

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1156818

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-04-28

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Synagogue
Synagogue Lane
St James Square
Cheltenham
GL50 3PU

Phone 01242242724

Email chair@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk

Website www.cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE SPECIFICALLY RESTRICTED TO THE FOLLOWING:- TO FURTHER THE RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER CHARITABLE WORK OF THE CIO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINES AND PRINCIPLES OF JUDAISM AND TO MAINTAIN THE SYNAGOGUE AND CEMETERY.

Activities: The synagogue holds services every Friday night and marks all festivals and high holidays. Many school visits take place to meet the national curriculum. A Jewish studies and Art/Music group meets regularly and there are various social activities. National Holocaust day is observed along with local council and other faith groups.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Gloucestershire
- Warwickshire
- Wiltshire
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-02-28	£22,597	£17,608	-	-
2024-02-29	£23,270	£16,390	-	-
2023-02-28	£15,701	£10,005	-	-
2022-02-28	£23,122	£19,688	-	-
2021-02-28	£20,469	£40,111	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JENNIFER MARILYNNE SILVERSTON	Chair	2014-01-08
ABIGAIL SARAH-JANE FISHER		2014-01-08
ALLAN SANIS		2014-01-08
CHRISTINE ANN DYER		2014-01-08
DR ELIZABETH ROSE JACOBS		2014-01-08
Jessica Shapiro		2017-06-25
Joanna Yass		2024-06-23
Joel Nathan Huberman		2023-06-18
SARA CAPIE		2014-01-08
STEVEN PAUL COHEN		2014-01-08
Susan Jane Hill		2024-06-23

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Accounts

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation

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Trustee's Report

1 March 2024 – 28 February 2025

The focus during this year has been maintaining an active Orthodox community and engaging with the wider community.

CHC Community Life

Services

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation has benefitted from erev Shabbat services every week led by CHC members Rabbi Amir Morris, Alan Silverston, Leonard Bazar and Joel Huberman.

Rabbi Claude Vecht-Wolf led services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, with thoughtful sermons much appreciated by the congregation. Prior to Rosh Hashanah Alan Silverston led a Service of Remembrance in our Elm Street Cemetery when we remembered family and friends.

CHC Festivals and Holidays

A Community Seder, led by Allan Sanis, brought members together at Pesach when we shared telling the story of our ancestors leaving slavery in Egypt and renewed our appreciation of freedom.

We held services for Jewish Holidays. At Purim we experienced what Rabbi Lord Sacks called therapeutic joy which involves not being intimidated or defined by our enemies. Chanukah candles were lit later in the year when we were reminded why we mark this key Jewish holiday. Tea, including Jessica's traditional latkas, concluded our Chanukah party.

A Wedding

Highlight of this year was the wedding of members Emma and Joel Huberman in the Synagogue under the chupah made by Joel and his father. The whole community was invited to a celebratory Shabbat lunch before the wedding.

Education

Jewish Education

Our Jewish education was enhanced by weekly Drashas from Rabbi Claude and monthly Torah Studies sessions led online by Jessica Shapiro.

Breast Cancer Awareness Session

A NHS session on breast cancer awareness was led by Breast Surgeon, James Bristol who included details about the genetics of the disease. Those with Jewish ancestry are more likely to get breast cancer compared with the rest of the population because of their inheritance of specific genomic variants. Following this meeting some took advantage of the NHS Jewish BRACA Testing Programme. Sharing a genetic inheritance, The Three Counties Liberal Jewish Community were invited to attend.

A further NHS session, probably on diabetes this time, will be planned for next year.

Klezmer-ish Concert

Klezmer-ish, composed of four classically trained musicians, delighted us with a performance in the Synagogue with rhythms from around the world including klezmer, tango and jazz.

CHC Anniversary Brunch

Laura and Steve Cohen warmly hosted our CHC Anniversary Brunch where we enjoyed Abigail's bagels and other delicacies with great company. Our Summer Lunch was again a highlight of the year, our thanks to Sara and Peter Capie for their whole hearted hospitality.

Mental Health Shabbat

We followed part of one of Cheltenham's Public Art Trails which revealed new places for many of us.

The Elephant Mosaics near the High Street tell the story of an elephant, from Chapman's Circus, visiting Cheltenham and invading a local seed merchants, presumably in search of food, Accident or publicity stunt? We do not know. The walk was an enjoyable experience, sociable and hopefully to be repeated.

Pudding Evening

A pudding evening offered both traditional and modern desserts made by members. All were enjoyed as we indulged and reflected on memories recalled. Our thanks again to Sara and Peter Capie generously hosting.

For The Wider Community

Cheltenham's Act of Remembrance for Holocaust Memorial Day

Leading the Planning Group, we marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp and the 30th anniversary of the Bosnian genocide this year with reflection, prayer, and psalms.

Dr Adam Dunning headed the event which started and concluded with music. Recorded on film and inspired by the Holocaust, Jemimah, a Churchdown Academy student, played her composition. Leonard reflected on Prophet Micah and Pastor Courtenay Morris recalled his early experiences, as a Jewish boy separated from his parents.

Members spoke of the importance of memories. Joel Huberman recited El Malei Rachamim and Alan Silverston concluded with Kaddish.

A new venue will soon be needed for this event, your Chairman will be exploring options.

Service for Peace

The Chairman with husband Alan participated in a Peace Vigil at Gloucester Cathedral on the invitation of The Lord Bishop Treweek.

