legacy sources. However as has been the case for at least the last 5 years, Legacy donations are, and will continue to be, a critical element of our funding strategy. Some variance from year to year is therefore expected.

2. Income relating to subscriptions, including gift aid, has increased by approximately £8,000. This reflects our steady membership levels, and some excellent work by our Membership Treasurer and bookkeeper to ensure that subscriptions are collected as far as is possible. The number of members who are not meeting their financial obligations to the community is, I believe, at its lowest point in the last few years. A membership drive over the coming year will be critical to maintain this position, and increase this significant element of our overall income.

3. In general, our costs are under control with many items in line with, or showing a reduction, from last year. The key exception is repairs and renewals of which some £6,000 reflects the first part of the significant refurbishment work undertaken, including the creation of new offices. Where the refurbishment relates to items that increase the value of the building, these have been capitalised. There are further refurbishment costs which will follow in 2014.

There is a further exceptional item of burial costs of £4,640. This was to remove a liability on the Synagogue which arose from the creation of a burial fund to cover "overage shortfalls" in the JJBS (Joint Jewish Burial Scheme). The fund was established when Sinai joined the JJBS when some members paid an additional fee to the Synagogue, in return for the Synagogue covering their over-age shortfall. During 2013 we agreed to transfer that liability to the JJBS, so that no further increase in liability would be incurred by the Synagogue. All members who were not covered by this burial fund, and who were subjected to an over-age shortfall were at the same time given the opportunity to pay an additional fee to the JJBS to cover their shortfall. This will be offered to all future members, so there will be no further liability on the Synagogue of this type.

As in previous years, I want to analyse what our "net deficit" position is. It is important to understand that we make decisions to operate in a certain way because we have the money to do so. In the event that we do not have the funds available to us, it would be clear that we would not employ a second Rabbi, would not have undertaken refurbishment work, and many aspects of what we do would be run differently. The key driver of this calculation is the question "if we had run out of money, what would our underlying deficit position be?"

In seeking the answer to this question, I have removed the impact of interest income, legacies, depreciation, one-off expenditure, and a high level estimation of staff costs. I have calculated the underlying deficit to be £56,833.

At the 2011 AGM we allocated funds to a number of key purposes. Following the costs incurred in pursuing those activities in 2012 and 2013, the balance of these funds are as follows:

Assistant Rabbi fund :	£185,000
Building Improvements:	£53,000
Deficit Funding:	£175,000
Unallocated:	£110,000

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

**Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our cash in bank and investments, being £543,195, are in excess of this figure, the excess being our "working capital".

This is my final report as Honorary Treasurer of the Synagogue. I would like to express my thanks to my fellow members of Executive and Board, over the last 3 years, who have provided support and taken seriously their role as trustees of the Synagogue, ensuring that financial decisions are made with care, in support of our objectives, and in a mature and appropriate manner.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Sinai Synagogue, Leeds for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD :

.....
M Thornfield - Trustee

Date:

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

We have audited the financial statements of Sinai Synagogue, Leeds for the year ended 31 December 2013 on pages seven to fifteen. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees Responsibilities set out on page four, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the trustees; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Trustees to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2013 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

**Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of
Sinai Synagogue, Leeds**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

J L Posner (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Leon and Company
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
100 High Ash Drive
Alwoodley
Leeds
West
Yorkshire
LS17 8RE

Date:

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	2	1,762,874	18,814	1,781,688
Activities for generating funds	3	21,044	-	21,044
Investment income	4	9,270	-	9,270
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Education	5	1,390	-	1,390
Youth activities		3,855	-	3,855
Total incoming resources		1,798,433	18,814	1,817,247
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds				
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs	6	11,037	-	11,037
Charitable activities				
Education	7	31,864	-	31,864
Youth activities		10,427	-	10,427
High holyday		1,200	10,471	11,671
Board of deputies		-	1,907	1,907
Donations		405	-	405
Rabbis costs		93,703	-	93,703
Religious activities		70,091	-	70,091
Welfare costs		2,547	-	2,547
LJRC		-	6,783	6,783
Governance costs	10	31,790	-	31,790
Other resources expended		4,640	-	4,640
Total resources expended		257,704	19,161	276,865
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS				
		1,540,729	(347)	1,540,382
Gross transfers between funds	19	(348)	348	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		1,540,381	1	1,540,382
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,540,381	1	1,540,382

The notes form part of these financial statements

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

**Balance Sheet
At 31 December 2013**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	15	1,003,170	-	1,003,170
Investments	16	408,833	-	408,833
		<u>1,412,003</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,412,003</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	17	34,318	17,554	51,872
Cash at bank		134,862	1	134,863
		<u>169,180</u>	<u>17,555</u>	<u>186,735</u>
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	18	(40,802)	(17,554)	(58,356)
		<u>128,378</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>128,379</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS				
		<u>1,540,381</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1,540,382</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES				
		<u>1,540,381</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1,540,382</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,540,381</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1,540,382</u>
FUNDS	19			
Unrestricted funds				1,540,381
Restricted funds				<u>1</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>1,540,382</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
M Thornfield -Trustee

.....
N Dyson -Trustee

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Notes to the Financial Statements **for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	- 2% on cost
Improvements to property	- 4% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on cost
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	£
Gifts	1
Donations	20,373
Gift aid	24,585
Legacies	2,000
Subscriptions	106,044
Exceptional items - see note 14	1,628,685
	<hr/>
	1,781,688
	<hr/> <hr/>

3. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	£
Functions and catering	11,718
Plaques, books and videos	479
100 Club	2,760
High holyday	868
Sinai Chronicle	1,282
Miscellaneous fund raising	1,008
Income from solar panels	2,929
	<hr/>
	21,044
	<hr/> <hr/>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	£
Deposit account interest	9,270
	<hr/> <hr/>

5. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	£
Contributions	1,390
Contributions	3,855
	<hr/>
	5,245
	<hr/> <hr/>

6. FUNDRAISING TRADING: COST OF GOODS SOLD AND OTHER COSTS

	£
Functions and catering	7,021
Plaques, books and videos	273
100 Club	3,050
Sinai Chronicle	65
Miscellaneous	628
	<hr/>
	11,037
	<hr/> <hr/>

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs	Grant funding of activities (See note 8)	Support costs (See note 9)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Education	15,917	200	15,747	31,864
Youth activities	4,452	3,630	2,345	10,427
High holyday	1,200	10,471	-	11,671
Rabbis costs	93,648	-	55	93,703
Religious activities	441	-	69,650	70,091
Welfare costs	202	-	2,345	2,547
Board of deputies	-	1,907	-	1,907
Donations	-	405	-	405
LJRC	-	6,783	-	6,783
	<u>115,860</u>	<u>23,396</u>	<u>90,142</u>	<u>229,398</u>

8. GRANTS PAYABLE

	£
Education	200
Youth activities	3,630
High holyday	10,471
Board of deputies	1,907
Donations	405
LJRC	6,783
	<u>23,396</u>

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	£
Highholy Day Appeal	10,471
Board of deputies	1,907
Donations	405
LJRC	6,783
	<u>19,566</u>

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

9. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Finance	Depreciation	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Education	13,473	6	2,268	15,747
Youth activities	1,948	-	397	2,345
Rabbis costs	55	-	-	55
Religious activities	59,354	23	10,273	69,650
Welfare costs	1,948	-	397	2,345
	<u>76,778</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>13,335</u>	<u>90,142</u>

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

Affiliation fees	£
Professional fees	26,126
Auditors' remuneration	864
	<u>4,800</u>
	<u>31,790</u>

11. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

Auditors' remuneration	£
Depreciation - owned assets	4,800
	<u>13,337</u>

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2013.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2013.

13. STAFF COSTS

Wages and salaries	£
Social security costs	117,995
Other pension costs	10,548
	<u>4,995</u>
	<u>133,538</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

Staff	<u>7</u>
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The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:
£60,001 - £70,000

1

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

14. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

In accordance with SORP paragraph 255, all assets and reserves introduced from the unincorporated charity have been recognised as a one-off donation of £1,628,685 into the limited company at 1 January 2013. All assets are recorded at market value, and as such, this one-off donation also includes the increase in the market value of the freehold land and property.

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £
COST			
Additions	-	26,647	1,082
Transferred from unincorporated trust	1,005,230	90,182	1,194
At 31 December 2013	1,005,230	116,829	2,276
DEPRECIATION			
Charge for year	4,433	3,495	317
Transferred from unincorporated trust	120,736	2,964	40
At 31 December 2013	125,169	6,459	357
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2013	880,061	110,370	1,919
Fixtures and fittings			
	£	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
Additions	3,920	738	32,387
Transferred from unincorporated trust	89,785	4,417	1,190,808
At 31 December 2013	93,705	5,155	1,223,195
DEPRECIATION			
Charge for year	4,753	339	13,337
Transferred from unincorporated trust	78,998	3,950	206,688
At 31 December 2013	83,751	4,289	220,025
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2013	9,954	866	1,003,170

The freehold property has been re-expressed at market value per SORP paragraph 255. The increase in value of £778,347 reflects the recommended practice of introducing all assets and reserves from the unincorporated charity at market value. The movement in value is recognised as a one-off donation, rather than through the revaluation reserve.

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

Fixed rate bonds	£ 408,833
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Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Investments (neither listed nor unlisted) were as follows:

	£
NatWest fixed rate bond	154,833
Yorkshire Bank fixed term deposit	254,000
	<hr/>
	408,833
	<hr/> <hr/>

17. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	£
Trade debtors	3,166
Other debtors	25,689
Due from general fund	14,440
Due from designated fund	3,830
Accrued income	2,009
Prepayments	2,738
	<hr/>
	51,872
	<hr/> <hr/>

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	£
Trade creditors	888
Social security and other taxes	3,103
Net Wages Creditor	11,692
Other creditors	18,173
Due to restricted fund	14,440
Due to general fund	3,830
Accrued expenses	6,230
	<hr/>
	58,356
	<hr/> <hr/>

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.13 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	1,533,137	3,479	1,536,616
Designated funds	7,592	(3,827)	3,765
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,540,729	(348)	1,540,381
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	(347)	348	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	1,540,382	-	1,540,382
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	1,787,011	(253,874)	1,533,137
Designated funds	11,422	(3,830)	7,592
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,798,433	(257,704)	1,540,729
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	18,814	(19,161)	(347)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	<hr/> 1,817,247 <hr/>	<hr/> (276,865) <hr/>	<hr/> 1,540,382 <hr/>

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities **for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

£

INCOMING RESOURCES

Voluntary income

Gifts	1
Donations	20,373
Gift aid	24,585
Legacies	2,000
Subscriptions	106,044
Exceptional items - see note 14	1,628,685
	<hr/>
	1,781,688

