



Company number: 09113305  
Charity number: 1159292

# The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

(A company limited by guarantee)

## Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

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**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**Trustees**

Benita Hart, Chairman	
Chris Godbold, Chairman	Term ended 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
David Adams, Honorary Treasurer	
Gaby Lazarus, Lead on Volunteering	
Sue Bolsom	
Sylvia Churba	Term ended 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
David Davidson	Term ended 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
Scott Dinwiddie	Appointed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
Lisa Gershon	Resigned 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Harriett Goldenberg	
Jenny Nathan MBE	
David Rigal	
Tsvetyana Petrova	Appointed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
Michael Romain	Term ended 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
Anthony Sefton	
Simon van Someren	
Alexandra Weiss	Term ended 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023

**President**

Rita Adler	Appointed 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023
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**Honorary Lawyer**

Jacob Gifford Head

**Executive Director**

Jonathan Bruck

**Company registered number**

09113305

**Charity registered number**

1159292

**Registered office**

28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 7HA

**Independent auditor**

Buzzacott LLP, 130 Wood Street, London EC2V 6DL

**Bankers**

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent M19 4JQ

**Investment managers**

Redmayne Bentley LLP, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS1 2JZ

# The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

### 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their Report together with financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

## Vision and values

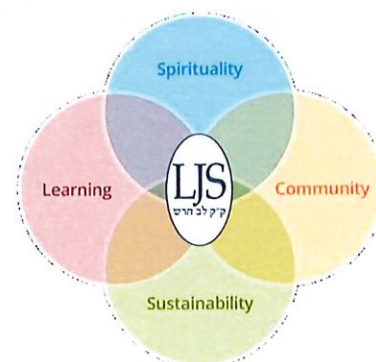
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue ('the LJS') is the oldest and largest of 40 Liberal and Progressive Jewish communities in the UK, Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands and Denmark. The LJS is an inclusive, diverse and egalitarian community of all ages. We work together to explore Jewish traditions, texts and values, applying them to the challenge of living ethical lives in the context of the social, intellectual, technological, scientific and environmental realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We seek to sustain and develop the Jewish people's sacred task: to build a just and compassionate world, based on our commitment and responsibility to each other as Jews and to our friends and neighbours of other faiths, cultures and ethnicities. We strive to enrich and celebrate our Jewish identity in the context of shared spirituality and creativity, intellectual challenge and meaningful relationships.

The LJS is guided by its values:

1. *Kehillah*: the LJS seeks to be a warm, welcoming and compassionate community for all those who wish to engage with Judaism
2. *Avodah*: the LJS cherishes meaningful, shared worship and spiritual engagement within the context of Liberal Judaism
3. *Torah*: the LJS prioritises life-long learning and the intellectual stimulation and challenge of Jewish texts, ideas and practice
4. *Gemilut Chasadim*: the LJS nurtures meaningful relationships through pastoral care and spiritual encounter and encourages social networking across generations, and between faiths and cultures
5. *Tikkun Olam*: the LJS values and engages in purposeful activity that is designed to repair and heal the world
6. *Bal Tashchit*: the LJS strives to increase awareness of the climate emergency and to reduce our human impact on the environment
7. *Chayyim*: the LJS celebrates and commemorates all life cycle events that help to give meaning to people's lives
8. *Din v'Cheshbon*: the LJS is committed to transparent and responsible governance of the congregation and financial accountability by its trustees
9. *Yahadut Mitkademet*: the LJS encourages its members' contribution to the dynamic growth and development of Liberal Judaism in the UK, Europe, Israel and beyond
10. *Bakkesh Shalom*: the LJS endorses the State of Israel's Declaration of Independence as a country based on the principles of 'liberty, justice and peace' and 'the full social and political equality of all its citizens'

## Activities

The activities of the LJS are organised into four strategic areas: spirituality, learning, community, and sustainability. A strategic plan is produced to provide the direction and focus for work during a three-year period. The plan is reviewed each year by the Honorary Officers, Council, Executive Director, Rabbis, senior members of staff and Committee Chairs. It provides the framework for the programme of services, activities and events for the next year, which is then used to produce an updated strategic plan and annual budget. Both the plan and budget are approved by Council. Progress against the plan and quarterly management accounts are analysed regularly and reported to the Honorary Officers and Council.





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**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
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The first three-year strategic plan ('Reaching our Goals') was developed in early 2022 and 2023 continued the great work started in 2023. This allowed the Synagogue and its committees to focus on both the immediate issues and the medium-term future along with the cost and impact they would have on the Synagogue.

