

Nottingham Liberal Synagogue
(Registered charity, number 246773)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2017

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**Nottingham Liberal Synagogue
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

Full name Nottingham Liberal Synagogue

Registered charity number 246773

Principal address

Lloyd Street, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 4BP

Custodian Trustees

Danny Rubins
David J. Lipman
Michael Harris

Trustees

Peter Strauss, President	Karen Worth, Social Action
Paula Scott, Vice President	Naomi Posner, Elected Member
Peter Gordon, Chairman	Hernan Feinberg, Elected Member
Jonathan Corne, Deputy Chairman	Catherine Shippides, Elected Member
David Leigh, Hon Treasurer	Natalie Bogod, Care
Robert Hall, Co-opted Member	Darren Barker, until Nov 2017
Pam Edwards, Guild	Colin Dean, until March 2017
Allyson Kingsley, Social	John Youens, from March 2017
Michelle Hillary, Hon Secretary	Gemma Barker, from December 2017
Antony Moss, Rites & Practices	Catherine Strauss, from July 2017
Nick Rubins, Management	Mary Brewer, from March 2017

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG1 3FB

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 1st April 1965 and most recently amended 17th April 2016.

All new Trustees are briefed by the Chair as to their duties and responsibilities at their first meeting attended. Where specific training is identified or necessary, to ensure that Trustee can carry out their responsibilities, this training is undertaken. All Trustees sign a declaration that they are eligible to act as Trustees of the congregation as required by the Charities Commission.

Aims, objectives and the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

The object of the Congregation is the advancement of Liberal and Progressive Judaism. In furtherance of this, the Congregation has the following obligations:-

- a) To provide and maintain a place of worship and spiritual leadership;
- b) To conduct services;

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- c) To provide religious education for members and their children;
- d) To provide facilities for the instruction of proselytes under the rules of Liberal Judaism;
- e) To solemnise baby blessings, Bar/Batmitzvah, Kabbalat Torah, Marriages, Burials and Cremations for members;
- f) To perform such other religious, social and charitable activities as the Council shall determine;
- g) To use its best endeavours to play an active role in the life of the Jewish and wider communities.
- h) To be a member of Liberal Judaism and to support its aims.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Results and achievements during the period from the Chairman

Events over the last year have been covered by our Rabbi and committee chairs in their reports but there are a number of events to highlight here.

We were saddened by the loss of Derick Silk and Eileen Rubins in the last year - both much loved members who have contributed so much to our congregation. We miss them both.

NLS took the lead by holding this year's Remembrance Service for the Nottingham Jewish community which was held at the Friends Meeting House in the hope that Rabbi Perez would attend. Unfortunately he felt unable to come but I still feel we made the right decision. Future services are likely to take place at Lloyd Street. It was pleasing that children took part in the service and we hope they will be involved again in future years.

NLS has the possibility of financial support from the estate of the late Ralph Noskwith who wished to advance Liberal Judaism in Nottingham. Much work has been done by Jonathan Corne and Darren Barker in preparing reports for his son Adrian to consider. Danny Rubins, David Leigh and I met Adrian in December. Adrian has recently (March 2018) confirmed that he will fund an initial research exercise and consider financial support for an extension to our building. We hope to have more news by the AGM.

I was delighted at the success of SaSh at winning the Mitzvah Day 365 prize which again raises our profile.

I thank the Executive and Council for their on-going support through what has been another successful year in the life of the congregation. We are indeed fortunate to have members who are prepared to give up so much of their time for the benefit of us all.

Peter Gordon, NLS Chairman

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Financial review from the Treasurer

I am happy to report that our 2017 accounts show a surplus of £6,693.

Subscription income was £61,560. Membership was broadly stable during 2017 and stood at 178 full members on 31 December 2017. We welcomed 6 new Associate Members during the year bringing the total to 13. However, membership has declined at the beginning of 2018 with several members electing not to renew. At the time of writing (early March) we have 167 full members and 12 associate members.