Inter Faith Week

CHC contributed an open erev Shabbat service to this special week when Service Leaders, Leonard Bazar, Alan Silverston, and Joel Huberman as well as other community members took part, reading and singing prayers and psalms. Followed by a kiddush our many guests expressed their appreciation, especially for the translations and explanations given in English, to complement the service in Hebrew.

Education

We have had many visitors, of all ages to the Synagogue keen to learn about Judaism. Scout groups have completed simple exercises to reinforce their learning, school children have been drawn in with stories that can relate to their experiences. Tolerance for diversity, based on understanding, is encouraged by these sessions.

No charge is made for these services.

Heritage Days

With musical interludes of psalms sung by Alan, Geoff and Jessica our guests enjoyed engaging with members who shared experiences of Jewish life. Our precious Torahs were examined and admired. This was an opportunity to demystify aspects of Judaism and express the joy of the faith.

Building and Maintenance

5 Year report

Following the advice of our specialist architect in his 5 year Report we conducted reports for asbestos, for electrical systems and fire safety. All are required by law and action is being taken to ensure that we comply. A small amount of asbestos related material was removed from under the mat in the entrance hall and improvements to electrical systems were made that provide emergency lighting. A fire risk security programme is underway, nearing completion.

Broken ventilation grills have been replaced and repairs to the lantern above the dome have been approved.

Redecorating the Prayer Hall of the Community Cemetery and the attached guttering have been approved and will take place in due course.

Security

Following the General Election, contact has been made with the new MP. Contact has also been made with the Police Inspector for Communities in Cheltenham and this is ongoing.

CPC Hampler Scamper Appeal

Members contributed generously to the Cheltenham Caring for People and Communities seasonal appeal.

Media

Requests for information about aspects of Judaism were all responded to. A discussion about Jewish Wedding Customs was held with with Kate Clark from Radio Gloucestershire.

Thank you

My thanks to all who have contributed to the well being of CHC.

The Board of Management has been composed of Allan Sanis, Senior Warden; Jessica Shapiro, Treasurer; Abigail Fisher, Secretary; Steve Cohen, Assistant Treasurer; Christine Dyer, Minutes Secretary; Sara Capie, Jane Hill, Joel Huberman, Elizabeth Jacobs and Joanna Yass as well as myself.

Many thanks also to Leonard Bazar, Board of Deputies Representative who has also been CHC Examiner this year and Alan Silverston, Security Officer and Buildings and Maintenance Officer.

We look forward to next year and, we hope, for all the religious, educational and social events to come.

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION
INCOME & EXPENDITURE - YEAR TO FEBRUARY 28 2025

2024	INCOME	Note	2025
	Contributions		
11,831	Members Subscriptions	(1)	12,381
424	Friends and Associates Subscriptions	(2)	441
<u>12,255</u>	Total Contributions		<u>12,822</u>
	Donations		
5,606	Donations	(3)	4,339
204	Donation for B.O.D		213
<u>5,810</u>	Total Donations		<u>4,552</u>
<u>18,065</u>	Total Contributions & Donations		<u>17,374</u>
	Other Income		
1,620	Bank Interest	(4)	2,199
78	Rent from No. 44 Elm Street		78
195	Donation from School Visits		140
2,651	Gift Aid & tax Repaid	(5)	2,723
0	Grants		30
13	Books Sold		12
648	Congregation Events	(6)	41
<u>5,205</u>			<u>5,223</u>
23,270	TOTAL CONGREGATION INCOME		22,597
	EXPENDITURE		
	Property : Synagogue & Elm Street		
548	Lighting, Heating, Water for the Synagogue		211
2,664	Synagogue Maintenance	(7)	5,311
676	Cleaning		707
50	Rates - Elm Street		53
	Electricity - Elm Street Cemetery		85
78	Elm Steet Maintenance		558
5,853	Insurance	(8)	5,335
<u>9,869</u>			<u>12,260</u>
	Other Expenses		
150	Representations & Donations to B.O.D		362
220	Fees to Rabbinate		235
1,407	200 Year Event		0
2,938	Fees and Expenses for High Holy Days Ceremony		4,360
38	Postage & Stationery		47
22	Printing & Photocopying		23
1,746	Sundry Expenses	(9)	321
<u>6,521</u>			<u>5,348</u>
16,390	TOTAL EXPENSES		17,608
<u>6,880</u>	EXCESS / (DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>4,989</u>

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Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation

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no:1156818

Trustees' Report

1 March 2023 – 29 February 2024

CHC Community Life has continued to thrive and achieve our objectives, both religious and educational, with both members and the wider community.

We have marked Shabbat and Jewish Festivals and Holidays with services and social events. Allan Sanis, Senior Warden, Alan Silverston, Leonard Bazar and Joel Huberman have led the erev Shabbat services each week. Shabbat morning services have also been held, led by Allan Sanis.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were conducted by Rabbi Claude Vecht-Wolf.

A Service of Remembrance was held in our Elm Street cemetery led by Allan Sanis and Alan Silverston before Rosh Hashanah. Members remembered family and friends buried in our Cheltenham cemetery as well as those buried elsewhere.

Jessica Shapiro has continued to lead thoughtful study sessions each month for members focussed on the Torah.

Rabbi Vecht Wolf's Drashas, circulated to the community, have been much appreciated. Rabbi Stanley Cohen invited members to attend Shiurim with his own community Ruislip members online.