### **Spirituality (including music)**

Religious services for Shabbat and festivals, as well as life cycle celebrations, are central to the LJS and are led by Senior Rabbi Alexandra Wright and Rabbi Igor Zinkov. All our services in 2023 were hybrid available on both Zoom and the dedicated LJS YouTube channel (<https://tinyurl.com/LJSyoutube>). We were delighted to have a very impressive attendance during the High Holy Days, helping to build and cement the community atmosphere and togetherness attained post Covid. As well as increasing numbers attending the synagogue, the online presence continued to be maintained both during our regular services and, achieving an extraordinary number of viewings during the High Holy Days. The great community work started in 2022 continued in to 2023 with a large number of 'events' including Shabbatons, Nosh 'n' Drosh and Chavurah suppers being held. A very successful Communal Pesach Seder was held, and a post-service Rosh Hashanah lunch introduced for the first time.

The LJS continues its strong commitment to music as an integral part of services, education programmes, community events and heritage. The professional and members' choirs, both led by Director of Music, Cathy Heller Jones, continue to support Shabbat and festival services. Additionally, a sell-out concert, The Human Spirit, was held, which included the premier of a number of specially commissioned pieces.

#### *Spirituality highlights during 2023:*

- Increased in person attendance for the High Holy Days
- The numbers of events and varied topics covered in Nosh 'n' Drosh's, Chavurah suppers, and other events linked to services
- The first Rosh Hashanah lunch held filling the Montefiore Hall
- The sold out 'The Human Spirit' concert

### **Learning**

The LJS continues to provide a wealth of opportunities for life-long learning from nursery age to adult.

The Nursery has been building on its success since the 'outstanding' OFSTED report. However, the events which occurred in October in the Middle East has made recruitment to the nursery challenging.

Rimon continues to grow under the leadership of Scott Dinwiddie, Chair of the Education Committee and Head Teachers, Rabbi Elana Dellal and Susannah Alexander. Numbers are up and the curriculum has been reviewed and improved. The KT class visited Amsterdam in early 2023 and finished the year with a trip to Brighton.

Adult education offers a rich programme of opportunities including preparation for the High Holy Days, classical Hebrew classes at all levels, learning and discussion about Judaism and Jewish life, women in the Bible, the studying of texts, Jewish art and music, and the list goes on. A brand new course on Yiddish was offered for the first time whilst 'The Future Of.....' short programme offered a range of distinguished speakers discussing some challenging and thought-provoking subjects.

#### *Learning highlights during 2023:*

- The Nursery continue to build on their 'Outstanding' Ofsted report
- Rimon numbers continue to grow and the KT class visited Amsterdam and Brighton
- Adult learning offered an even more diverse range of classes and learning experiences



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## **Community**

The Community Care team led by Community Care Co-ordinator, Aviva Shafritz, the Rabbis and a hugely supportive group of over 200 volunteers, 120 just for the Asylum Seeker Drop In, continued to go from strength to strength in 2023. From a slow post Covid start in 2022, 2023 saw attendees at events such as Video & Tea, Singing for the Mind and the Out & About club grow in numbers with some groups needing to create waiting lists. The annual Keep In Touch tea party was a huge success whilst support for the much needed Drop-in for Asylum Seeker Families keeps growing. 'Let's Face the Music' was the annual community social event was a sell-out with over 80 people enjoying Irving Berlin show tunes.

The LJS also continues to work in partnership with local organisations to provide public benefit for the isolated, elderly and disabled and for asylum-seeking families. When feasible, we also offer selected charities the opportunity to hire rooms at the LJS at a preferential rate, to host their own gatherings and meetings.

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers continue to be at the heart of the Synagogue's activities, with Gaby Lazarus the LJS's Lead on Volunteering, continuing to find new recruits for an ever growing host of opportunities. Bob and Ann Kirk were recognised by the Jewish Volunteer Network, receiving the Outstanding Award for Lifetime Achievement whilst Maria Snider received the Volunteer of the Year award.

Members also volunteer to act as trustees and to sit on a wide range of committees and working groups, where they use their experience and knowledge to help the LJS deliver, maintain and support its membership and infrastructure.

## **Working in partnership**

The LJS is the flagship synagogue of the Liberal Judaism (LJ) movement, which is the umbrella organisation of Liberal and Progressive synagogues in the UK and parts of Europe. Financial support is provided to the movement and, following issues encountered by LJ in its continued use of the Montagu Centre in central London, it now has a home at the LJS. Through LJ, the LJS also supports Leo Baeck College, which is the primary academic and education institution for European Progressive Judaism, where many Progressive rabbis are trained.

The LJS is also proud to provide a home for the West Central London Chavurah Club. This was formed by the remaining members of West Central Synagogue following its closure and holds a monthly chavurah at the LJS, maintaining the traditions associated with that synagogue.

The LJS is a member of the European Union of Progressive Judaism and the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Ties with these have become closer following the war in Ukraine. It is also a member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the body which represents the UK Jewish community. Five members of the congregation serve as representatives, two of them representing younger members, and they play an active part in determining Board policy.