Activities for generating funds

Functions and catering	11,718
Plaques, books and videos	479
100 Club	2,760
High holyday	868
Sinai Chronicle	1,282
Miscellaneous fund raising	1,008
Income from solar panels	2,929
	<hr/>
	21,044

Investment income

Deposit account interest	9,270
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Incoming resources from charitable activities

Contributions	5,245
	<hr/>

Total incoming resources

1,817,247

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs

Functions and catering	7,021
Plaques, books and videos	273
100 Club	3,050
Sinai Chronicle	65
Miscellaneous	628
	<hr/>
	11,037

Charitable activities

Wages	88,697
Social security	8,766
Pensions	4,995
Sundries	49
Expenses and activities - Rabbis' costs	6,009
Expenses and activities - general	6,297
Mileage	227
Travel	820
Grants to institutions	19,566
Carried forward	135,426

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities **for the Year Ended 31 December 2013**

	£
Charitable activities	
Brought forward	135,426
Grants to individuals	3,830
	<hr/> 139,256
Governance costs	
Affiliation fees	26,126
Professional fees	864
Auditors' remuneration	4,800
	<hr/> 31,790
Other resources expended	
Exceptional items - burial costs	4,640
Support costs	
Management	
Wages	29,298
Social security	1,782
Rates and water	1,140
Insurance	6,928
Light and heat	12,508
Telephone	1,084
Postage and stationery	4,616
Sundries	2,968
Cemetery costs	1,759
Training	305
Maintenance and repairs	5,833
Computer consumables	336
Exceptional repairs & renewals	6,065
Security and monitoring	2,156
	<hr/> 76,778
Finance	
Bank charges	29
Depreciation	
Freehold property	4,433
Improvements to property	3,495
Plant and machinery	316
Fixtures and fittings	4,753
Computer equipment	338
	<hr/> 13,335
Total resources expended	<hr/> 276,865
Net income	<hr/> <hr/> 1,540,382

The movement for
REFORM JUDAISM

sinaï

Annual Report 2013

sinai

Volunteers

Sinai depends on its volunteers in so many ways. This report reflects your continued help, support and dedication.

The executive, board and professional team are sincerely grateful to everyone who worked so hard throughout 2013.

Sinai Synagogue

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Sinai Synagogue's Vision

Sinai Synagogue's Vision is to be a thriving progressive Jewish community founded on the four core values of:

Kehillah Kedosha (Holy Community)

Tefillah (Prayer)

Limmud (Learning)

Tikkun Olam (Repair of the World)

Kehillah Kedosha (Holy Community)

is at the heart of Sinai Synagogue:

- encouraging community building by being welcoming, empowering our members and ensuring they feel safe and valued
- recognising the individuality of our members and valuing the diverse community this creates
- striving to be the leading proponent of Reform Judaism in the many different communities of which we are part
- through *Keruv* (Openness) we aspire to be a growing and inclusive community

Tefillah (Prayer)

at Sinai will help people provide a relevant environment for exploring relationships with God and Judaism in today's world by:

- connecting with our Jewish tradition and beliefs in a relevant and meaningful way
- creating an engaging space to mark *Shabbat* and sacred times
- creating a sacred and communal time for reflection
- encouraging a personal and communal spiritual experience
- helping people to reflect on their lives and the world around them
- providing comfort to those seeking it

Limmud (Learning)

at Sinai is about making informed decisions through encouraging the asking of questions and providing the resources to search for answers by

- providing an inspiring learning environment for all
- providing a frame of reference for living a progressive Jewish life
- enabling shared communal experiences
- seeking the most engaging resources for the community
- studying heritage, tradition and stories
- providing learning resources accessible to all

Tikkun Olam (Repair of the world)

is recognising the need to take responsibility for the world as central to living a full Jewish life by:

- taking action to make a positive difference to society
- building a just society, community and world
- making our communities better places
- recognising we have a responsibility to speak out against injustice and to support those in need

Chair

The past year has been a truly momentous year for Sinai Synagogue for a whole host of reasons. When stopping to think, it is hard to work out which developments are more significant - appointing Rabbi Hugenholtz as our first Assistant Rabbi or becoming a company limited by guarantee, celebrating our 70th anniversary or agreeing a new vision, renewing our logo or carrying out works to accommodate new offices.

As a progressive Jewish community, we have an obligation to continually question what we do.

We need to ensure that we remain relevant and meaningful. To this end, one of the most profound developments for me has been the fact that the board has taken time out of the regular meetings this year more than ever to invest in skills training and reviewing our vision and purpose.

The result of this has been to adopt a new vision: “to be a thriving progressive Jewish community founded on the four core values of *Kehillah Kedosha* (Holy Community), *Tefillah* (Prayer), *Limmud* (Learning) and *Tikkun Olam* (Repair of the World)”. The vision goes further to explain in simple terms how we look to implement the values - please see page 3 for further details. The next challenge both for the board and community is to review every activity we do and ensure we are working to fulfil and implement our vision.

Critical to implementing our vision are our professional staff. We now are in the fortunate position to have a rabbinic team in Rabbi Morris and Rabbi Hugenholtz. Rabbi Morris has been instrumental in guiding us as a community through the developments over the past few years. I know just how passionate and dedicated Rabbi Morris is to Sinai Community and how seriously he takes his responsibilities. Rabbi Hugenholtz has already started to make a

difference in many ways, including increasing Sinai’s profile in the wider community with appearances on Radio Leeds and speaking at Movement for Reform Judaism (MRJ) and Leeds *Limmud* events. More is planned in terms of the Rabbis working together to provide different styles of services to help provide an inspiring spiritual space for all members.

We should also acknowledge the efforts of our Director of Education, Gwynneth Lewis; Early Years Co-ordinators Debbie Marcus, Sara Glatherine and all our teachers in the work they have done and time spent (often far beyond their contracted hours) to inspire and work with the younger generation of our community in particular.

In relation to our staff, I would also like to pay tribute to the tireless efforts of our office administrator Heidi Sizer and our caretaker, Andy Ingleby. They both repeatedly go far beyond what is required to keep our community functioning and help us all to fulfil our vision.

Also critical to implementing our vision, is good and effective communication. There is no point in having a great vision if no one in our community is aware of what it is or how it impacts on them. When I took on the role of Chair two years ago, I provided a summary of how I saw our strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

One key opportunity was to improve communication. It is therefore rewarding to reflect on the progress we have made with an updated weekly newsletter, new logo which incorporates our vision and wider strategy to improve how we communicate.

Another area in which we have made key developments over the past year (and more) has been governance. Becoming a company limited by guarantee has been part of this process, as has the setting up a governance group who can advise the board on constitutional matters including providing training on best practice and induction training to new board members. I admit that governance may not sound so exciting; however, having sound governance structures in place will help provide the board with greater knowledge and help improve the quality of decision making. I would like to thank all those involved in governance for their continued efforts.

When reflecting, it is 70 years since our community was founded. We have much to celebrate and take pride in as can be seen throughout this report. Whilst we celebrate our successes, we also owe it to ourselves and our founders to ensure we continue to improve and strive to fulfil our vision.

In closing, I would like to thank all those members of the board and executive who I have had the pleasure and honour to work with, in addition to the Movement for Reform Judaism for the inspiration and support they have provided.

I would also like to thank all those volunteers within our community for the hours (and days) they have dedicated to our community.



We can only achieve what we do through our combined efforts.

I would finally like to thank the community for giving me the opportunity to serve Sinai Synagogue as Chair. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading the board and been honoured to represent Sinai in many events within the wider Leeds community as well as in the Reform Jewish community. I wish my successor the very best and offer all my support next year.

Nick Dyson
Chair

Senior Rabbi

This has been an utterly extraordinary year for Sinai Synagogue! The most appropriate utterance which comes to my mind is “Dayenu!” If only one of the outstanding events of this year had come to pass, then that would surely have “been enough for us”.

It is hard for me to decide what should come first: the wonderful attainment of our 70th birthday as the congregation of Sinai Synagogue, Leeds? Or is it the incredible watershed moment when we welcomed a second rabbi into our lives? Or might it be the start (albeit on an - as yet - small scale) of the reshaping and development of our physical home and environment?

On one level it could be argued that it is all part and parcel of the same process of development and growth of Sinai. We sometimes forget that Sinai Synagogue was established in wartime. While most of the Jewish world had yet to discover and understand the magnitude of the tragedy and horror of the fate of European Jewry, everybody fully understood the importance of creating a forward-looking and vital expression of Jewish life in what would be very different Jewish world.

I have difficulty understanding how people, who had so many things going on at once in Wartime Britain, could summon up the energy and resolve to build a new, vibrant Jewish life in Leeds. And yet they found the courage, the commitment and the (scant) resources to do just that.

We, today, are their beneficiaries. And while we may grumble about this “difficulty” or that “irritation” in our day to day functioning, it is as



nothing compared to what was faced by that first cohort of Sinai’s founders.

The mere thought leaves me totally awestruck. And what IS our inheritance? It is an active, vibrant, self-confident community of Progressive Jews which has developed to such a point that it makes absolute sense to broaden out our scope and activities by bringing a new rabbi into the life of Sinai.

Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz was, as a student, given ample opportunity to see what Sinai was all about and decide that it was a basket case (or worse). Instead she concluded that ours is a community which has a great deal to offer Leeds and the United Kingdom and the world.

Consequently she felt that this was a worthwhile place to be and a place where great rabbinic



talent could be given scope to “do its thing”.
And for this, we can only be immensely grateful.

Sinai has a 70 year history. But more exciting even than that is the prospect of how we will be able to shape the next 50 years, by when we will have reached the traditional watershed age of 120 years.

Our building work of the past year is but an “appetizer” for our development into that unpredictable new generation.

I strongly suspect that I will not be around to see what we will look like then. (!) But I would certainly love to be able to see how the legacy that Rabbi Hugenholtz and her successors will leave imprinted on Sinai, will further grow and develop this community of ours.

And communities need physical homes and resources to do what it is that they do. We started out in borrowed premises. Then we purchased a new home in Leopold St. Then we moved to Roman Avenue. Then we expanded those premises to the footprint we have now. That last big piece of work was 30 years ago. A whole generation ago.

It is time and it is proper to look to our future and how we will look and function in the next generation. That will take us into our centenary. We will obviously be different. It is hard to imagine what technology will be at our fingertips then. It is hard to imagine what our Community will be like then. It is hard to imagine what our Society will be like then. I can’t begin to predict what the Rabbinate will be like then...

But it is not hard to imagine that we will continue to be confronted by challenges and new demands. We will still be concerned about the legacy we will bequeath to the next generation. And we will still want an appropriate environment in which to teach and live our Judaism.

Our building work of the past year is but an “appetizer” for our development into that unpredictable new generation. We need to be flexible. We need to be enticing. We need to be practical. We need the environment to give free reign to Jewish vibrancy.