Additional donations totalled £31,566, of which £7,867 went to general funds and £23,699 to the Rabbinic Fund. These additional donations are vitally important and once again have transformed a potential loss into a surplus. On behalf of the entire Congregation, I thank those members whose generosity helped us achieve this. Approximately, one third of our members benefit from negotiated fees representing an effective reduction in income of over £13,000. We are fortunate that we have many members whose generosity makes up a good part of this shortfall, and others who give freely of their time and effort to help keep our costs under control. As a religious organisation, we will never refuse membership to those who cannot afford the full fees. At the same time, I would encourage anyone on negotiated fees to contact me if their circumstances change for the better and they find they are able to make a larger contribution towards our costs.

Fund raising activities, including the Guild, raised a net figure of over £3,200 as well as providing a source of joy and entertainment. The details of the various fund-raising events are given in the Annual Reports, but the key financial highlights were the Quiz Night which generated a profit of £426 and the Sea Shanty evening £246. There was £350 'residual income' from the 2016 Concert. The Guild continued its busy life raising a net £827. Judaica shop sales were £815. Whilst not a fund-raising activity, I must also report that the Shabbaton made a loss of £575. We must be careful to plan and budget similar events more carefully in the future.

The total cost of running our Cheder increased by £1,200 to £5,745. The increase is explained by an additional £700 on teachers' salaries and nearly £600 on training, primarily on safeguarding.

Our 5777/2016 Kol Nidrei Appeal raised £6,033.70. The funds were distributed to our three nominated charities in March as follows: Leo Baeck College £2,320.26; Treetops £2,400.23; AMRAM £1,313.21. We made four disbursements from the Alan Mann Fund totalling £820. Other donations totalled £1,060, the recipients being the Memorial Scrolls Trust (£375); Beth Shalom (£85); The Lord Mayors Fund (£250 – £125 each for 2016 and 2017) and SaSh (£250 – this was an individual donation made via the shul).

The funerals of Derek Silk and Elaine Rubins z"l were held in 2017. The income and expenditure are reflected in the accounts.

The total invested in National Savings & Investment Income Bonds remains unchanged at £185k. This currently earns 1.00%/annum which is credited to the Rabbinic Fund.

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We purchased a defibrillator during 2017. This was financed entirely from the associated fund-raising campaign.

We continued our established policy of requesting a donation for HHD tickets for non-members. We issued 33 tickets and received 14 donations totalling £687.

Professional fees were £1,782. CA+ continues to provide excellent service and support.

Our immediate cash and reserves remain healthy. However, my budget forecast for 2018 shows a return to a deficit of over £11,000. This was prepared in October 2017 before we lost 10 members at the beginning of the year so today the situation would look even worse. Most of our outgoings are fixed or semi-fixed in the short term (salaries and wages, affiliation fees, insurance etc) so there is limited scope for significant reductions. I hope that we can continue to rely on the generosity of our members to mitigate the shortfall. I will be encouraging Council to manage our discretionary activities very prudently!

I would like to thank Sandra Russell for meticulously keeping the Judaica shop accounts and for her support throughout the year; Kathy Sylvester for preparing the Guild accounts; Robert Hall for his ongoing support and, last but by no means least, Allyson Kingsley for managing the intricacies of our social event finances.

David Leigh
Honorary Treasurer

The charity's policy on reserves

We hold reserves to allow us to face unforeseen financial commitments and expenditure. Our target is £50,000 which represents approximately six months' expenditure. Reserves stand at £185,000. We add to the reserves from time to time if the financial situation permits. There are no current plans to draw down from the reserves. The policy is reviewed annually.

Risk analysis & Assessment

The major strategic financial risk is that income from membership subscriptions does not cover our annual outgoings. We minimise this risk by encouraging additional donations from members, running fund raising events and, if required, transferring funds from the reserves. Day to day financial risks are managed by having a policy requiring Council approval for any unusual or large items of expenditure. All expenditure is supported by documentation. All cheques and BACS transfers are signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by another duly authorised Executive member.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____

Peter Gordon, Treasurer

Date 28/03/18

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Nottingham Liberal Synagogue
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').