## **Public benefit**

In addition to its religious and educational aims, the LJS functions as a centre for communal activities to which both members and the wider community are regularly welcomed. 2023 was a real year of growth. The magnificent organisers and volunteers who support the Synagogue with enthusiasm and drive are an inspiration to all those who attend. Activity and social events during 2023 included the Out & About Club, which provides fortnightly entertainment for elderly, disabled, and often isolated, members of the local community. Singing for the Mind, a weekly group led by a professional singing leader, is for those with memory problems and moderate dementia, and their carers. The LJS continued to organise a monthly Drop-in for Asylum Seeker Families for over 200 adults and their children. Members and Friends give financial help and

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donate food and clothing as well as giving their time. The annual Keep In Touch tea party continues to go from strength to strength.

The LJS supports interfaith understanding through initiatives such as the annual Multifaith Chanukkah event. In addition to its own activities, the LJS works with neighbouring churches and mosques, meeting regularly with religious leaders to discuss issues of local and national concern and interest.

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission concerning public benefit. They are satisfied that the information given in this report, particularly regarding the activities undertaken in conjunction with the objectives of the charity, demonstrates that the requirements to identify public benefit have been met.

Community highlights during 2023:

- The growth in the number of attendees taking part in LJS activities
- The increase in the number of volunteers and the new system and support put in place to support them
- Continuation of pastoral care by the Community Care Co-ordinator, Rabbis and volunteers to provide direct assistance to those most in need, and to advise of partner organisations which can provide support where the LJS cannot
- The continued financial and emotional support for asylum seeker families, providing essential items such as food, clothing, toiletries for those most vulnerable
- The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed and updated

## **Sustainability**

Sustainability is not just about the future of the organisation; the LJS is also committed to the wider world and to the future of our planet.

Led by the Social Action Committee, the LJS initiates and participates in numerous activities within the community and beyond to improve sustainability. We seek to help reduce emissions which both impact on our environment and contribute to global warming; reduce the use of plastics and waste of all kinds, and reduce the use of limited and valuable resources.

The office team led by the Executive Director, continues to work closely with the Rabbis, Honorary Officers and Council to make the Synagogue a vibrant and eco-friendly hub for the community. The LJS is now part of the Eco-Judaism network and the Council is committed to working through the environmental audit.

The education programmes go from strength to strength both in Rimmon and Adult Education, which will lead to increased numbers of knowledgeable and committed members keen to support the future of the Synagogue. Several capital projects have been undertaken which have helped the Synagogue become more efficient. For example, the upgrade of the heating system has ensured that electricity usage can be controlled more carefully, leading to lower usage.

The financial sustainability of the LJS is dependent upon the contribution of membership fees and other funding. A significant number of Members and Friends pay specially agreed reduced rates. No one is ever excluded by their inability to pay.

*Sustainability highlights during 2023:*

- A review of the Articles took place with changes being made at an EGM in March. These changes were in line with the Charity Governance Code and were voted thorough with a majority of over 90%
- A range of Social Action initiatives, including involvement in Mitzvah Day
- Significant progress towards completing the Eco-Judaism audit



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## **Fundraising**

The LJS aims to achieve best practice in the way in which it communicates with supporters especially vulnerable individuals. It takes care with both the tone of its communications and the accuracy of its data. The Synagogue adheres to the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice. Applying best practice to protect supporters' data, it never sells or exchanges data with other organisations and ensures that communication preferences can be changed at any time. The LJS manages its own fundraising led by the President and Members and Friends who volunteer, together with administrative support by the staff team. All fundraising activities are approved and supervised by the Honorary Officers and Council. The LJS does not employ professional fundraisers. The LJS undertakes to react to and investigate any complaints regarding its fundraising activities, to learn from them and improve its service. During 2023, the charity received no complaints about its fundraising activities.

## **Fundraising in support of others**

Each year, LJS Members and Friends support four charities through the annual High Holy Day Appeal: one Anglo Jewish, one based in Israel, one UK non Jewish charity, and the United Jewish Israel Appeal (UJIA). 2023 was a remarkable year, despite all the challenges created by the economic conditions, the £79,000 raised exceeded the equally outstanding amount received in 2022.

The LJS supports the Out and About Club with its annual fundraising campaign whilst also collecting voluntary contributions for the UK Board of Deputies of British Jews, as well as making an annual grant contribution of over £90,000 to support the movement for Liberal Judaism.

## **Plans for 2024**

The LJS is looking forward to an exciting 2024. It is now entering the final year of its three-year strategy, 'Reaching our Goals', having successfully completed, and in some cases exceeded, its Year 2 targets.

The LJS is looking forward to continuing to rebuilding attendance and consolidating existing work whilst exploring opportunities for new and innovative events. However, the current economic climate is challenging and what we do must take into account the resources that are likely to be available to us.