The rabbis may well be different, but the job description will be the same. “Sinai Synagogue: the voice of Progressive Judaism in Leeds”.

Rabbi Ian D. Morris
Senior Rabbi

Assistant Rabbi

This report gives you an overview of my Ordination, Induction and rabbinic activities since commencing employment at Sinai Synagogue.

Ordination

I was ordained to the rabbinate on the 7th July 2013, while eight months pregnant. The ceremony was held by Leo Baeck College at Northwood and Pinner Liberal Synagogue in London and my ordaining Rabbi was Rabbi Dr Charles Middleburgh.

I was honoured with a strong attendance from Sinai Synagogue and it was delightful to celebrate this milestone with the community. I delivered an Ordination Address which would later be reprinted in the Induction Service booklet. The ceremony and celebrations were moving and joyous and created memories to last a lifetime.

Emigration to Leeds

My husband and I returned to the Netherlands after Ordination where our son, Jonathan David, was born in late August. I returned to Leeds a month later to celebrate Jonathan's *Brit Milah* with the community and to prepare ourselves for our emigration. In October, we emigrated to Leeds where I enjoyed the remainder of my leave before starting employment on 1st December.

Induction

On 15th December, my Induction Ceremony took place at Sinai Synagogue which was another lovely event and an inspiring way to start my official relationship as Assistant Rabbi with the community. A special afternoon tea was served and I delivered a sermon incorporating the Biblical and Rabbinic significance of the number seventy in honour of Sinai Synagogue's 70th Anniversary.



The Working Rabbinate

I have been working as the Assistant Rabbi for Sinai Synagogue since 1st December. During this time, I have written a series of aims and objectives in close cooperation with my line manager and exec and worked to implement these on a carefully developed timeline. I also have worked on developing a productive and cooperative working relationship with the Senior Rabbi, Ian Morris. In this report, I will delineate some of my rabbinic activities.

Welfare

I have implemented a weekly Monday 'surgery' at my (brand new) office, creating an open door policy. Members of the community who want to meet me for pastoral care, a learning opportunity or just to talk are welcome to do so and to schedule an appointment.



I am also engaging in visits to Donisthorpe Hall and members' homes, as well as staying in phone and email contact with members who need pastoral support, in close cooperation with Val Mogendorff.

Membership

One of my ongoing projects is to call the entire membership list to introduce myself to the community and to provide a listening ear and sounding board to those congregants who so desire. We have also started planning a "membership drive" weekend in June as well as writing a new flyer, in conjunction with plans to develop a new website. I am also involved in empowering and co-leading the Communal *Pesach Seder*.

Education

As part of my rabbinate, I have assumed *b'nei mitzvah* teaching duties (designing lesson plans as well as teaching) and adult learning programming, both through Study Lunches as well as through taking on part of the Introduction to Judaism programme. A rabbinic *parshanut chevruta* (study group on the weekly *Torah* portion) has also been set up to empower congregants to engage meaningfully with Jewish learning. I am also involved in a monthly song or story-telling capacity at ShabbaTots.

Services

Apart from my involvement in Sinai Synagogue's regular services, I have started planning and

conducting a number of parallel services. The first of its kind was the Intergenerational Service held in early January. Musical, meditative and learners' *minyanim* are planned for this year, allowing Sinai to offer a diversity in prayer experiences.

Interfaith and Social Justice

I have taught at and developed relationships with the Leeds Church Institute as well as the Leeds Faith Forum, where I attended the AGM. We were generously hosted by the Muslim community at Makkah Mosque. At the AGM, we discussed the continuity of the LFF. We enjoyed the presence of Muslim, Buddhist, Christian (Church of England as well as Catholic), Pagan, Hindu and Jewish representation.

Conclusion

Due to my two-year internship at Sinai Synagogue, I have been able to 'hit the ground running' and am thoroughly enjoying my work. I feel a strong connection with the community and feel supported by its institutions and leadership in developing my own vision and approach to serve the community in my capacity as Assistant Rabbi. My family has been made to feel extremely welcome and I look forward to my continued work for the community.

Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz

Assistant Rabbi

70th Jubilee Report

I am pleased to report that at the time of writing this we have had two very different but both equally successful events in marking our 70th anniversary.

The first, the induction of our new Assistant Rabbi Esther Hugenholz, was both moving and exciting and it was a wonderful way to start our year of celebrations. A large congregation representing all ages was present to witness the occasion - and what a treat - we had no less than three Rabbis on the *bimah* at once. As well as our own Rabbi Morris and Rabbi Hugenholz we were able to welcome Rabbi Maurice Michaels - who is no stranger to Sinai. Some eighteen or nineteen years ago, prior to the appointment of Rabbi Morris, Rabbi Michaels spent a weekend with us discussing the possibility of becoming our new Rabbi. At the time he was unable to consider the idea because of family ties in London, and the rest is history.

The second event - a Quiz Supper organized by Judith Chapman and aided by Rob and Sue Bartfield, Suzanne and Roger Lawford and Andy Kardasz - was a fun filled evening. Around one hundred and twenty people took part with each round being hotly contested.

By the time you read this report another two events will have taken place. March will have seen the special Sinai *Oy Factor* organized by our youth leaders and young people. I am sure it will be at least as amusing as in past years.

April brings the *Sinai At Play* event organized by Thea Jacob. We will be treated to a variety of entertainment and displays etc showcasing the many talents of our members.



Through the rest of the year we will be offering a Tea Dance, two special services in June, an unspecified event led by our younger families, a study session led by Lorna Mitchell looking at the changes to Sinai *Minhag* over the years and we will finish with a formal Jubilee Dinner and Ball in December.

I hope that by the end of the year as many of you as possible will have joined in one or more of these events and hopefully you will feel that this special year has been well celebrated.

Carol Adams
Jubilee Co-ordinator

Review of the year from MRJ

In 2013 '*Haggadateinu*' was launched - the first ever UK Reform *Haggadah* for the whole Movement embodying our core values. The *L'Chaim* adult education programme got underway, helping people define and raise confidence in their Reform Judaism - "completely engaging and inspiring" said one participant.

The second MRJ Music Conference took place in the summer - an energetic, inspiring experience to enrich the musical and spiritual life of our communities.

Robert Weiner of Alyth was elected as MRJ Chair and Gary Copitch as Vice-Chair. Tribute was paid to outgoing Chair Jenny Pizer, noting her outstanding contribution over nine years both as Chair and as a Board member.

'Hubs' have been launched in the north. Serving the eastern and western regions, they allow communities to work collaboratively, pooling resources and sharing knowledge. The Northern Communities Weekend was a great success — "such a special weekend", said one participant, "I feel nourished and re-invigorated".

Some familiar faces have taken up new roles in MRJ. Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers has joined us as our Community Educator, helping ensure Reform values are cascaded to all ages throughout the Movement's communities. And Charlotte Fischer, a former RSY-Netzer *madricha* (leader) became the first London Citizens Jewish community worker promoting grassroots activism within MRJ and fostering alliances between faith communities and other groups. 230 young people had an amazing and formative experience on Israel Tour. With six tours it was our biggest in over a decade, and together with



RSY-Netzer *Shemesh* summer camps and day camp made sure it was a summer to remember for almost 1000 young people, laying firm foundations for the future of our Movement. RSY-Netzer's *Mega-chalutz* leadership seminar was described by one participant as "the best RSY-Netzer event I've ever been on and possibly the best Jewish experience of my life". Last year's RSY-Netzer *Shnat* Israel gap year had fifteen participants. Our student project, Jeneration, has attracted large numbers to a wide variety of events on campuses across the country and its free High Holy Day pass scheme has made Reform services accessible to almost 200 young adults.

Rosh Hashanah saw the launch of a new Progressive Judaism page in the Jewish News featuring weekly opinion and learning from Reform rabbis, educators and lay people. 2013 was also a year of increased media coverage and appearances from Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner and many other rabbis, ensuring our values are heard nationally and internationally.

Our rabbis and educators flew the Reform flag at the annual *Limmud* conference in December: teaching, debating and exploring our Judaism with others right across our community. Reform rabbis as well as lay and professional representatives also attended the World Union for Progressive Judaism conference in Jerusalem and the URJ Biennial in San Diego.

Martin Dix
Communications Manager, MRJ

Notable events at Sinai

In addition to regular *Shabbat* and festival services and commemoration of life cycle events throughout the year.

Special Services and Celebrations

- Guest sermons: Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner, MRJ Rabbi; Linda Rabben, Human Rights Activist and author, Tony Bryant, Warden; Anna Dyson and Sharon Witton, Sinai members and members of the Sinai Synagogue of Sanctuary Working Group; Nick Dyson, Sinai Chair.
- Lay led services.
- Special lay led service and guest sermon for *Mitzvah Day*
- Board *Shabbat*
- Lay *Torah* Readings
- *Torah* time services
- Musical *Kabbalat Shabbat* led by Sinai youth
- Youth *Shabbatons*
- *Kiddushim* to mark special birthdays (80 years, 90 years and counting); baby blessings; *Aufrufs*;
- Induction service for Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz, marking the start of Sinai's 70th Anniversary celebrations and a new era for Sinai.

Festival related events

- *Tu B'Shevat* adult and children's *sederim*
- *Purim* fancy dress party and parade
- High Holy Day singing rehearsals
- Silver cleaning
- Cleaning and tidying of Harehills Cemetery and *Ohel*
- *Rosh Hashanah* Lunch
- *Simchat Torah* children's party and flag making.
- Community *Chanukah* party
- Connexions *Chanukah* lunch

Education

Learning Ladder Programme including:

- Launch of *L'Chaim* ; Prayers and Blessings; Judaism and modernity; *Halacha* and UK law; Introduction to Judaism; Circumcision; Ethics; *Siddur* Fluency; Medical Ethics; Why you gotta get a get; Resolving issues arising out of divorce; *Shabbat* Study Lunches on a range of topics; *Elul* Study lunch; Refugee Council Talks Team
- Youth Education:
- weekly religion school
- *Makpetzah* Information Lunch
- *Makpetzah* workshops
- *Makpetzah* weekend away
- 1:1 *B'nei mitzvah* tuition
- Israel Cafe
- School and university group visits

Chavurah Suppers Speakers included

- Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner, MRJ Movement Rabbi
- Sarita Robinson, MRJ Northern Communities Development Worker
- Debs Blausten, MRJ Jeneration Fieldworker
- Representatives from local refugee charities
- Susie Gordon, Leeds Jewish Representative Council Development Executive
- The Sinai Youth
- The Sinai Visual Identity Team



Sinai Meetings

- AGM
- Monthly board meetings including guest presentations from Simon Jackson Chair of Leeds Jewish Representative Council and Susie Gordon Leeds Jewish Representative Council Development Executive; Charlotte Fisher, Citizens UK; trustees training by members of Sinai's Governance Committee.
- Board induction
- Sinai Executive
- Building Group
- Communications Strategy Group
- Connexions Group
- Early Years Working Group
- Education Working Group
- Governance Committee
- Israel Working Group
- Membership Working Group
- Synagogue of Sanctuary Group
- Visual Identity Team
- Wardens meetings