We were happy to welcome many visitors in the Synagogue including a large, lively Sage Group from Bushey Synagogue accompanied by Rabbi Vecht-Wolf.

The highlight of our social year was the celebration for the 200th anniversary of our community. It was attended by the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Reverend Elkan Levy, (who had come with Andee all the way from Israel) Dame Janet Trotter, Lord Bishop Rachel Treweek, The Rt Hon Alex Chalk, and the Mayor of Cheltenham with other dignitaries. We listened to addresses in the Synagogue and then continued to enjoy socializing and reminiscing afterwards during the reception at The Wilson, accompanied by great music from the Burne family.

The Wider Community

Cheltenham's Act of Remembrance for Holocaust Memorial Day

Highlighting the frailties of freedom, this year's theme, the event led by Dame Janet Trotter, was delivered with raised passions. CBC considered 2 of Abigail Fisher's images, reflecting local and national hatred of Jews inappropriate to print in the programme so their empty frames were presented and the banned contents described instead. Adam Dunning,

Cheltenham College Chaplain spoke movingly of the experiences of a Jewish student who survived the Holocaust and was later able to give testimony to the War Crimes tribunal. A contemporary perspective was added by Toral Pattni who works on international projects overseas specialising on providing aid to women and girls, those are most likely to experience violence, poverty and limitations to their freedom.

Services

During Inter Faith week in November we held an open erev Shabbat Service to which the wider community of any faith or none were invited. Elements of the service were explained to make it meaningful to all.

Education

Abigail Fisher undertook sessions in the Synagogue with Beavers and Scouts. Educational sessions took place online with the Chaiman, mainly primary schools, reaching well over 2,000 children. Marion Janner conducted lively multisensory sessions in schools. All sessions were bespoke to children in mainstream education and those in special schools. No charges were made for these services.

SACRE

The Chairman attended all meetings, continuing to uphold the importance of Judaism in the Gloucestershire SACRE Primary RE Syllabus.

Heritage Days

As part of our celebrations for the Community's 200th Anniversary, four talks were arranged to coincide with the B'nai B'rith European Days of Culture and Heritage Open Days: Jessica Shapiro on Aspects of Jewish Life in Britain 1800n-1850, Neela Mann on 'William Hill Knight' and Steven Blake on 'Dissenters'boxes: the Nonconformist chapels of early 19thcentury Cheltenham'. Rabbi Benarroch then spoke on 'Cheltenham's Historical but Controversial Montefiore Sefer Torah. Did Sir Moses get duped?' All the talks were very well received. As a result of Rabbi Benarroch's presentation we found that our Sefer Torah was not a Montefiore one. It is, however, still beautiful and kosher.

Vigil for Peace

At this Inter Faith event organized on behalf of the Dean of Gloucester at Gloucester Cathedral, the Chairman was privileged to be able to speak words of peace on behalf of Judaism.

Buildings and Maintenance

We continue to be mindful for the maintenance of our property.

Painting the Lantern

The side of the lantern facing the restaurant has been repainted. The other side facing the car park will be examined during the second half of 2024 as part of the 5 Year Report, which is due to take place the summer of 2024.

Exterior Toilets

Having taken advice from Seven Trent Water Technicians an air filter system has been fitted to the drainage allowing better flow through. This has improved water drainage during use of the toilets.

Five Year Architects Report

As already mentioned a 5 Year Report will be completed and submitted to the Board of Management during the second half of 2024.

CPC Hamper Scamper

Members gave generously to this seasonal appeal for goods and donations.

Security

We met with the Chief Constable Rod Hansen at his invitation and his Chief of Staff with Moslem representatives, sharing our concerns. We have also liaised with local police as well as the Community Security Trust in the interests of community safety and security. Special precautions were taken during the Chief Rabbi's visit when celebrating our 200th Anniversary.

My thanks to all who contributed to the well being of our community, our Board of Management Members Allan Sanis, Senior Warden: Jessica Shapiro, Treasurer: Abigail Fisher, Secretary: Steve Cohen Assistant Treasurer, Christine Dyer Minutes Secretary and much more: Sara Capie, Joel Huberman and Elizabeth Jacobs.

Also to be thanked, so important to the well being of CHC, are Leonard Bazar, our Board of Deputies Representative, Alan Silverston Security Officer and Buildings and Maintenance Officer and Penny Pepper our External Examiner.

We now look forward to the year ahead.

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION
INCOME & EXPENDITURE - YEAR TO FEBRUARY 29 2024

2023	INCOME	Note	2024
	Contributions		
10,656	Members Subscriptions	(1)	11,831
272	Friends and Associates Subscriptions	(2)	424
<u>10,928</u>	Total Contributions		<u>12,255</u>
	Donations		
1,631	Donations	(3)	5,606
180	Donation for B.O.D		204
<u>1,811</u>	Total Donations		<u>5,810</u>
<u>12,739</u>	Total Contributions & Donations		<u>18,065</u>
	Other Income		
206	Bank Interest	(4)	1,620
78	Rent from No. 44 Elm Street		78
235	Donation from School Visits		195
2,261	Gift Aid & tax Repaid	(5)	2,651
0	Books Sold		13
182	Congregation Events	(6)	648
<u>2,962</u>			<u>5,205</u>
15,701	TOTAL CONGREGATION INCOME		23,270
	EXPENDITURE		
	Property : Synagogue & Elm Street		
321	Lighting, Heating, Water for the Synagogue		548
1,750	Synagogue Maintenance	(7)	2,664
632	Cleaning		676
47	Rates - Elm Street		50
213	Elm Steet Maintenance		78
3,476	Insurance	(8)	5,853
<u>6,439</u>			<u>9,869</u>
	Other Expenses		
192	Representations & Donations to B.O.D		150
200	Fees to Rabbinate		220
0	200 Year Event		1,407
2,789	Fees and Expenses for High Holy Days Ceremony		2,938
14	Postage & Stationery		38
40	Printing & Photocoping		22
331	Sundry Expenses	(9)	1,746
<u>3,566</u>			<u>6,521</u>
10,005	TOTAL EXPENSES		16,390
<u>5,696</u>	EXCESS / (DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>6,880</u>