The initial 3 year strategy focused on consolidation and sustainability. Based on Council discussions and an Awayday at the end of 2023, the next three year strategy for 2025 -2027, concentrating on growth, is well on its way to being formed. The Council have identified 5 key areas which represent both threats and opportunities to the synagogue. The basis of this strategy is the fact that 45% of the LJS membership is over 65 and whilst provision for the over 65s is key and will continue to be a major focus, an emphasis on retention and sustainable growth of identified groups with associated interventions will ensure the future of the synagogue. The groups identified are: Kids & Teenagers; University Students; Adults (25 -45); Families; Adults 45+.

## **Highlights and Challenges for 2024**

- Continue to increase the number and age range of volunteers
- Continue to plan capital expenditure (some of it funded by legacy income) using the maintenance programme so as to avoid the need for unplanned expenditure
- Develop the basement at the Synagogue for use as a community hub
- Continue to develop our education and young family programmes, including Rimon, with emphasis on the increasing involvement of younger members, parents and potential members and friends
- Continue to review and improve our website and both internal and external communications
- Complete the development of surplus land at the cemetery
- Having updated the LJS Articles in 2023, ensure the LJS Governance remains appropriate and relevant for modern conditions



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- Continue to review our committees to ensure that they remain relevant
- Develop and grow an attractive series of Nosh 'n' Drosh talks following Shabbat services
- Prepare for a new strategy 2025 -2027 which focuses on growth and the key areas of:-
  - Kids & Teenagers;
  - University Students;
  - Adults (25 - 45);
  - Families;
  - Adults 45+

## **Structure, governance, and management**

### **Governing document and organisational structure**

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is a company limited by guarantee (company number 09113305) governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 31 October 2014. This limited company was also registered as a charity (charity number 1159292) with the Charity Commission in November 2014. Prior to incorporation the LJS was an unincorporated charitable organisation.

The members of the Council act as Trustees and administer the charity and also act as the Directors of the charitable company. The Council has up to 12 members and meets monthly (except August). All committees and working groups meet on a regular basis and provide recommendations to the Council for decision-making. The Council appoints an Executive Director to act in stewardship and manage the day to day running of the organisation. The Executive Director has delegated authority, as approved by the Trustees, for operational matters.

The LJS recognises that an effective Council is essential if it is to be effective in achieving its objectives. The Council must seek to represent the membership and must have available to it all of the knowledge and skills to run the synagogue. During 2023 the Trustees, supported by the Finance, Operational, Risk and Governance Committee, reviewed the Charity Governance Code and identified a number of actions to improve the Governance of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, including reviewing and recommending changes to the Articles, which were subsequently adopted. This is ongoing work and the governance will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### **Appointment of Trustees**

The LJS articles were changed in 2023 bringing them more in line with the Charity Commission's Governance Code and modern charities.

The charity is a religious institution, and there is a requirement to be of the Jewish faith to be a Member. Only Members of The Liberal Jewish Synagogue can be elected to the Council. Trustees (Council members) are elected by the members of the LJS by a show of hands at the Annual General Meeting. Trustees are elected for a maximum of two, three-year terms. Any Trustee who has served two terms cannot stand for re election until at least three more years have passed.

The Council elects from its members a Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and any other positions, as agreed by Council, to constitute the Honorary Officers. Council delegates the running of the organisation to the Honorary Officers, subject to their overall supervision and monitoring of the financial position.

### **Trustee induction and training**

Training for Trustees is through practice, encouragement to attend appropriate courses, and informal mentorship from other Trustees. Before standing for election, members are encouraged to serve on committees. In 2023 we joined the National Council for Voluntary Organisations who provide all aspects of



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training for Trustees and organisations such as the LJS. New Trustees are given an induction pack comprising a copy of the Charity Commission 'Welcome Pack for New Trustees', a copy of the LJS Articles, the LJS Trustee Guidance, the minutes of at least three Council meetings and a Charity Trustee form stating that they acknowledge and accept their responsibilities as Trustees, which they must sign and return. They also attend briefing sessions

**Related parties and co-operation with other organisations**

None of our Trustees receives remuneration or other benefit from their work as a Trustee for the charity without approval. Only expenses incurred in the performance of Trustees' duties can be reimbursed. Any connection between a Trustee or a member of staff of the charity must be disclosed to the Council in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

In the current year, any related party transactions are reported in Note 19 to the accounts. Council is careful to monitor for any potential conflict of interest and respond accordingly.

**Financial review**

The results for the financial year to 31 December 2023 continue to reflect the impact of the downturn in the economy on our costs, on our regular sources of income and investment portfolio. However The Liberal Jewish Synagogue recognises that this also impacts its members, and membership fees only increased by 5% despite inflation being higher than this. World events especially in the Middle East towards the end of the year also had a negative impact, especially on Nursery numbers.

Income was slightly up compared to 2022 ( £2,042,883 v £2,004,912 ). Whilst, despite continued tight control on our expenditure, it increased in 2023 from 2022 (£2,093,472 v £1,867,187). When considering the continued challenging economic environment this could have been worse.