Health and Safety

- Safe moving and handling training
- Fire safety briefing
- CST security briefing
- CST building evacuation training
- Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation training

Interfaith events

- 3 faiths meetings
- Interfaith group activities for International Peace Day following *Kiddush* in the *Sukkah*

Sinai hosted

- An Evening with Tim Riordan
- Assembly of Rabbis Meeting
- Association of Jewish Refugees Northern Conference
- Interactive Group meeting
- Jewish Genealogy Society of Great Britain
- A series of fundraising musical concerts
- Topsy Turvy Tea Party

Tikkun Olam

- *Tzedakah* Group recommended HHD appeal beneficiaries
- 2013 World Jewish Relief winter clothes collection
- BOGO (Buy One Give One) toiletries collection for asylum seekers
- *Mitzvah* Day activities
- Leeds Citizens training day

Community and Social events

- Bridge Street the Musical workshops, read through
- Connexions monthly lunches
- Connexions garden party
- Embroidery group
- Fundraising supper quiz
- Intra-communal cricket tournament
- Israeli Dancing
- *The Oy Factor*
- Sinai Book Club
- Sinai Walking Group
- Yoga



Youth events

- ShabbaTots
- Youth Israel Tour
- Youth Clubs
- *Netzer* Venture *Shabbaton*
- *Purim* Spieloff - Sinai hosted this RSY-*Netzer* event

Sinai Board meetings

January - April 2013

30th January; 27th February; 3rd April.

Attendance:

Nick Dyson	2
Michael Barrie	3
Matt Thornfield	2
Pippa Brook	3
Sally Brown	1
Anna Dyson	3
Nick Chapler-Smyth	2
David Israel	2
Jonathan Lewis	2
Val Mogendorff	3
Elsje Prins	1
Rachelle Sanderson	3
Darren Stone	2

May - December 2013

25th May; 26th June; 31st July; 28th August; 24th September; 30th October; 27th November; 18th December

Attendance:

Nick Dyson	7
Elsje Prins	6
Matt Thornfield	6
Pippa Brook	8
Ruth Baumberg	7
Anna Dyson	7
Nick Chapler-Smyth	6
David Israel	6
Jonathan Lewis	2
Simon Marcus	4
(appointed June 2013)	
Val Mogendorff	6
Rachelle Sanderson	5
Becky Teiger	1 & 1 as observer
(appointed December 2013)	

Vice Chair

You may well ask what does a vice chair do? Until I joined the Executive in April 2013, I certainly had only a very vague idea but I knew that if there was a role, it had to be defined in some way. I was fortunate to attend the Beutel Leadership Conference in Jerusalem at the Headquarters of the World Union of Progressive Judaism in February 2013 where I was able to create networks across the globe and find out about models of leadership within Reform Judaism.

Returning from Beutel, I met with our current chair Nick Dyson to try to create a working model. This year has been a steep learning curve to come to grips with the day-to-day operational side of the synagogue.

2013 saw me chairing the occasional Board meeting in the absence of our chair and I met with different interest groups such as the Membership Working Group. I visited Religion School, ShabbaTots and *Torah* Time. I attended board and executive meetings, was part of the board 'Away Day' and the subsequent working group to help create a new vision statement based on our core values. I attended Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz' *semichah* (ordination) ceremony in London and in December Matt Thornfield and I (on behalf of our chair) attended the fiftieth birthday celebrations of the Reform Synagogue in Newcastle. Joyous occasions indeed. In addition, I continued with my Membership Treasurer Portfolio, attended the *L'Chaim* course, taught *Siddur* Hebrew to adults and co-led some *Shabbat* services.

I have undertaken two other major pieces of work the line management of our Director of Education and our newly appointed Assistant Rabbi, Esther Hugenholtz. Judy Plaut and I created a two-week induction programme for Rabbi Hugenholtz in order to provide a 'softish' landing for her and her family. This close involvement with the professional staff of our synagogue is

a period of growth and development for me as new skills needed to be acquired and transitions or boundaries needed to be established as we shifted roles and relationships. I hope that we have managed to do this and that our friendship has not been affected by our professional relationships.

From the outset of my tenure as Vice Chair, I have been involved in board succession planning and I have tried to encourage members to stand for the board or to be part of smaller projects.

What I learned most this year is the enormous amount of activity that happens on a day to day basis at our synagogue and that 'things' just happen and take place with the enormous amount of goodwill that exists within our community. I am constantly amazed at the work that a dedicated team of volunteers bring to the life of the synagogue. I urge you all to have a look at all that Sinai offers and see where you can use your skills to help realize the full potential of the community. And if you feel hesitant in taking on roles or volunteering I would encourage you to come and talk to us and we will try to help you in acquiring the necessary skills. And for those who are currently looking for work, volunteering is part and parcel of a robust CV. Come and join us in creating the next seventy years of Sinai.

Elsje Prins
Vice Chair

Treasurer

I am writing this report at the end of a three year period as Sinai's Honorary Treasurer, and so I will use the opportunity to reflect on where we are in terms of financial management. Unfortunately the time required to produce our Annual Report and Accounts means that they are not available in time for me to write this report, so I will comment on our financial performance and outlook within the accounts themselves.

Over the last three years, we have made a number of changes to strengthen the way in which finances are managed at Sinai. Some of these have been by necessity (for example to comply with the changes in gift aid claims procedures, and to enable real time reporting of payroll for our employees), and some to improve the way in which we manage our money, such as the separation of the honorary treasurer and membership treasurer roles, the move of our bookkeeping software to Sage, and the opening of further investment accounts to spread the money we hold amongst more institutions to minimize risk and maximize the interest earning potential.

Last year, I made the point in my report that we are a religious organization rather than a business, and as such we run at a surplus or deficit rather than at a profit or loss. Judging from the numerous conversations I have had with various members about the state of our finances, I believe that there has now been a general adoption of this philosophy throughout the community, and there is a degree of comfort that we run at a deficit for the moment. This is partly important to accept as our plans to employ a second Rabbi, albeit on the understanding that the role can only exist whilst it can be funded, will in the short term increase our deficit. In the longer term, we can expect that the allocation of our capital to such a project will have benefits far beyond the financial ones of increasing membership. Just as we previously invested in solar panels (and again



this has bought in around £4000 of income and cost savings this year) we need to find ways to use our capital carefully to ensure that we can remain a vibrant but sustainable community.

I have had a number of comments over the year from various parts of the community that those who have left us money left it for us to use it, and that as our membership see how positively we are doing so, it will become easier to encourage more of our members to think of Sinai in their wills. I have no doubt that this is something my successor will pick up.

As we are aware this has been our first year operating as a Company Limited by Guarantee, and that has caused a significant amount of additional administrative work this year, including replacing or updating new bank accounts, notifying all companies with whom we have contracts (and in some cases renegotiating those contracts) and setting up changes to the way we do our bookkeeping so that our accountants can produce the year end accounts in the formats required for both Companies House and the Charity Commission.

The change in systems has meant that it has taken longer, and been harder, to produce regular management accounts this year, although I'm pleased to report that in relation to the budget year (which now runs from 1st May to 30th April) we have kept our finances very close to the forecast figure, so the board has been able to continue to actively manage to our position.

I must express significant thanks to Heidi Sizer, our administrator and bookkeeper, who has done a sterling job of dealing with the changes and pressures of my asking for information, and continues to be a real asset to our community (unfortunately not one we can record in our accounts!)

I also want to thank our Auditors, who have supported us through the move to a Limited Company, and in particular Trina Street, the practice manager at Leon & Co, who has recently decided to move away from Leeds and join another practice. Over the last (I believe) eight years or so Trina has gained an intimate knowledge of the workings of Sinai's financials, and throughout has been a source of support



and knowledge when we have needed it. Her successor has some rather large boots to fill.

And finally, I would like to thank my fellow executive and board members who have I believe taken their responsibilities as trustees in relation to our community's finances incredibly seriously. I often get thanked for the work I have done, but the responsibility to manage our community rests with the whole board, and this is something they have absolutely embraced.

It has been a pleasure to serve Sinai as the Honorary Treasurer over the last three years, and I hope that my successor receives as much pleasure and sense of achievement from the role as I have done.

Matt Thornfield
Hon. Treasurer

Membership Treasurer

This year saw some challenges for the Membership Treasurer team but we ended the year on a positive note.

The start of the year saw us struggling with our accounting system and it has taken some time to receive regular financial updates. In addition we changed banks and a number of people continued to pay into the wrong bank account. We hope that both these issues have now been fully resolved.

The objective of the Membership Treasurer portfolio is to collect the yearly subscription fees which free the Treasurer to concentrate on other areas of the budget. The Membership Treasurer team can negotiate reduced subscriptions in the case of financial hardship and a written policy is in place to guide decisions. The Membership Treasurer team works closely with the Treasurer and the office administrator to keep track of income through subscriptions. In addition, the collection of religion school/*Makpetzah* fees is also part of the Membership Treasurer portfolio which frees the Director of Education to concentrate on the provision and delivery of our education programme.

The recession continues to bite (despite some recent small improvements announced by our current government) and the team has had many confidential meetings, made numerous phone calls and sent letters and emails to help members of the congregation who are not able to meet the full subscription rate. We hope that those of you who have had contact with us throughout the year in order to negotiate an affordable subscription rate have felt they were treated fairly and with compassion.

Money is a sensitive issue and sometimes it takes courage to take the initiative to discuss financial difficulties. Please rest assured that the conversations you may have had with us remain confidential. In a few exceptional circumstances, we also made the decision to support people who were unable to pay the JJBS (Joint Jewish Burial Society) part of the subscription.