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION

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Trustees's Report **1 March 2022 - 28 February 2023**

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation continued to be positive and active, achieving our objectives by engaging with both members and the wider community.

Community Life

Jewish Festivals and Holidays were marked with services and social events.

At Purim we read the Megillah Esther and we celebrated our first in person Seder together since Covid arrived with Allan Sanis leading the service. Covid precautions, however, were still taken seriously. Allan also led many other services for us including at Shavuot and Chanukah. Jessica Shapiro contributed a Chanukah story at our party before the children lit the candles in members's beautiful menorahs.

Erev Shabbat, services were held every week, their leaders were Allan Sanis, Leonard Bazar and Alan Silverston.

High Holidays services were conducted meaningfully by Rabbi Claude Vecht-Wolf.

A Barmitzvah was held in our Synagogue. A delightful service for Harry, the Barmitzvah boy, was led by Rabbi Mark Daniels on Shabbat morning.

A Service of Remembrance, remembering those buried in our cemetery and loved ones buried elsewhere, was held in our Elm Street cemetery prior to Rosh Hashanah.

Jessica Shapiro continued to lead monthly study sessions focussed on the Torah. An especially memorable and enjoyable session was focussed on the writings in Ecclesiastes.

Educational opportunities were also offered by Rabbi Claude Vecht-Wolf who permitted his Drashas to be circulated to the community and issued invitations to his Shiurim.

Members attended the unveiling of a Blue Badge marking the Gloucester site, in Alexandra Road, where 10 Jewish boys, coming to the UK on the Kindertransport, were cared for. The CHC Chairman spoke in praise of the Gloucester hosts. Michael Zorek, son of one of those boys, who now lives in America, initiated the recognition.

Laura and Steve Cohen made us feel very welcome at a well attended Anniversary Brunch where Abigail's bagels were a highlight.

Our Summer lunch, also well attended, was warmly hosted by Sara and Peter Capie on a beautiful sunny day.

Members also met informally in outdoor spaces for coffee mornings and tea. We met online and challenged ourselves with a quizzes.

The Wider Community

Education

Sessions for school children took place online; pre-Covid numbers are now participating. An assembly on Chanukah was presented to an Islamic school.

Different sessions were tailored to the teachers's wishes and the ages, ability and syllabus of the children. Children in both mainstream and special schools have benefitted from this service for which no charges were made.

Abigail Fisher has spoken to cubs and scouts in the Synagogue about Judaism and Marion Janner visited schools with workshops for the children.

An online erev Shabbat service was opened to the wider community during Inter Faith week. The service was in Hebrew as usual but members spoke about different aspects of the service in English to help our guests understand its content.

SACRE

The Chairman attended all meetings, upholding the importance of Judaism within the SACRE Primary Syllabus and offering relevant opinions. Some members contributed to a request from Stephen Pett of RE today and advisor to SACRE to contribute to a new publication 'Investigating Jewish Wordviews' (Secondary). Our responses are now in the book, both hard copy and online.

HMD

Cheltenham's Act of Remembrance for HMD was planned together with Three Counties Liberal Community, Dame Janet Trotter and Dr Steven Blake, supported by Cheltenham Borough Council. The Act of Remembrance, regarded as the best yet by many, was led by Dame Janet.

Heritage Open Days

During the Heritage Open Days in September, the Chairman delivered a session on Zoom 'Cheltenham Synagogue, Hidden Gem' which spoke of the history of the building as well as the community within.

We supported the **CPC Hamper Scamper Scheme** again this year when members delivered goods and cash to the Synagogue to be donated to this worthy local cause.

Alan Silverston spoke at a **Symposium on 'Behaviour in Public Life** which mainly focussed on the behaviour of members of Parliament.

Security

The year has been a peaceful one. Contact has been maintained with Gloucestershire Constabulary and PC Hamid Charafi and the Community Security Trust (CST) based in London.

Members are reminded of our security precautions to support compliance.

Media

The Chairman had interviews with Jon Smith of Radio Gloucestershire for the programme Sunday Breakfast. One interview was planned to be on how our congregation had been impacted by Covid. This was cancelled to make room for items about our late Queen in September but reinstated with a royal focus when the producer realized that a relevant contribution from a personal and Jewish perspective could be made by Jenny Silverston, the Chairman.

Buildings and Maintenance

The 5 year Interim Report produced by architect John Middleton in November 2022 identified 3 areas requiring action:

Repair lead in lead gutter in the roof

Secure the bench seating the ladies' gallery to the wall

Repaint the exterior of the lantern

The first two have been dealt with. The painting of the lantern has not yet taken place due to cold and damp and then extremely hot weather. It will be actioned as soon as cooler conditions prevail.

Following the complete refurbishment of the Bride's Room/Kitchen the entrance and interior doors into the Synagogue have been patched where necessary and repainted.