Overall the synagogue made an operating loss of (£50,589) but as detailed above, the economic environment and world events made cost containment very difficult .

The charitable activities income has held steady with the Synagogue remaining a thriving community, with religious and community events keeping the building a busy and vibrant place. Our commitment to delivering our charitable and religious aims is reinforced but the success of our High Holy Days with the number of guest tickets increasing from previous years. During the year, our Members and Friends continued their generous support of the LJS and we also benefited from the continuing support of external donors such as the Pears Foundation, Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation (EHCF) who very generously provided support for both Community Care and the Asylum Seeker Drop-In.

**Income**

During 2023, unrestricted income was £1,919,273 (2022: £1,756,502). This increase is a result of two very large donations received rather the activity within the synagogue, which has remained stable. Membership income has increased by 6% which is more or less in line with the membership fee increase of 5%. Charitable activities (LJS Nursery, Rimmon, funerals, venue hire) have also remained stable despite a fall in Nursery Income (which is partially offset by a reduction in salaries, even though the Nursery achieved a well-deserved Outstanding Ofsted report. There has been a growth in cemetery income and tickets and donations from visitors to the synagogue for the High Holy Days.

The LJS is fortunate that some Members can make additional donations to assist those who are unable to pay their full membership fees. The President's Patrons Fund also encourages Members to make an ongoing substantial financial commitment to support the sustainability of the LJS. The LJS is grateful for this continuing support, as well as from those who remember the LJS with legacies.

Many of our activities could not run without internal fundraising campaigns, external grants and the generosity of members. We are grateful to the continuing project funding provided by the Eranda Rothschild Foundation,



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Pears Foundation, and Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation and from a very generous donor who made substantial donations on the birth of their grandchildren. The Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation grant, as noted above, received in 2020 will be allocated to projects over the next seven years.

### **Expenditure**

Our unrestricted costs increased from £1,788,998 in 2022 to £1,997,350 in 2023. This is not a surprise considering both the economic climate and the increased use of the synagogue. Costs have been carefully monitored throughout the year with each budget line carefully reviewed and spending carefully considered. A thank you must go out to the Finance, Operations, Risk and Governance Committee who checked and challenged the budgets providing support and solutions in difficult times.

In 2023, salaries, our largest overhead, increased by 10% to £899,399 (2022: £815,682). This represents the staff pay increase, in line with the high inflation in 2023, and the change in the value/provision of a pension liability compared to 2022 (see note 9).

### **Future**

In 2023 the Synagogue built on the post covid success of 2022. 2024 represents the final year of the three year strategy, 'Reaching our Goals' and the development of a new 3 year strategy based on 5 areas of focus identified by the LJS Council, kids and teenagers; university students; adults (25 – 45); families; 45+ year olds, whilst consolidating the important work that has previously been working. In 2024 we aim to build on this success and introduce new events and new programmes that will continue to make the LJS a vibrant and buzzing community. This will be supported by the recruitment of a third full time Rabbi and a student Rabbi starting in September, who will support the extremely hard working rabbinic team. The new flats at Pound Lane will be built and the income generated will represent a much needed boost to the LJS finances. We shall continue with our maintenance programme for the Synagogue and the cemetery. Our investments will continue to be monitored closely whilst we will build on our commitment to have the highest standards of governance, safeguarding and probity ensuring that the LJS has the appropriate standards of a modern charity.

### **Investment policy**

The Investment Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Finance, Operations, Risk and Governance Committee, includes the Honorary Treasurer and Members invited for their expertise and knowledge of finance and investments. Redmayne Bentley LLP, our investment managers, continued to follow the Council's agreed policy of investing in ethical investments, which was reviewed in 2023, to achieve capital growth. During 2023 the market value of listed investments increased to £2,248,242 (2022 £2,211,082). Whilst this is a small increase, the growth reflects the economic climate in 2023. The Investment Committee is in regular contact with our investment managers and meet regularly to discuss and the investments held and it's performance. It should also be noted that the LJS's investment portfolio growth in recent years has been exceeding overall market growth.

### **Reserves policy**

The policy of the Trustees is to maintain a level of reserves that will provide a stable base from which to fund the charity's future activities, including capital expenditure. The target set is £450,000 which represents three months' expenditure. As at 31 December 2023, the charity had free reserves of £1,478,964 (2022: £1,554,581), based on the general funds (Note 16) that could be drawn upon if required by the Trustees for specific purposes as agreed by them. If cash is required to meet our requirements, this can be realised from investments, including property. Details of both Unrestricted and Restricted Funds are summarised in Note 16 to the accounts.

The free reserves currently exceed the target level; the Trustees are mindful of the need to retain funds in reserve to fund both unforeseen costs and the ongoing maintenance costs of the synagogue's premises. Given



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the anticipated level of work required in respect of the building over the coming years, the Trustees consider the level of reserves held to be reasonable and appropriate but will be looking to increase them if possible.