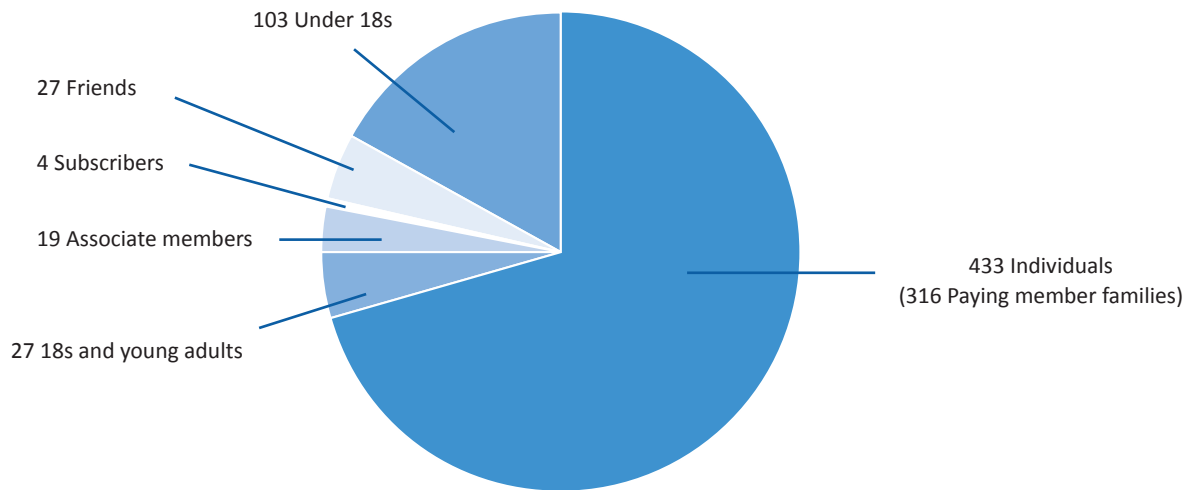
One of Sinai's main values is that of inclusivity

In 2013, we sadly lost six members of our congregation through death. We also saw thirty three people leave the synagogue. Many of those left the region, with some moving abroad. Within this figure are six members who did not pay their subscriptions for more than fourteen months and we sadly had to terminate their membership although rest assured that the Membership Treasurer team tried very hard to avoid this situation. On a positive note, 2013 saw us welcoming sixteen new or returning members.

One of Sinai's main values is that of inclusivity and we hope that no one ever feels they cannot join us or remain a member for financial reasons. I urge all of you if you are experiencing financial hardship to talk to the Membership Team as early as possible so that we can find a positive solution.

Elsje Prins
Membership Treasurer

Honorary Secretary



Membership Figures as at 31st December 2013

Personnel

Our Administrator, Heidi Sizer, has now well and truly settled into her role and continues to be a tremendous support without whom the Hon. Sec role would be virtually impossible.

Andy Ingleby, our Caretaker has continued to keep the grounds and building clean and well maintained as well as putting in endless hours clearing up the kitchen after the increasing number of Sinai social events and activities. This year has been particularly challenging for Andy to work around the builders trying to maintain his very high standards. Similarly, our gardener, Ken Ellis, continued to toil away, working around builders, skips and rubble to keep the gardens looking lovely.

Governance

The Governance Committee, chaired by Barbara Levy, has continued to meet throughout the year, providing advice to the board and supporting

Legend

Friend - non Jewish partner of a member. Does not pay any subscription; Associate member: an individual who is entitled to full membership but lives away from Leeds and wishes to maintain association with Sinai. Pays an associate membership fee;

Subscriber - an individual who is not entitled to membership but is regularly involved in activities and courses. Pays a small subscription fee; friends and subscribers do not have voting rights.

18s and young adults - have been grouped into one. There were 3 young 18-20 year old full members, 7 members under parents and 17 young adults (21-28 years old).

16

New members

6

Deaths

3

Bar/Bat mitzvah

2

Marriages

33

Members left
or transferred

1st January-31st December 2013

me in my role as Hon. Sec. Over the year the Governance Committee has advised on the governance of AGMs; provided training to Trustees; advised on the process for employing staff; clarified the process for declaration of Trustees' interests at board meetings - all riveting stuff.

Although this committee is the butt of jokes about pedantry, and indeed, we laugh at ourselves as we change yet another full stop to a semicolon and debate over whether the group is or are right; there is so much more to this committee's work than that and the wisdom and advice of its members cannot be highly enough praised.

Health and Safety

It has proved an impossible task to fill the gap left by Michael Barrie who, for many years managed Sinai's Health and Safety procedures. We are grateful to Michael for all his work. At the time of writing the executive is still looking for an individual or group to take up this role. In the meantime, during 2013 we arranged training for staff and volunteers in safe evacuation of the building (facilitated by CST); safe movement and handling; fire safety procedures; use of the defibrillator and CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation).

With the help of the Building Maintenance group we undertook Sinai's annual health and safety audit. If any member would like to assist with overseeing Health and Safety at Sinai, please do contact the Honorary Secretary.

Pippa Brook

Honorary Secretary

Building

This year saw the start of changes to our building to accommodate the growth and ambitions of our community. The most visible sign of change for most people are the new offices created for Rabbi Hugenholtz and Gwynneth Lewis. All our key professionals are now accessible from the main entrance to our building. We have retained the old library as a meeting space, and there are still a few clever ideas to be done in there. Watch that space.

In addition to the offices we also took care of other niggling issues that have been neglected for many years e.g. the uneven ramp, trip hazards, a new ramp to the back lawn creating a new escape route, additional storage, new fire doors which actually close and much more. Thanks are due here to the advice, help and years of knowledge Dan Suckall and Ken Ellis.

All of this was done with as little fuss and disturbance as possible, with no synagogue events being adversely affected. For this thanks must go to our staff for being patient and bearing with the works and, of course, to Garry Abernathy, our builder, who oversaw all the work.

I would also like to thank Becky Teiger and Matt Thornfield who, between them, came up with creative ways to use our space, comfortable ways to furnish them and common sense and insight in all the decisions.

These changes gave us the chance to begin living the values outlined in our Vision Statement. As a clear example, we have moved the books from the library into the Malcolm Featherman Hall so they are always accessible, not just when the library was either unlocked or unused. This brings *limmud* (education) right into the heart of the building, and makes it available to everyone. Many thanks to Val Mogendorff, Nick Chapler-Smyth and Barbara Levy for their help in sorting,

de-cluttering and recording all our stock before the books are placed in more permanent shelving in the Hall.

Finally, what of the future of our building? This is an issue I have been taking advice on from many quarters. In our seventieth year, as we look at our values and our plans for our growth for the next seventy years, it is beholden on us to also make sure we have facilities to serve us into the future. In finding a solution we have to balance the physical structure of our existing building, the life of that structure, how we can better use the space we have and, of course, the option of knocking down and rebuilding.

The challenges in all of those options are great. Thanks to the help and insight of the previous Building Group (Michael Barrie, Nick Dyson, Michael Lewis, Simon Marcus, Braham Myers, Judy Plaut and Naomi Ranaan) we have been able to develop ideas for the future of the building including both refurbishment and redevelopment. More details around these ideas will be shared soon.

In the meantime, as has always been the case, I welcome any and all constructive (pun intended) ideas from members as to how we can create a building for the next seventy years of growth of our progressive community.

Gardener



Security

We continue to try and ensure our building is a safe place for everyone inside. A complete review of our existing camera system has been done with the help of CST. As a result we are going to make necessary changes and additions to the system to bring our security up-to-date, to make it easier for people inside to see who is at the gates and improve the security of those responding to emergency calls. In addition, we are improving the safety of the staff inside the building with changes we are making to our alarm system.

Emma Cohen has worked alongside me to review all these systems as has Alex Webster from the local CST office. Their expert guidance and input on all security matters helps make Sinai safer.

We continue to work to improve our rotas for *Shabbat* and are about to embark on the planning of security for the High Holy Days.

David Israel

Building and Security

Having now completed 30 years as Sinai's gardener, I look forward to the coming spring and summer when we should see the results of two major plantings.

Firstly, in September we planted over three hundred bulbs, generously donated by members and non-members, on the south facing bank at the front of the synagogue. Secondly, in November, the new rose bed was completed and planted up with the aid of generous donations in remembrance of loved ones.

2013 was also notable since an effort was made to tidy up a small, neglected plot of land at the far end of the car park. A trial planting of mid-season potatoes was successful and this coming season we will extend the trial and see if the plot will produce worthwhile crops of carrots, parsnips, salad and gooseberries. All the produce from these trials, like last year's potatoes, are grown for the benefit of members.

In addition to the above, all the normal work to maintain the tidy appearance of our grounds has been continued and, I trust, members remain well satisfied with the overall standard of this work.

Ken Ellis

Education and Youth

Education and Youth consists of every area of education within Sinai, from Early Years provision through Religion School, Sinai *Hadracha* course and adult education. Some of what we provide is formal, classroom based education, some informal through youth led programmes. Some is specific to certain age groups, some intergenerational, community based.

Early Years

In July our Early Years Coordinator, Sarah Glatherine, went on maternity leave. Her role was covered temporarily by Anna Grant and, from September, by Debbie Marcus. Provision for the under 5s takes the form of *Torah* Time every fortnight and ShabbaTots, once a week on Friday mornings. 2013 has seen an increase in attendance at both which looks likely to continue in 2014.

Torah Time is a cosy, welcoming *Shabbat* experience for families with very young children who may otherwise find it difficult to attend a service. It is led by volunteer parents and is a custom made mini-*Shabbat* service that runs for an hour on a Saturday morning. The children then come into the main service for the second procession of the scrolls and to receive a blessing from the rabbi.

ShabbaTots is the Friday morning toddler and carer group with activities usually connected to *Shabbat* or a festival. Different play areas are provided, including one for babies and a craft area with a different theme each week. There is also *challah* baking and the morning ends with a mini *Kabbalat Shabbat*. Most who come to ShabbaTots are not Sinai members and the feedback is that they value the welcome they receive. ShabbaTots also marks special occasions, such as a collection of toys to give to refugee and asylum seeker children as part of *Mitzvah* Day.

None of the Early Years provision would run so smoothly if it were not for the help and support given by Andy Ingleby, Heidi Sizer and the families themselves.

Religion School

Religion School provides Hebrew and Jewish Studies education for children from age six to thirteen, and includes Sinai's *B'nei Mitzvah* programme, *Makpetzah*. In 2013, from January to July there were seventeen children attending Religion School. This number grew at the start of the new academic year to twenty two children.

There are five classes in Religion School, *Aleph*, *Bet* and *Gimmel* and two *B'nei Mitzvah* classes (*Makpetzah*). Each class has a teacher and teaching assistant. Classes are split into Hebrew, Jewish Studies and a mini *Shachrit* service. The first year of *Makpetzah* classes cover Hebrew only. After the class, students join their parents for the *Shachrit* service. Second year *Makpetzah* students are taught by tutors and mentored by post *B'nei Mitzvah* teenagers. All the students in the *Makpetzah* class attend Jewish Studies classes taught by Rabbis Morris and Hugenholtz. Four of our students became *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* during 2013.

The Religion School staff attend in-house training sessions on subjects such as special educational needs, safeguarding children, health and safety, classroom management and lesson planning.

From September the *B'nei Mitzvah* policy changed so that children join *Makpetzah* in the term they become eleven, rather than in the following September. This ensures that all children complete the Jewish Studies element of the programme, whenever their *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* takes place. Parents and students are also obliged to sign a declaration to the effect that they will follow all requirements of the programme.