The effectiveness of the external toilets will be examined with a view to replace the units with macerator toilets. In addition, the effectiveness of the piping carrying waste will be reviewed.

Thanks were given to all Board Members who have been so supportive and positive during the year. Honorary Officers have been Allan Sanis: Senior Warden, Jessica Shapiro: Treasurer, Abigail Fisher: Secretary, Steve Cohen Assistant Treasurer, Christine Dyer Minutes Secretary, Board Trustees: Sara Capie, Lea Elliott and Elizabeth Jacobs.

Thanks were also due to Leonard Bazar, our Board of Deputies Representative, Alan Silverston Buildings and Maintenance and Security Officer and Penny Pepper our External Examiner. Plus all those who supported our precious community during the year.

We look forward to a good year ahead.

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION
INCOME & EXPENDITURE - YEAR TO FEBRUARY 28 2023

2022	INCOME	Note	2023
	Contributions		
9,604	Members Subscriptions	(1)	10,656
43	Friends and Associates Subscriptions	(2)	272
<u>9,647</u>	Total Contributions		<u>10,928</u>
	Donations		
8,832	Donations	(3)	1,631
232	Donation for B.O.D		180
<u>9,064</u>	Total Donations		<u>1,811</u>
<u>18,711</u>	Total Contributions & Donations		<u>12,739</u>
	Other Income		
397	Bank Interest	(4)	206
0	Reading Group		0
78	Rent from No. 44 Elm Street		78
95	Donation from School Visits		235
3,841	Gift Aid & tax Repaid	(5)	2,261
0	Grants		0
0	Books Sold		0
0	Sale of Cards		0
0	Jewish Studies		0
0	Congregation Events		182
<u>4,411</u>			<u>2,962</u>
23,122	TOTAL CONGREGATION INCOME		15,701
	EXPENDITURE		
	Property : Synagogue & Elm Street		
193	Lighting, Heating, Water for the Synagogue		321
8,985	Synagogue Maintenance	(6)	1,750
592	Cleaning		632
47	Rates - Elm Street		47
2,944	Elm Steet Maintenance		213
3,311	Insurance	(7)	3,476
<u>16,072</u>			<u>6,439</u>
	Other Expenses		
485	Representations & Donations to B.O.D		192
190	Fees to Rabbinat		200
50	Rabbi's Visits		0
2,625	Fees and Expenses for High Holy Days Ceremony		2,789
39	Postage & Stationery		14
0	Printing & Photocopying		40
227	Sundry Expenses	(8)	331
<u>3,616</u>			<u>3,566</u>
19,688	TOTAL EXPENSES		10,005
<u>3,434</u>	EXCESS / (DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>5,696</u>

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION

NOTES TO THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE - YEAR TO FEBRUARY 28 2023

(1)	Members Subscriptions	2022-2023		4,599
		2023-2024		6,057
				<u>10,656</u>
(2)	Friends and Associates Subscri	2022-2023		125
		2023-2024		147
				<u>272</u>
(3)	Donations	Comprises	With Members & Associates Subscriptions	527
			Association of Jewish Refugees	80
			Donation for Barmitzvah in Shul	200
			Manchester Visitors donation	100
			Other Personal Donations	724
				<u>1,631</u>
(4)	Bank Interest	Comprises	RBS No 1	81
			RBS No 2	2
			Shawbrook	124
				<u>206</u>
(5)	Gift Aid & tax Repaid	Comprises	VAT Refund - DCMS Scheme (£1,320 2021/22)	0
			Gift aid Returns	2,261
				<u>2,261</u>
(6)	Synagogue Maintenance	Comprises	Synagogue Kitchen & Hall - Painting	905
			5 Year Inspection Report Nick Joyce Architects	562
			Protection Service A&E Fire and Security	143
			Repair to lead gutter and gallery bench fitting	87
			Sundry Repairs	54
				<u>1,750</u>
(7)	Insurances	Comprises	Combined Insurance Policy Endsleigh Insurance	3,476
				<u>3,476</u>
(8)	Sundry Expenses	Comprise	Website	100
			Zoom Exps	144
			Sink Tidy and other Kitchen Equipment	24
			Other	63
			Kiddush Expenses	0
				<u>331</u>

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION**Assets, CASH & INVESTMENTS - AS AT FEBRUARY 28 2023**

2022		2023
Bank Accounts		
39,684.84	Cash at Royal Bank of Scotland No 1 a/c	45,332.61
931.09	Cash at Royal Bank of Scotland No 2 a/c	932.94
27,471.33	Shawbrook bank - 1 Year Bond	27,594.95
82.18	Petty Cash	6.22
<u>68,169.44</u>		<u>73,866.72</u>
Fixed Assets		
	The Synagogue (Grade 2*)	
	Synagogue Furniture and Contents	
	The Cemetery (Elm Street)	
	The House at 44 Elm Street	
DETAILS OF INVESTMENT & BANK ACCOUNTS		
Royal Bank of Scotland No. 1 a/c		
36,665.19	Opening Balance	39,684.84
(19,023.69)	General Expenditure	(9,498.86)
(700.00)	Transfer to Petty Cash	(600.00)
22,743.34	Receipts	15,746.63
<u>39,684.84</u>	Closing Balance	<u>45,332.61</u>
Royal Bank of Scotland No. 2 a/c		
930.61	Opening Balance	931.09
0.48	Interest Received	1.85
<u>931.09</u>	Closing Balance	<u>932.94</u>
Investment - Shawbrook Bank		
27,093.06	Opening Balance	27,471.33
0.00	Received From RBS	0.00
378.27	Interest Received	123.62
<u>27,471.33</u>	Closing Balance	<u>27,594.95</u>
Petty Cash		
45.88	Opening Balance	82.18
700.00	From RBS No. 1 a/c	600.00
(663.70)	Expenditure	(675.96)
<u>82.18</u>		<u>6.22</u>

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1156818

Accounts

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation

The Synagogue Synagogue Lane St James Square Cheltenham GL50
3PU

info@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk charity
no:1156818

Trustees's Report **1 March 2021 - 28 February 2022**

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation continued to be positive and active, engaging with both members and the wider community to achieve our objectives.