## **Risk management**

The Trustees' risk management strategy comprises:

- an annual assessment of the principal risks and uncertainties that the charity faces
- the establishment of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those identified risks, and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise or manage any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The LJS Risk Register is regularly reviewed and updated by the Finance Committee, Honorary Officers, Council and the Executive Director. This register sets out the major risks to which the synagogue is exposed and the systems which have been established to mitigate those risks.

The Trustees continued to recognise the risk to the LJS from both the economic environment and current world events and the potential impact they may have. The challenges of the economic climate mean increases in costs whilst current world events impact nursery numbers, security costs, and the potential to rent synagogue space. Based on the ongoing operational financial deficit long-term financial sustainability continues to remain a major risk for the LJS.

Internal financial management risks are reduced through the implementation of internal controls in respect of the recording and the authorisation of all accounting transactions. Budgets are set for all types of expenditure; these are monitored by senior management, the Finance, Operational, Risk and Governance Committee, Honorary Officers and the Council. Management accounts are produced on a quarterly basis. The Executive Director meets regularly with the Honorary Officers, and all financial details are regularly monitored by them. Attention is also focused on mitigating non-financial risks arising from safeguarding, fire, health and safety, security and vulnerable adult safeguarding which are monitored by committees and groups of volunteers. This is overseen by the senior management, Honorary Officers and the Council.

## **Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees (who are also Directors of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and with the 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 income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the

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charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the Trustees confirms that:

- so far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and
- the Trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of S418 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



Benita Hart

Chair

9 May 2024

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	Un- restricted- funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Un- restricted- funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
<b>INCOME FROM</b>									
Donations and legacies	2	1,111,392	114,317	—	1,225,709	907,454	238,462	—	1,145,916
Fundraising events	3	6,947	—	—	6,947	2,697	—	—	2,697
Investments	4	112,858	—	9,293	122,151	162,121	—	9,948	172,069
Charitable activities	5	688,076	—	—	688,076	684,231	—	—	684,231
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>1,919,273</b>	<b>114,317</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>2,042,883</b>	<b>1,756,503</b>	<b>238,462</b>	<b>9,948</b>	<b>2,004,913</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>									
Charitable activities	6	1,997,350	94,266	1,856	2,093,472	1,788,998	77,406	783	1,867,187
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>1,997,350</b>	<b>94,266</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>2,093,472</b>	<b>1,788,998</b>	<b>77,406</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>1,867,187</b>
<b>NET (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT (LOSSES)</b>		<b>(78,077)</b>	<b>20,051</b>	<b>7,437</b>	<b>(50,589)</b>	<b>(32,495)</b>	<b>161,056</b>	<b>9,165</b>	<b>137,726</b>
<b>NET (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS</b>	12	<b>(16,228)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,599)</b>	<b>(18,827)</b>	<b>(263,438)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(39,459)</b>	<b>(302,897)</b>
<b>NET (EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(94,305)</b>	<b>20,051</b>	<b>4,838</b>	<b>(69,416)</b>	<b>(295,933)</b>	<b>161,056</b>	<b>(30,294)</b>	<b>(165,171)</b>
Transfers between funds	16	34,685	(34,685)	—	—	127,849	(127,849)	—	—
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(59,620)</b>	<b>(14,634)</b>	<b>4,838</b>	<b>(69,416)</b>	<b>(168,084)</b>	<b>33,207</b>	<b>(30,294)</b>	<b>(165,171)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>									
Total funds brought forward	16	7,445,097	451,948	315,389	8,212,434	7,613,181	418,741	345,683	8,377,605
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023</b>		<b>7,385,477</b>	<b>437,314</b>	<b>320,227</b>	<b>8,143,018</b>	<b>7,445,097</b>	<b>451,948</b>	<b>315,389</b>	<b>8,212,434</b>



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue STATEMENT  
OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31  
DECEMBER 2023**

		2023		2022	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	10		5,104,690		5,083,953
Heritage assets	11		54,450		54,450
Investments	12		2,945,309		2,912,911
			<u>8,104,449</u>		<u>8,051,314</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	13	171,782		275,756	
Cash at bank and in hand		422,551		429,561	
		<u>594,333</u>		<u>705,317</u>	
<b>CREDITORS:</b> Amounts falling due within one year	14	(327,764)		(311,196)	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>266,569</u>		<u>394,120</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>8,371,018</u>		<u>8,445,434</u>
Provisions for liabilities	15		(228,000)		(233,000)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>8,143,018</u>		<u>8,212,434</u>
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>					
Restricted Funds	16		437,314		451,948
Endowment Funds	16		320,227		315,389
Unrestricted Funds	16		7,385,477		7,445,097
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>8,143,018</u>		<u>8,212,434</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 9 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Benita Hart  
Chairman