Youth

In September, Rhiannon Humphries was employed as an assistant Youth Worker. She will become Sinai's Youth Worker in September, 2014. Julius Judah has been Youth Worker at Sinai since 2011, and will leave at the end of June, 2014. Thanks to him for all his hard work over the last three years. Among the events organised by Julius and Rhiannon in 2013 were:

EOSY (Sinai's youth club) — is now on Saturdays, following the *Shachrit* service. Following lunch, the children take part in *peulot*. This is developed and led by those Sinai youth who are taking part in Sinai's leadership course for thirteen and fourteen year olds and RSY-*Netzer's* Course *Hadracha* for fifteen and sixteen year olds. There are further training opportunities at Herd Farm for these young people.

Purim Spiel — Sinai's youth won the RSY-*Netzer* National *Purim* Spiel Competition in 2012 and so we hosted the competition in 2013. Young people from all over the UK came to stay at Sinai for the weekend, representing their synagogue in the competition which Sinai youth won yet again, though Maidenhead will host the competition in 2014.

Oy Factor - Sinai's talent show was hosted by Julius Judah and Joe Glyn-Davies and the judges were Lorna Mitchell, Elsie Prins and Neil Friedman. There was a variety of acts with competitors of all ages.

Herd Farm - Sinai's Youth Workers lead the *Makpetzah* Activity Weekend at Herd Farm each year. It is run along the lines of an RSY-*Netzer* camp. Including youth workers, twenty five young people attended the weekend in October.

Services - Sinai's Youth Workers organised and led family orientated services on the first day of *Rosh Hashanah* and on *Yom Kippur*. These were well attended by children of all ages and their parents. Activities were also provided, and, at the end of the *Rosh Hashanah* service the children were given balloons to release for *tashlich*. The youth have also led two wonderful musical services, one for Friday night and one for Saturday morning.

Inter-Faith - several of our young people are involved in inter-faith activities organised by Keith Ackerman, and a session was organised by Julius Judah and Reuben Ackerman at Sinai during *Sukkot*. We hope that more members of Sinai youth will be involved in this area next year.

Mitzvah Day - Sinai Youth were involved in *Mitzvah* Day activities such as packing shoeboxes and making bread.

RSY-*Netzer* events - Sinai's Youth Workers' promote and help organise RSY-*Netzer* camps throughout the year. These include *Netzer* Venture *Shabbaton* at Sinai, *Sheleg* (winter camp), *Shemesh* (summer camp), Israel Tour,



Shnat (gap year in Israel), Amsterdam and Prague Trips and Course *Hadracha* (Youth Leadership Training Course). Several of our young people attended one or more of these events during 2013 and one of our former Religion School teachers is currently on *Shnat*.

Many of Sinai's youth go on to become Youth Workers at other synagogues when they go to university. We are proud of our young people for what they do and how well they represent Sinai.

Learning Ladder - Adult Education

The Learning Ladder programme consisted of a number of one-off talks, *Shabbat* and *Chagim* Study Sessions and six to eight week programmes. In April Sinai introduced the MRJ *L'Chaim* programme (see External Organisations report). We hope to run this course again in 2015. Other subjects covered are listed in the Notable Events section of this Annual Report.

Community Learning

Family Festival Resource Packs are sent out to all families with children aged between two and thirteen and include an explanation of the festival, the blessings - with an explanation, a vocabulary card, recipes, games, crafts and stories, all of which are to encourage parents to learn about the festivals and enable them to include the whole family in the festivals in a number of ways - packs sent so far cover the *Chagim* and *Chanukah*.

A *Purim* pack will be sent out a week before *Purim*. High Holy Day Family Services - see the Youth section. *Tu B'Shevat sederim* - two *sedarim* were held simultaneously, one for families, led by Sarah Glatherine, and one for adults only, led by Leeds university students, Sarah Nathenson and Leo Wax. *Erev Shavuot* and *Erev Simchat Torah* Tea and Activities - child orientated, but also for all accompanying adults.

Chanukah and *Purim* Parties - the *Chanukah* Party raised funds to aid victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

School Visits to Sinai

Michael Barrie co-ordinates and hosts these visits with support from Debbie Marcus and Val Mogendorff.

In 2013, we hosted 901 pupils plus adults from across Yorkshire and visited four schools to deliver talks. The twenty-two primary schools represented a mixture of Faith schools, one school for young people with Special Educational Needs and two independent schools. The evaluation forms we received were mostly complementary with all saying they would recommend Sinai to other schools. This work is an important addition to Sinai's education programme as it brings Judaism to young people, the teachers and parents who accompany visits.

Gwynneth Lewis

Director of Education

External Organisations and Interfaith

Movement for Reform Judaism

Sinai is affiliated to MRJ and was well represented at two conferences. The music conference in July was organised by Cantor Zoe Jacobs of Finchley Reform Synagogue. Sinai's former youth worker, Naomi Raanan and our current assistant youth worker Rhiannon Humphries led us at various times and demonstrated some amazing home grown talent.

Several Sinai members enjoyed The Northern Weekend in Sheffield which was organised by Sarita Robinson MRJ's Northern Communities Development Worker. Sarita said: "Our northern shuls have so much to offer and it is wonderful to come together to learn, share and celebrate our Reform Judaism together with a real sense of community. It's so important for us to share good practice and inspirational ideas, especially for our smaller communities".

Sinai launched the new MRJ *l'Chaim* course and we hope to run more. This course was designed by MRJ rabbis and lay leaders. It is for Reform Jews help them to articulate and develop what Reform Judaism is, and what it means to them. *l'Chaim* helps participants to explore the core *Middot* (Values) of *Kehillah*, (Community), *Chochmah* (Wisdom) and *Kedushah* (Holiness). Sinai has two trained facilitators, Anna Dyson and me. We would be happy to provide further information about the course.

MRJ's team is led by Pam Goldsmith and Rabbi Laura Janner Klausner. Rabbi Debbie Young Somers is our new Community Educator.

Locally we are supported by Sarita Robinson. Dolf Mogendorff is now a vice-president of



the movement. David Jacobs, MRJ Director of Synagogue Partnership will retire this year after 22 years' service, although he will continue to offer his support on a consultancy basis.

2014 will include the *Chagigah* biennial conference and I hope that Sinai members will show as good an attendance as in previous years. The organising committee includes Anna Dyson, Becky Teiger and myself and we would be delighted to provide more information.

World Union for Progressive Judaism

As an MRJ affiliate, Sinai is also part of the WUPJ and its European Region, the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ).



Several of our members are very active in this body and one of our High Holy Day appeal funds last year was for the *Beit Shmuel* campaign.

Rabbis Morris and Hugenholtz both attended the WUPJ Connections conference in Jerusalem this year. As part of our World Union engagement, MRJ sent a large delegation to the Biennial Conference of the Union for Reform Judaism in San Diego. Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner and I presented a session on *I'Chaim* and plan to roll this programme out in north America. My full biennial report is available at: jlsurjbiennialblog.blogspot.co.uk.

Board of Deputies of British Jews

Sinai representatives are Marilyn Trovato and Nick Chapler-Smyth. Marilyn has been elected to one of the leadership groups — the International Division. Both our deputies form part of the Reform Movement delegation and report regularly to the Board.

Leeds Jewish Representative Council

Sinai was represented on the Rep. Council by Michael Barrie, Sara Saunders, Dan Suckall and Marilyn Trovato. We will have some vacancies

next year and if you are interested in maintaining Sinai's involvement in Leeds Jewish activity please contact me. Many other Sinai members work with the LJRC, including Keith Ackerman, Robert Bartfield and Tim Friedman. Susie Gordon, Leeds Jewish Community Development Executive, provides information for those moving to or living in the city.

Three Faiths Forum and Leeds Faiths Forum

Three Faiths Forum work has continued to be led by Rabbi Morris, Rev. Charles Dobbin and Rasool Bhamani. The group maintains contacts between local Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities. Discussions range over social, religious and other differences, as well as the many similarities.

Sinai has joined the Leeds Faiths Forum and is represented by Rabbi Hugenholtz.

Jonathan Lewis

Portfolio Holder — External Organisations and Interfaith`

Israel

The main activity of the Israel portfolio has been the creation and sustainability of the Israel Cafe.

The Israel Cafe is a space created at Sinai for honest, open conversation regarding events and activities happening in Israel.

The purpose of Israel Cafe is to inform participants' own opinions and expand knowledge in this area. There have been three seasons of Israel Cafe from March 2013-April 2014. Each season has been a set of three or four bi-monthly sessions on Sunday mornings. There have been many varied speakers, films and conversation topics and a very respectable crowd of between 10 and 30 people each time.

Feedback suggests that this is a suitable model for engagement with Israel within our community and therefore we are planning to continue for the forthcoming year.

In addition to Israel Cafe, we have been very fortunate to host Ruti Atsmon from Windows for Peace-Channels for Communication in October 2013, and Robi Damelin from the Bereaved Parents' Circle in March 2014.

We welcome all Sinai members and friends to attend our events and make suggestions for future events or activities.

Anna Dyson and Yaakov Atik

Israel Working Group co-chairs

Membership

The Membership Working Group (MWG) has been meeting regularly to plan a strategy to increase membership and ensure that current members feel valued and comfortable within the Sinai community.

Our work has changed significantly since Rabbi Hugenholtz started with us in December 2013 as membership is a major focus for her.

Our next main project is to organise the Sinai open weekend on 6-8 June 2014. The aim is to actively promote our community during *Shabbat* and on the Sunday morning, with a *Chavurah* dinner on the Friday night, a variety of *Shabbat* morning services and a showcasing of our Religion School on Saturday morning. A Sunday morning marketplace with a cafe, will enable visitors to speak privately with our Rabbis, Director of Education and Youth Workers.

We are encouraging all current members to invite friends and people in their networks who they think would enjoy being part of our wonderful community.

Anna Dyson

Membership

Sinai Book Group



The book group continues to meet at Sinai, usually on Wednesday mornings and on a monthly basis where possible. Whilst small in number we are all enthusiastic readers and enjoy sharing thoughts on the books chosen.

The selection criteria involve books by Jewish authors or works with an Israeli theme, and they should be easily available and in paperback format where possible. We prefer to concentrate on new publications, but sometimes we delve back into older works - those which we always meant to read but somehow never got round to. Often we take suggestions from the Jewish Book Week list of new books.

Amongst the books covered in 2013 were Hope: A Tragedy (Shalom Auslander); Still Here (Linda Grant); The Mandelbaum Gate (Muriel Spark); Binocular Vision (Edith Pearlman) — a book of short stories by a New York author; Jews and Words (Amoz Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger) - an unusual father and daughter collaboration describing Jewish continuity though the power

of the written and spoken word; and Good Living Street (Tim Bonyhady) - an Australian's account of his family's real-life history in turn of the century and interwar Vienna.

News of upcoming books for 2014 can be found in the weekly Sinai newsletter. We have a wide and varied programme which should appeal to a range of readers, and we would of course welcome new participants. One suggestion has been to devote our July meeting to sharing recipes from our favourite Jewish food writers such as Claudia Roden.