Jewish Festivals and Holidays were marked with religious services and social events, generally online. Shabbat was welcomed with a service every week. We engaged Rabbi Claude Vecht-Wolf to lead our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services which, with Covid-19 precautions fully in place, members were able to safely appreciate. The erev services were led by Senior Warden Allan Sanis, Leonard Bazar and Alan Silverston. Abigail Fisher organised the technology to facilitate online transmission from the Synagogue before Shabbat.

Allan Sanis led our online Chanukah service and lit candles while members lit their own candles at home. A talk from Jessica Shapiro told us of Chanukah customs around the world, Lea Elliot read us a modern Chanukah story and we enjoyed selected poems.

Rabbi Daniels led a Shabbat morning service in June; there was not a minyan and on this occasion, all were invited to participate. Those present found it a particularly engaging and interesting morning.

Members were pleased to take part in the online Jewish Small Communities Network One Shabbat event. Especially appreciated was the Havdallah service, led from Israel by Elkan Levy who has kept close links with us and many small communities. Our CHC community was named as one of the 'shining examples' of determination and experience

The New Year for Trees was marked with a talk by Jessica Shapiro about the history of the day and how it is celebrated in different parts of the world.

A Service of Remembrance, remembering those buried in our cemetery and loved ones buried elsewhere, was held in our Elm Street cemetery prior to Rosh Hashanah.

Jessica Shapiro continued to lead monthly study sessions focussed on the Torah. The Books of Isaiah, Kings, Job and Judges were included during this period.

We marked the first yahrzeit of Rabbi Lord Sacks by sharing his thoughts on family and community during a special online session, questioning them and putting forward our own points of view. As a small community we noted that each of us, if willing, has a significant role to play.

Educational opportunities were increased by Rabbi Claude Vecht-Wolf who permitted his Drashas to be circulated to the community and issued invitations to his Shiurim.

Rabbi Stanley Cohen from Ruislip Synagogue also invited our community to share some of his Shiurim.

A native oak was planted in Pittville Park during a ceremony in honour of the 80th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees and in memory of Dr John Burne, father of Simon Burne, who found refuge in Cheltenham from Germany in 1939. The Mayor of Cheltenham Councillor Steve Harvey and Dame Janet Trotter spoke of the significance of the occasion.

Members met socially for coffee mornings and afternoon teas in outdoor venues, the face to face contact appreciated by those attending. A summer picnic in Pittville Park concluded with every participant getting thoroughly soaked by a downpour but was still, for most, a positive event.

We challenged ourselves with online quizzes, rejoicing with success and but with much shaking of head as an elusive answer, failed to come to light in time. The multiple question setters were coordinated by Christine Dyer.

A poetry evening focussed on poems about immigration, some familiar and some new, curated by Lea Elliott and Jessica Shapiro.

In the wider community, increasing numbers of educational session took place online with school children who, like their teachers, have become familiar with this format. Different sessions were tailored to the ages, ability and syllabus of the children, from age 4 upwards to Gloucestershire University students. Children in both mainstream and special schools have benefitted from this service for which no charges were made.

A talk by David Matlow focussed on Herzl who envisioned a state for the Jewish people as a solution to the antisemitism he had witnessed. Herzl's work remains relevant and important today. Elkan Levy chaired the event from Israel and Andee Goldman, who had suggested David spoke to us, gave a vote of thanks at the end. Cheltenham Inter Faith members

students and staff of the University of Gloucestershire had been invited to this.

An online erev Shabbat service was opened up to the wider community during Inter Faith week. The service was in Hebrew as usual but members spoke about different aspects of the service in English to help our guests understand its content.

SACRE The Chairman attended all meetings, upholding the importance of Judaism within the SACRE Primary Syllabus and offering relevant opinions.

The County Prevent Board meetings, also attended by the Chairman, led by The Rt Revd Robert Springett Bishop of Tewkesbury focussed on 'Faith in the Community.

The Gloucestershire Hate Crimes and Incidents Strategic Group met regularly and your Chairman was able to report current trends and incidents nationally as well as community concerns. Learning of local and national hate crimes and incidents has been valuable to appreciate and convey the importance of reporting to the police to evidence the need for adequate police resources.

Alan Silverston and the Chairman attended a **Child Protection Training** course organized by the United Synagogue.

We supported the **CPC Hamper Scamper Scheme** again this year when members delivered goods and cash to the Synagogue to be donated to this good local cause.

Media exposure included opportunities to speak from a Jewish point of view about current issues. Radio Gloucestershire interviews with the Chairman included Anna King for her show and Jon Smith for Sunday Breakfast.