I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 9/4/18
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

**Nottingham Liberal Synagogue
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

2016 Total Funds £		Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2017 Total Funds £
	Receipts				
41866	Grants & donations	2	7867	29234	37101
17463	Gift Aid recovery	3	16946	1091	18037
3853	Fundraising activities	4	6569	-	6569
57768	Members subscriptions		61560	-	61560
3228	Board of Deputies levy		3089	-	3089
-	Fees for NLS trips		4153	-	4153
2115	Investment income		6	1584	1590
6445	Burial fund, funerals & memorial income		9928	-	9928
482	Other receipts		1093	-	1093
<u>133220</u>	Total receipts		<u>111211</u>	<u>31909</u>	<u>143120</u>
	Payments				
55574	Minister's fees & expenses		29317	29317	58634
10523	Caretaker's salary & NIC		9318	-	9318
4510	Cheder costs	5	5745	-	5745
1128	Ground rent & water		1119	-	1119
2408	Heat & light		2208	-	2208
5077	Insurances		5853	-	5853
3940	Repairs, renewals & refuse collection		2917	-	2917
-	Equipment		1802	-	1802
4636	Donations		1060	6839	7899
392	Service costs		320	-	320
2717	Burial, funeral & memorial expenses		5547	-	5547
3091	Fundraising costs		3336	-	3336
9158	Management & admin costs	6	7075	15	7090
13545	Affiliation fees		17875	-	17875
2215	Professional fees		1782	-	1782
-	Trips		4802	-	4802
94	Sundry payments		180	-	180
<u>119008</u>	Total payments		<u>100256</u>	<u>36171</u>	<u>136427</u>
14212	Net receipts/(payments)		10955	(4262)	6693
80233	Cash funds at start of this period		40946	53499	94445
<u>94445</u>	Cash funds at end of this period		<u>51901</u>	<u>49237</u>	<u>101138</u>

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Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2017

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants & donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
General donations	7867	5535	13402
Rabbinic fund donations	-	23699	23699
	<u>7867</u>	<u>29234</u>	<u>37101</u>

3. Gift Aid recovery

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Subscription income	14155	-	14155
General donations	2791	-	2791
Rabbinic Fund	-	1091	1091
Total	<u>16946</u>	<u>1091</u>	<u>18037</u>

4. Fundraising activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Etz Chaim sales	35	-	35
50th Anniversary events	110	-	110
Social event	2638	-	2638
Judaica shop sales	815	-	815
Friends of Cheder	424	-	424
Guild	2547	-	2547
	<u>6569</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6569</u>

5. Cheder costs

	£
Teachers' salaries	5115
Educational materials	34
Other costs	596
	<u>5745</u>

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6. Management & administration

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Website management	2521	-	2521
Telephone & internet	824	-	824
Postage	130	-	130
Members & sundry expenses	1407	-	1407
Cleaning & laundry	920	-	920
Gardening	1134	-	1134
Bank charges	139	15	154
	<u>7075</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7090</u>

7. Creditors

	2017 £	2016 £
Kol Nidrei donations	5535	6023
Professional fees	1022	1022
Board of Deputies donations	3089	4548
Lord Mayor's Fund	-	125
	<u>9646</u>	<u>11718</u>

8. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Closing balance £
Restricted funds				
Rabbinic fund	41882	26374	(29317)	38939
Kol Nidrei	6023	5535	(6034)	5524
Alan Mann	5594	-	(820)	4774
	<u>53499</u>	<u>31909</u>	<u>(36171)</u>	<u>49237</u>
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	39338	108664	(98536)	49466
Guild	1608	2547	(1720)	2435
	<u>40946</u>	<u>111211</u>	<u>(100256)</u>	<u>51901</u>

In addition to these cash funds, the investments held in the NS&I bonds, totalling £185,000 form part of the Rabbinic Fund.

9. Contingent Liability

Members of the Burial Fund are entitled to be buried at the Synagogue's expense. The current membership of the Burial Fund generates a contingent liability of £28,750. It is unlikely that this risk would crystallise in any one year.

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10. Trustees' remuneration

During the accounting period, the charity purchased Trustee Indemnity Insurance for the sum of £340.

Five Trustees received reimbursement for expenses on behalf of NLS totalling £634, covering such items as stationery, postage, travel expenses, food for events etc. All expenses claims were supported by receipts.

11. Glossary of terms

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Advance receipts: These are amounts received by the charity in the accounting period, for use in a future period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.