Elsje Prins did a sterling job of setting the group up, running it, suggesting ideas and publicising our programme throughout the year. With her growing involvement in other Sinai activity, I have agreed to continue her work into 2014 and look forward to seeing some new faces.

Contact bookgroup@sinaisynagogue.org.uk for further information.

Barbara Levy

Chavurah Suppers



Friday night dinner with a difference. Sinai's *Chavurah* suppers are communal meals held once a month after the *Kabbalat Shabbat* service. They are prepared by volunteers from the community and usually include a talk during the meal. 2013 saw three different speakers from the Movement for Reform Judaism. The year started with a visit from Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner who spoke about her work as Movement Rabbi. She was followed later in the year by Sarita Robinson, the Northern Communities Development Worker, and then Debs Blausten, Jeneration Fieldworker.

Other talks included representatives from some of the charities supported by the 2012 High Holy Day Appeal and Susie Gordon from the Leeds Jewish Representative Council. We also enjoyed talks given by Sinai members. Petra Mullen did a fantastic job of coordinating the rota of cooks. It was lovely to see some new faces joining the various cooking teams and we welcome new volunteers. Help will always be given to plan and prepare the meals. Starting off *Shabbat* by sharing a meal with friends, and welcoming people who may not have anyone to eat with, is what community is all about.

Pippa Brook

Embroidery group



We meet roughly every four weeks or so to work on a range of projects designed to enhance the beauty, history and educational value of our building at Sinai. We have good news, we hope.

A new ark curtain will definitely be ready for the 2014 High Holydays and may, with a final push, even be ready for *Pesach*. I know it has been a long time in the making, but should be worth the wait.

The second hanging we have been working on, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Sinai community, will be ready for *Pesach*, with its final destination yet to be decided.

We are open to suggestions for a new project, but we do need more hands to work those needles.

We will be meeting at the synagogue once a month, and future details will be publicised in the newsletter. Volunteers, regardless experience, we do need your help and enthusiasm! Please leave your name with the office or contact me direct.

Maxine Brown

Israeli dancing at Sinai

Leeds Israeli Dance Organisation (LIDO) is based at Sinai - the synagogue provides the only Jewish venue in the North of England where men and women can meet regularly to dance traditional (and modern) steps. The group has grown over 7 years but is still small at around 10-12 regular attendees each week. Six dancers now teach beyond the core group. We are the only one of the dozen or so UK groups that is fully self-funded. We gave over £400 to Sinai last year through hall hire fees and occasional donations.

There are classes each Wednesday; we also run one class per month at Menorah to support the South Manchester group. There are many parties and special events e.g. a New Year's Day dance, the Derbyshire residential weekend, Sunday workshops. We attend events with other Jewish dancers all over the UK (typically every month) and a week-long international training camp each summer with Israeli teachers and Jewish dancers from communities from all over the world, whom we connect with throughout the year, mostly through Facebook.

We reach these demographics:

- School children - through parties at shul and elsewhere, and major events e.g. at Brodetsky school and working with Muslim children through the Kirklees Interfaith Forum.
- Teens and young adults - we have two sponsored *madrichim* (leaders) - one each at Sinai and Menorah - available to help with *cheder* and festival events. We have been working on upskilling teenagers and young people as dance leaders for RSY-Netzer summer camp, and are still planning a possible flashmob (although the logistics are taking time.)



- Families - we run a number of *bar/bat mitzvah* and wedding events and present at *Limmud* in Leeds and Manchester. We support several charity dances e.g. for Chai Cancer Care and CND. We have run sessions at the MRJ Northern Weekend and Conference. The Sheffield-based teacher runs occasional family events in South Yorkshire. A Leeds schoolteacher runs a lunch club at her primary school.
- The older generation - we host visitors and occasionally dance for groups such as Donisthorpe or at the MAZCC.

We are an interfaith group. Our current regular dancers come from Leeds, Harrogate, York, Manchester, Sheffield, Hungary and Romania. We have had Jewish dance visitors at Sinai in the last two years from Liverpool, Newcastle, London, Ipswich, Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland, Holland, France, the USA, Argentina and, of course, Israel. We hugely appreciate Sinai's support, without which Israeli dancing outside of London would probably be very sparse or non-existent!

Julia Kay

Sinai Players



The Sinai Players, augmented with some former members of Limelight, attended a number of workshops in 2013 preparing for rehearsals of Bridge Street - The Musical which starts where Fiddler on the Roof left off: it tells of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe coming to Bridge Street, Leeds, where they meet a cast of characters already settled. The action takes place in early January 1906, in the week that the Aliens Act became law which excluded all but well-off foreigners from settling in Britain and was mostly aimed at excluding poor Jews fleeing from persecution.

Written especially for The Sinai Players by Vanessa Rosenthal with lyrics by Robert Dyson and music by Ian Sapiro., directed by Vanessa Rosenthal, music direction by Steven Muir, produced by Dolf Mogendorff. The world premiere of Act 1 will be at the Carriageworks as part of JFest International on 29 and 30 June 2014, with the full musical to be performed in 2015.

Dolf Mogendorff

Sinai Walking Group

The Sinai Walking Group has continued to flourish throughout 2013 under the careful direction of Lynda Gillenson.

The 3rd Sunday of each month is the day of choice for a group of hardy folk to venture into pastures old and new. Given clement weather conditions, we multitask as only we are able: we walk, we talk, we observe, we eat (and we even sit if there is a dry bit!).

Sometimes we make our easy way along well-signposted paths, however, we have, on occasion, meandered by chance 'off-track'.

There we have encountered new views, sometimes a challenging steep bit, or even found our way barred, rather like life really! Nevertheless, we always return safe and sound and re-invigorated for the following few days.

If this sounds like something you could enjoy, please contact Liz: lizmon1@hotmail.com who will happily add your contact details to her email list.

Liz Monaghan

Sinai Walking Group

Synagogue Services and Ritual

The year has been dominated by two key events

1. the expansion of our rabbinic support with the recruitment of our assistant rabbi
2. a period of nine weeks when our services were led by members

I was honoured to be asked to lead the search committee and recruitment process for the assistant rabbi. I was supported in this by a fantastic team of Rabbi Morris, current chair, Nick Dyson, and former chairs, Robert Bartfield, Tony Bryant, and Judith Chapman. We also had considerable help from HR Manager at MRJ, Gilly Shulman and Director of Community Development, Pam Goldsmith. David Jacobs at MRJ also gave some invaluable advice.

We were delighted at the quality and number of applicants and it was a very difficult job to make a recommendation to the Board on our final selection. The process included interviews, presentations and visits by the short-listed candidates to lead services, teach and meet members of the community. Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz has now started her employment at Sinai. We are already seeing the benefits of an expanded rabbinic team with additional service options, greater coverage of members' needs and opportunities to grow the community. I am delighted to welcome Rabbi Hugenholtz and her family to Sinai and we look forward to many years of growth and success as we now are blessed with two rabbis. I would urge you to support them as they develop a new way of working, respect their experience, knowledge and personal boundaries and to work with them as they help build our community.

Shortly before Rabbi Hugenholtz joined, we finally persuaded Rabbi Morris to take a well-

earned break. It is easy to forget the pressure we put on our professional staff and we are so extraordinarily lucky to have a dedicated, committed, knowledgeable and kind professional leading our rabbinic team. He timed his break to make sure that there were no major milestone events while he was away and so that his return matched the beginning of Rabbi Hugenholtz' appointment.

Consequently members led services for nine weeks. We had a huge variety of service, from the more traditional to the experimental, as well as members giving sermons. Every service was covered and my biggest problem was to make sure everyone who volunteered was involved.

We have a wonderful, informed and talented congregation and should be very proud. I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who helped. Our greatest learning is that our members want more of this and I am pleased to announce that Rabbis Morris and Hugenholtz, are putting together a series of member led services. Please speak to them if you would like to be involved in any capacity.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped this year all of those involved in services, including the choir, service leaders and particularly all of the wardens.

Thanks also to The High Holyday Singing Group who, once again, led the singing at the *Rosh Hashanah*, *Kol Nidrei* and *Yom Kippur* services, introducing some new works in the *Yizkor* service.

Jonathan Lewis

Synagogue Services and Ritual

Kiddush Team

The *Kiddush* team is a small group of members who offer to help with celebratory *kiddushim*, occasional post-funeral teas and other events requiring catering. We have been working in a rota this year, to serve *Shabbat* tea, coffee and cakes after the service.

Celebratory *kiddushim* for *B'nei Mitzvah*, *aufrufs*, birthdays, wedding anniversaries and *Britot* or baby naming ceremonies are prepared before the service and much appreciated by shul members and guests. We pride ourselves on offering a good selection and quality of food and we all enjoy taking part in preparations.

This coming year we have extra events to cater for the 70th anniversary.

If you are planning a celebration, please feel free to contact us, via the office or sally.raanan@gmail.com.

If you want to join the team, you will be welcomed with open arms. We would love to recruit anyone interested in catering, male or female!

Sally Brown



Tikkun Olam

This year Sinai has raised more funds than ever and shown its commitment to social action by becoming enthusiastically involved in an ever-growing number of activities.

Tzedakah

At the last AGM, preparations were well underway for the High Holy Day Appeal 2013.

In January, the community was asked to nominate charities and we were able to report that a working group of seven community representatives (representing the demographics of the Sinai) had discussed and selected the following five charities for our support:

- Operation Smile is a non-religious international charity which helps to fund surgery to correct cleft palates for children from poorer countries.
- St. Aidan's ESOL Classes is a local project based at St. Aidan's Church in Harehills. This project provides free English lessons for refugees and asylum seekers. They also run a crèche for children to allow refugees and asylum seekers to attend the lessons.
- Leeds Hardship Fund is a fund managed by Leeds Refugee Forum. It supports refugees and asylum seekers who settle in Leeds by providing emergency payments for food and accommodation.
- Leo Baeck College provides training for educators and rabbis within Progressive Judaism
- *Tsafat* Medical Centre (via UJIA) is a medical school in Israel which is open to students and academics from all faiths and backgrounds and promotes Jews and Arabs working together to provide medical care in some of the poorest areas of Israel.

Matt Thornfield made the charities' appeal on *Rosh Hashanah* and this year donors were given the opportunity to contribute via PayPal. I am pleased to be able to report that, at the time of writing, we have received donations of £8787.56, which, with gift aid, gives a total of £10,670.90.

Representatives of three of the charities (Leeds Hardship Fund, St. Aidan's ESOL classes and Tsafat Medical Centre in Israel) have joined us for *chavurah* suppers, during which they outlined what our valuable contribution will be used for.

For the High Holy Day Appeal 2014 we have used the same nomination and selection process to choose this year's five charities and we will be announcing the chosen charities again at the AGM.