Heritage Open Days 'A Taste of Jewish Food' was written by the Chairman to fit in with the English Heritage theme 'Edible England' for this year. The article was and still is hosted by Cheltenham Civic Society website.

Buildings and Maintenance

The Bride's Room aka the kitchen of the Synagogue is now fit for purpose with safe and sturdy new units and hot water on tap.

Our thanks to David, Frances and Leonard for financing this project in memory of their parents June and Henry Bazar. Both parents took active roles in the community for many years, June within the Ladies' Guild and Henry as Honorary Secretary.

In our Elm Street cemetery, Percy Edwards grave tilt was corrected and the ground around neighbouring graves stabilized for the foreseeable

future. Following this Abigail Fisher, with some help, cleared vegetation to the side making the space available for further graves.

And thank you ... The Chairman thanks to all our Board Members who have been so supportive and positive during the year. Honorary Officers have been Allan Sanis: Senior Warden, Jessica Shapiro: Treasurer, Abigail Fisher: Secretary, Steve Cohen Assistant Treasurer, Christine Dyer Minutes Secretary, Board Trustees: Sara Capie, Lea Elliott and Elizabeth Jacobs.

Thanks also are due to Leonard Bazar, our Board of Deputies Representative, Alan Silverston Buildings and Maintenance and Security Officer and Penny Pepper our External Examiner and all those who have supported CHC in reaching its objectives.

The Trustees now look forward to the next year

Jenny Silverston

Chairman of Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation

July 2022

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION
INCOME & EXPENDITURE - YEAR TO FEBRUARY 28 2022

2021	INCOME	Note	2022
	Contributions		
9,658	Members Subscriptions	(1)	9,604
108	Friends and Associates Subscriptions	(2)	43
<u>9,766</u>	Total Contributions		<u>9,647</u>
	Donations		
2,042	Donations	(3)	8,832
235	Donation for B.O.D		232
<u>2,277</u>	Total Donations		<u>9,064</u>
<u>12,043</u>	Total Contributions & Donations		<u>18,711</u>
	Other Income		
399	Bank Interest	(4)	397
21	Reading Group		0
78	Rent from No. 44 Elm Street		78
163	Donation from School Visits		95
7,741	Gift Aid & tax Repaid	(5)	3,841
0	Grants		0
0	Books Sold		0
0	Sale of Cards		0
0	Jewish Studies		0
24	Congregation Events		0
<u>8,426</u>			<u>4,411</u>
20,469	TOTAL CONGREGATION INCOME		23,122
	EXPENDITURE		
	Property : Synagogue & Elm Street		
241	Lighting, Heating, Water for the Synagogue		193
32,356	Synagogue Maintenance	(6)	8,985
590	Cleaning		592
47	Rates - Elm Street		47
401	Elm Steet Maintenance		2,944
2,960	Insurance	(7)	3,311
<u>36,595</u>			<u>16,072</u>
	Other Expenses		
0	Representations & Donations to B.O.D		485
185	Fees to Rabbinate		190
0	Rabbi's Visits		50
2,604	Fees and Expenses for High Holy Days Ceremony		2,625
38	Postage & Stationery		39
14	Printing & Photocoping		0
675	Sundry Expenses	(8)	227
<u>3,516</u>			<u>3,616</u>
40,111	TOTAL EXPENSES		19,688
<u>-19,642</u>	EXCESS / (DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>3,434</u>

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1156818

Accounts

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation

The Synagogue Synagogue Lane St James Square Cheltenham GL50 3PU
info@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk charity no:1156818

Trustees Report 1 March 2020 – 29 February 2021

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation achieved its objectives to the benefit of both Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation and the wider community as members adapted to online community life during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Community Life

Our religious activities, marking Shabbat and the Jewish Festivals and Holidays continued as far as possible. Services were held pre Shabbat and before Festivals as appropriate for an Orthodox community when online.

The erev Shabbat services were led by Allan Sanis, Senior Warden, Leonard Bazar and Alan Silverston. They have been especially appreciated by members living some distance from Cheltenham who would not generally be able to attend Synagogue services in person.

Our Yom Tovim services led by Rabbi Vecht-Wolf were warm and intimate in spite of distancing. Great care was taken to make the Synagogue as Covid secure as possible and an enclosure of clear screens for Rabbi Claude added extra protection. We were permitted by the Government to blow the shofar but not handle arba minim as a community for Succot.

Torah studies continued monthly led by Jessica Shapiro in friendly seminar style sessions.

Rabbi Mark Daniels Rabbi led an interesting series of lectures and during an especially memorable one introduced us to key concepts in eschatology. Rabbi Claude Vecht-Wolf shared his study sessions on Torah and Jewish history with us on a regular basis.

A Music Evening, held before the first lockdown, at the Chairman's home, gave the opportunity to enjoy a great range of music, listening, singing and playing. Other social events included 'Tea and Poetry' where discussion was stimulated by different interpretations of the poems. Thank you Lea Elliott and Jessica Shapiro for your input into this.

Quizzes have become a regular with multiple question setters, co-ordinated by Christine Dyer, contributing to each game leading to a diverse set of questions.

'Coffee and Chat' sessions provided a space without an agenda to update, share opinions and place ourselves and the world in a healthier place.

With the Wider Community

Education

Elkan Levy gave a fascinating lecture on 'The Pre-Expulsion Jewish Community in England', rich in detail and anecdote, noting evidence of trading between Cornwall and Israel by the 13th century. University of Gloucestershire students in particular were invited to this talk.