David H Adams  
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 15 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net expenditure for the year	(69,416)	(165,171)
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	65,581	65,753
Interest and dividends (received)	(74,427)	(67,771)
Rent (received)	(19,424)	(24,350)
Net losses on investments	18,827	302,897
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	103,974	(48,076)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	16,568	(187,878)
Decrease in pension costs provision	(5,000)	(69,000)
<b>Net cash used/(received) in operating activities</b>	<u>36,683</u>	<u>(193,596)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(86,318)	(182,641)
Purchase of investments	(1,803,032)	(1,735,212)
Proceeds from sale of investments	1,747,044	1,763,458
Dividend and interest receipts	74,427	67,771
Rent received	19,424	24,350
<b>Net cash (received) in investing activities</b>	<u>(48,455)</u>	<u>(62,274)</u>
<b>Total Cash Flows</b>	<u>(11,772)</u>	<u>(255,872)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023	451,388	707,258
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023</b>	<u><u>439,616</u></u>	<u><u>451,388</u></u>
<b>Cash at bank and short term deposits</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	422,551	429,561
Cash held by investment managers	17,065	21,827
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023</b>	<u><u>439,616</u></u>	<u><u>451,388</u></u>

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*1.1 Statement of compliance*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy. The accounts are presented in Sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

*1.2 Company information*

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England. Its registered office and principal place of business is 28 St John's Wood Road, London, NW8 7HA.

*1.3 Fund accounting*

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

The general fixed asset fund represents the net book value of tangible fixed assets and heritage assets which are not readily realisable in pursuit of the charity's day-to-day operation.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Transfers between funds occur for a number of reasons including when funds are closed on completion of a project, when fixed assets are purchased or when Trustees decide to release funds from a designated fund.

*1.4 Income*

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate.

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income from charitable activities relates mainly to fees received in respect of the LJS Nursery School, cemetery fees, and payments for books and materials for Rimmon Religion School students, venue hire and synagogue activities.

Interest on funds held at the bank on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared. Interest and dividends from the investment portfolio are recognised on notification by our investment manager (Note 12).



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

Investment income relates to rental income (which is recognised when it comes due), income from an associated company (when it is received), and dividends and interest received in relation to fixed asset investments held by the charity.

**1.5 Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. Support costs, including governance costs, are allocated to charitable costs against two grouped strategic areas: Spirituality & Sustainability (90%) and Learning & Community (10%). Irrecoverable VAT is included with the expense item to which it relates.

Governance costs are the costs of providing information to and attendance at trustees' meetings and public accountability.

**1.6 Going concern**

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the charity of the foreseeable future. The Trustees therefore consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

**1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

The charity's freehold property comprises land and buildings including subsequent improvements to the property. Depreciation is not charged on the land element, which is instead subject to impairment review. No depreciation charge is made against the building and improvements as it is considered that the residual value of these is at least as great as the carrying value and not materially different to cost.

The charity operates a rolling repairs and maintenance programme to prolong the useful life of the property and to ensure that the above policy continues to be appropriate.

Other tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings:	4% to 20%
Computer equipment:	25% to 33%
Cemetery improvements:	10%

Depreciation is not provided on assets under construction until they are brought into use. The asset under construction represents four flats which are being built by Newbourne Properties Ltd. These flats represent consideration for the sale of unused land to the developer. The cost to date represents the consideration towards the cost of construction.

**1.8 Heritage Assets**

Heritage assets are assets of historical or religious importance that are held to further the preservation, conservation and education objectives of the synagogue and contribute to culture and activities. They are capitalised immediately on purchase or receipts of donation, and held at cost as depreciation is not considered to be material. The Trustees perform an annual impairment review and depreciation is charged only if significant impairment is found to have occurred.

**1.9 Investments**

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the reporting date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

Investment property is initially recognised at cost. After recognition, it is carried at fair value determined annually by external valuers and derived from the current market rents and investment property yields for comparable real estate, adjusted if necessary for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. No depreciation is provided. Changes in fair value are recognised through profit or loss.

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

*1.10 Stocks*

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value on a first in first out basis.

*1.11 Debtors*

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount repaid net of any trade discounts due.

*1.12 Cash at Bank and in hand*

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

*1.13 Creditors*

Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

*1.14 Provisions for liabilities*

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the charity a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefit, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to statement of financial activities in the year that the charity becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate at the reporting date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised. They arise as a result of past events when (i) it is not probable that there will be an outflow of resources or that the amount cannot be reliably measured at the reporting date, or (ii) when the existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the charity's control. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements unless the probability of an outflow is remote.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in statement of financial position.

*1.15 Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty*

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the reporting date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year.

*Accruals:*

The charity makes an estimate of accruals at the year-end based on invoices received after the year end and work undertaken which has not been invoiced based on quotations or estimates of amounts that may be due for payment.