In addition to the High Holy Day Appeal, Sinai continues to engage in fundraising throughout the year. Examples include the very successful supper quiz for the Karen Morris Memorial Trust and the fantastic Topsy Turvy Tea Party.

Tikkun Olam

In 2013 Sinai again coordinated the warm clothes collection for Operation Winter Survival on behalf of World Jewish Relief. This collection provided vital warm clothes for residents of the former Soviet states. Val Mogendorff led the publicity for the appeal and the results were another large van full of warm clothing London-bound for onward travel to freezing, poverty-stricken people. Berwins kindly helped out with the transportation down to London.

November 17th marked *Mitzvah* Day 2013, organised for the Leeds Jewish Community by Sara Saunders.



The international event was based in the MAZCC Centre where Sinai members joined members of the wider Leeds Jewish community. Sinai Youth led by Julius and Rhiannan helped with the shoe box appeal at MAZCC and the youth activities culminated in a celebratory tea at Sinai afterwards. Back at Sinai, the SOS (Synagogue of Sanctuary) group provided an opportunity for members of the community and the general public to drop off toiletries for their BOGO (Buy One Give One) appeal and for children to help bag the toiletries up ready for distribution to recipients.

The SOS group continues to honour our commitments to Leeds City of Sanctuary - see the SOS report. Community members also continued to respond to Facebook appeals for items of clothing and equipment to help the residents of Angel Lodge in Wakefield (a refugee and asylum seekers' resettlement hostel). Examples included bags of clothes for a three year old girl from Albania and a child's buggy for a single mum.

The Sinai community is represented in many new ventures in Leeds including the inaugural meeting of the Leeds branch of *Chai* Cancer Care, the opening of North Leeds newest Foodbank and the exciting new project Leeds Citizens.

Sinai's involvement in Leeds Citizens is being coordinated by Dolf Mogendorff.

Leeds Citizens is a new umbrella organisation dedicated to social action within the local community. This model of community organisation has already been successful in a number of cities with Jewish involvement. It's based on the idea that by joining together community organisations can be in a stronger position to undertake social action and change our society for the better. Ordinary people in faith communities, union branches, schools, tenants associations, women's groups, and citizens old and young are united in working together to become much more effective in influencing decision-makers and holding them to account in a strong, diverse cross-community body. A number of Sinai members participated in a one-day training event in November, held at Sinai, which aimed to equip people to put their passion for social justice into action.

Rachelle Sanderson

Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam

Synagogue of Sanctuary Group

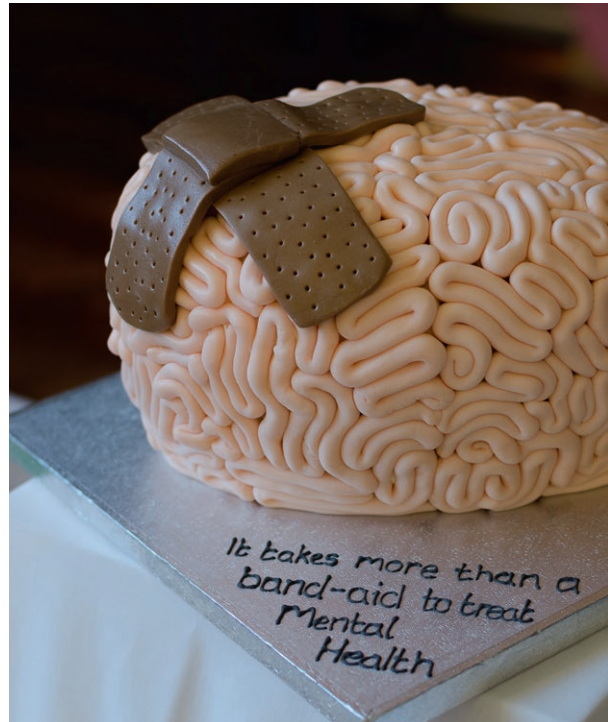
Inspired by the City of Sanctuary Movement, www.cityofsanctuary.org, in July 2013, Sinai set up its own Synagogue of Sanctuary Group. This is a small group which has brought together members of Sinai and the wider Jewish community, committed to raising awareness and taking action to support asylum seekers and refugees in Leeds and surrounding areas.



In October we hosted a talk, facilitated by the Refugee Council Talks Team, by a refugee from the Ahmadiyah Community. We were delighted that this event was supported by Fabian Hamilton MP.

At *Chanukah* we donated gifts via Palm Cove www.palmcovesociety.co.uk. This was a joint venture with Sinai's ShabbaTots who decorated wrapping paper and wrapped the gifts. Our ongoing project is BOGO (Buy One Give One), the collection of toiletries for asylum seekers. Sinai members continue to give generously to this collection. Other activities have included inviting people from across the Jewish community to join us on *Mitzvah* day to pack up the toiletries ready for distribution via PAFRAS - Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers www.pafRAS.org.uk and two of our members delivered the sermon on the *Shabbat* prior to *Mitzvah* Day.

We would welcome anyone from the community who would like to join us in 2014; please contact us at sanctuary@sinaisynagogue.org.uk or



telephone the office.

Yael Arbel, Pippa Brook, Anna Dyson, Louise Fineberg, Becca Keevash, Nicolle Levine, Debra Pearlman, Sharon Witton

“Begin at the beginning...and go on till you come to the end: then stop.” or How to Organise a Topsy Turvy Tea Party Like No Other!

What do you get when you mix a sunny September afternoon, great food & drink, shopping, music, croquet and over 200 friends, family and visitors from far and wide? In September, Sinai opened its doors and welcomed young and old to a tea party with a twist!

The Topsy Turvy Tea Party was conceived as an event to increase awareness (and much needed funds) for *Neshama*, part of Leeds Jewish Welfare Board, which supports people experiencing difficulties with their mental health.

The idea was to create a fun, tongue-in-cheek



space to acknowledge and raise the profile of issues such as depression, bipolar disorder and anxiety - and how better than by taking a journey down the rabbit hole to Wonderland!

From the first germ of an idea, I knew that I wanted this event to be different - to appeal to a really wide range of people, to challenge their thinking whilst sharing great food and fun and most importantly to be BIG, like really, really BIG. This was an event that I hoped we could get people talking about!

“Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”
And so the hard work began - drawing together an amazing committee of girls to share the workload and temper my (over?) enthusiasm; calling in favours from right across the Jewish Community and far beyond; asking total strangers for donations, prizes and their time and efforts - it is truly extraordinary what can happen when you ask (and beg and hassle a bit too...). Facebook was the perfect place to publicise what we were doing, a Virgin Money page brought in plenty of donations and I even made my radio debut, being

interviewed on Radio JCOM to promote our aims and event.

The communal response was amazing, with a huge number of volunteers helping on stalls, painting faces, organizing games and crafts, serving teas and helping to make Sinai buzz all afternoon! At the centre of it all was a “cake gallery” in which professional and amateur bakers explored ideas around mental health through some extraordinary culinary creations!

When the tea party was over and everyone went home, it was time to tot up - attendance from people of all ages, from right across the Leeds Jewish Community, seeing Sinai at its best - an open, welcoming and friendly community, which is not afraid to acknowledge difficult issues and tackle stigma. The final fundraising figure of over £2000 was more than I could have hoped for and will be put to so much good use, particularly as referrals to *Neshama* have increased by nearly 40% this year alone.

Becky Teiger

Co-opted Board member and Mad Hatter

Visual Identity

This year has seen the introduction of a new portfolio - Visual Identity (VI)

The VI team sees visual identity as how we represent Sinai consistently and positively within our own synagogue community and across the wider Jewish and non-Jewish community, to promote our values, encouraging involvement... and hopefully also increasing membership numbers.

After much community consultation, the team has developed a new logo and colour scheme. We looked closely at Sinai's aims and objectives; referenced its vision statement, current literature, board discussions and articles of association; considered feedback from the building consultation process; set up a suggestion box scheme in the foyer and consulted directly with members.

The new logo was developed alongside face to face consultation with many groups and individuals within the Sinai community; and, though we never expected consensus, were very encouraged about the many positive comments received about the look we were proposing and, indeed, amended the graphics based on this constructive feedback.

We have begun the next stage by meeting key individuals and groups to discuss their own requirements in relation to how they want to visually represent their area of responsibility and how we can help. If you would like graphics to represent your group or activity, please contact me through the office, suggestion box or email: visualidentity@sinaisynagogue.org.uk.



Additionally we are looking at the visual identity of the building, undertaking an audit of how the synagogue graphically communicates to the community (through the web, the newsletter, the Chronicle, external signage, leaflets, signs, posters and décor) and to consider how this might be done more effectively.

We also plan to produce user guidelines for the new logo and other visuals, together with a new strapline which will follow on from the present one which currently reads '70 YEARS'... to mark this special year for the Sinai community. We have deliberately designed the logo to have a flexible strap line. This started life as 'Open Jewish Minds' and is now being developed to be a little less cerebral, and to reinforce the welcoming and meaningful experience we offer.

Sinai now has its own YouTube video channel which we intend to use as an effective communication resource, both internally by members and across the wider Jewish community - as well as a place to archive our visual past.

If anyone wants to help, or needs help, with visual representation at Sinai please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Simon Marcus
Visual Identity

Welfare

Sinai's welfare team, Connexions, continued to support Sinai members during 2013.

We have organized a monthly three-course lunch for several years, catered by Liz and Bob Jacoby. This is open to all members and friends; we hope that 2014 will see an increase in attendance. Why not give it a try?

Our annual garden party was hosted this year by Ruth Baumberg. Participants enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea and the pleasure, in beautiful weather, of Ruth's beautiful garden.

Our *Chanukah* event took place as part of the December Connexions lunch. Jena and Morton Shapero again entertained us royally, with old standards and music from the shows.

In 2013 we added to the High Holydays phone calls by instituting pre-*Pesach* phone calls. Information gleaned from the latter led to discussion of the feasibility of re-instituting a community *seder* at Sinai. This was agreed.

Our activities range from arranging hospital and home visiting to phoning members and giving members lifts to Sinai services and events whenever volunteers are available in addition to marking 'significant' birthdays and life cycle events by sending cards.

Our new assistant rabbi, Esther Hugenholtz, has continued her involvement in the Connexions team, started when she was our student rabbi.

And now a plea — if you know of someone who needs a visit, please tell us! We would like to extend our activities to increasing home



hospitality for *Shabbatot* and festivals, visit more members regularly, and otherwise support our community.

Can you donate some of your time? A few minutes a month would mean that more members can be visited or phoned; a bit more of your time would add you to the hospital and home visiting team. We're friendly, and we need you!

Please email connexions@sinaisynagogue.org.uk or leaving a message for me at Sinai's office if you would like to know more.

Val Mogendorff

Welfare









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