The Chairman visited schools and hosted in the Synagogue before lockdown helping each group fulfil their wishes and RE syllabus. Since lockdown, sessions have taken place on line, groups have

included little Beaver Scouts in Cardiff, Gloucestershire University students, children of primary and secondary ages with learning difficulties as well as mainstream schools.

SACRE

The Chairman attended all SACRE meetings as their Jewish representative, currently online, and continue to support teachers with their planning and delivery of classes.

Following their request, the Chairman also contributed to Herefordshire's 'A guide to people and places: supporting RE and experiencing faith in Herefordshire Schools'.

Inter-Faith Week

CHC marked Inter-Faith week by an erev Shabbat Open Service online during which aspects of the service were explained in English. This was particularly appreciated by guests who told us they also loved the traditional prayers and psalms in Hebrew.,

We also participated in the Inter-Faith online event with the University of Gloucestershire and Cheltenham Borough Council focussed on the question "How do you keep the faith in the middle of a global pandemic?" A short film was made featuring Mr and Mrs Silverston and Miss Fisher especially for this Inter-Faith occasion.

Abigail Fisher, Associate Chaplain to the University of Gloucestershire continued in her active role there, being of support to all students.

Cheltenham's Act of Remembrance for Holocaust Memorial Day 2021

Moving and memorable, Cheltenham's Act of Remembrance, led by Dame Janet Trotter and planned by CHC together with Three Counties Liberal Community and Cheltenham Borough Council, drew attention to current and local crime as well as the atrocities of the Holocaust and other genocides. The Chairman chaired the planning group; Simon and Sandra Burne took charge of the technology and ensured the webinar proceeded smoothly. A wider audience than usual was possible by this webinar format and the recording has since been viewed many times on the CBC website.

Heritage Open Days

Participation this year in National Heritage and B'nai B'rith Open Days involved our film 'Mike and Phil visit Cheltenham Synagogue' reaching our visitors rather than them visiting us. RE teachers and Inter-Faith organisers contacted us wishing to make the film available for their classes and groups. We are thankful for the financial support of Cheltenham Heritage Open Days that made this possible.

Cheltenham Zero-Climate Action Partnership

Allan Sanis attended this meeting on our behalf which is working towards a net zero carbon Cheltenham by 2030.

Hamper Scamper Scheme

We were very pleased to support our local CCP (Caring for Communities and People) seasonal appeal with generous donations of money and food items from our members.

Security

As part of ongoing security, regular contact was maintained with Gloucestershire Constabulary, including their Special Branch. Advice and support was also received from the Security Community Trust.

The Chairman attended all Gloucestershire Hate Crime and Incident Strategic Group meetings the also represented Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation at County Prevent Board meetings.

Buildings and Maintenance

Following the five years Architect's Report substantial repair and redecoration was made to our Grade 2* Listed Synagogue including the walls, roof, guttering, lantern and toilets.

The Chairman concluded: "Many thanks to all who have contributed to our community during a difficult year, all our Board Members, especially those willing to take on special responsibilities, Allan Sanis: Senior Warden Jessica Shapiro: Treasurer, Steve Cohen: Assistant Treasurer, Abigail Fisher: Secretary, Christine Dyer: Minutes Secretary as well as Penny Pepper: Accounts Examiner and Alan Silverston: Buildings and Maintenance and Security Officer.

Also continuing to work on our behalf, our thanks to Leonard Bazar our Board of Deputies Representative.

I am confident that together we will meet the challenges ahead and look forward to doing so."

CHELTENHAM HEBREW CONGREGATION
INCOME & EXPENDITURE - YEAR TO FEBRUARY 28 2021

2020	INCOME	Note	2021
	Contributions		
8,920	Members Subscriptions	(1)	9,658
65	Friends and Associates Subscriptions	(2)	108
<u>8,985</u>	Total Contributions		<u>9,766</u>
	Donations		
2,290	Donations	(3)	2,042
190	Donation for B.O.D		235
<u>2,480</u>	Total Donations		<u>2,277</u>
<u>11,465</u>	Total Contributions & Donations		<u>12,043</u>
	Other Income		
289	Bank Interest	(4)	399
129	Reading Group		21
78	Rent from No. 44 Elm Street		78
655	Donation from School Visits		163
2,514	Gift Aid & tax Repaid	(5)	7,741
2,994	Grants		0
12	Books Sold		0
32	Sale of Cards		0
230	Jewish Studies	(6)	0
1,289	Congregation Events	(7)	24
<u>8,222</u>			<u>8,426</u>
19,687	TOTAL CONGREGATION INCOME		20,469
	EXPENDITURE		
	Property : Synagogue & Elm Street		
731	Lighting, Heating, Water for the Synagogue		241
3,795	Synagogue Maintenance	(8)	32,356
846	Cleaning		590
46	Rates - Elm Street		47
66	Elm Steet Maintenance		401
3,166	Insurance	(9)	2,960
<u>8,650</u>			<u>36,595</u>
	Other Expenses		
200	Representations & Donations to B.O.D		0
180	Fees to Rabbinate		185
222	Rabbi's Visits		0
2,523	Fees and Expenses for High Holy Days Ceremony		2,604
105	Postage & Stationery		38
80	Printing & Photocoping		14
467	Sundry Expenses	(10)	675
<u>3,777</u>			<u>3,516</u>
12,427	TOTAL EXPENSES		40,111
<u>7,260</u>	EXCESS / (DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>-19,642</u>