*Tangible fixed assets:*

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending upon a number of factors. In re-assessing the assets' lives, factors such as technological innovation, product life cycles and maintenance programmes are considered.

*Provision for future pension costs:*

The charity has made an estimate of the future costs required to fund the deficit on the pension scheme. The original provision was based on an actuarial valuation and re-evaluated in 2019. The provision is stated at that amount less subsequent payments made to reduce the liability.

In the interest of consistency, where we have made improvements to the layout or substance of the accounts we applied the same approach to the previous year (for comparative purposes). Presentational improvements do not affect the overall outcome.



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

**2 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Un- restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endow- ment funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Un- restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endow- ment funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Membership fees receivable	594,856	—	—	594,856	560,026	—	—	560,026
Donations	509,727	—	—	509,727	326,928	125,000	—	451,928
Restricted donations and grants	—	97,817	—	97,817	—	113,462	—	113,462
Legacies	6,809	16,500	—	23,309	20,500	—	—	20,500
	<b>1,111,392</b>	<b>114,317</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,225,709</b>	<b>907,454</b>	<b>238,462</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,145,916</b>

**3 FUNDRAISING EVENT INCOME**

	Un- restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endow- ment funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Un- restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endow- ment funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Fundraising event income	6,947	—	—	6,947	2,697	—	—	2,697

**4 INVESTMENT INCOME**

	Un- restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endow- ment funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Un- restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endow- ment funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Investment property rental income	19,424	—	—	19,424	24,350	—	—	24,350
Blazer Court property income	28,300	—	—	28,300	70,000	—	—	70,000
Interest and dividends receivable	65,134	—	9,293	74,427	67,771	—	9,948	77,719
	<b>112,858</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>122,151</b>	<b>162,121</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9,948</b>	<b>172,069</b>

**5 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Un- restricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endow- ment funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Un- restricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endow- ment funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Nursery school	289,326	—	—	289,326	340,343	—	—	340,343
Cemetery	246,618	—	—	246,618	218,190	—	—	218,190
Religion school	34,455	—	—	34,455	31,336	—	—	31,336
Venue hire	48,444	—	—	48,444	54,385	—	—	54,385
High Holy Day tickets	10,255	—	—	10,255	6,170	—	—	6,170
Other synagogue activities	58,978	—	—	58,978	33,807	—	—	33,807
	<b>688,076</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>688,076</b>	<b>684,231</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>684,231</b>

Other synagogue activities include book sales and wedding fees.

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

**6 CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE (Including Allocation of Support Costs)**

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE	Spirituality & Sustainability	Learning & Community		Total
	2023	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	330,203	391,353	9,920	731,476
Direct costs	413,009	66,328	84,346	563,683
Pension adjustment	(5,000)	—	—	(5,000)
Allocation of total support costs	722,982	80,331	—	803,313
	<b>1,461,194</b>	<b>538,012</b>	<b>94,266</b>	<b>2,093,472</b>
	Spirituality & Sustainability	Learning & Community		Total
	2022	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	304,841	366,848	9,028	680,717
Direct costs	365,132	55,362	68,378	488,872
Pension adjustment	(69,000)	—	—	(69,000)
Allocation of total support costs	689,938	76,660	—	766,598
	<b>1,290,911</b>	<b>498,870</b>	<b>77,406</b>	<b>1,867,187</b>

Pension payments above are specific to retired Rabbis spouses. The pension adjustment in 2023 is due to an actuarial re-evaluation of the liability for one of these pensions.

**SUPPORT COSTS**

	Administration, building & facilities	Governance costs	Total Support
	2023	2023	2023
	£	£	£
Staff costs	341,173	—	341,173
Administration	185,528	—	185,528
Building and facilities	145,894	—	145,894
Legal and professional	—	24,691	24,691
Governance	—	37,028	37,028
Depreciation	68,999	—	68,999
	<b>741,594</b>	<b>61,719</b>	<b>803,313</b>
	Administration, building & facilities	Governance costs	Total Support
	2022	2022	2022
	£	£	£
Staff costs	282,348	—	282,348
Administration	200,568	—	200,568
Building and facilities	148,905	—	148,905
Legal and professional	—	20,124	20,124
Governance	—	48,899	48,899
Depreciation	65,754	—	65,754
	<b>697,575</b>	<b>69,023</b>	<b>766,598</b>

Support costs are allocated 90% to Spirituality & Sustainability and 10% to Learning & Community.



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

**7 AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION**

The auditor's remuneration amounted to £12,000 (2022: £12,000).

**8 ALLOCATION OF STAFF**

The average monthly number of employees was 45 (2022: 46), 18 were full time (2022: 14), 27 were part time (2022: 32). Of these, 25 (2022: 25) are staff who work during term times as teachers in the LJS Nursery or the *Rimon* religion school. The LJS also offers young people the opportunity to work as teaching assistants in Rimon. They receive a stipend for each session they work.

	2023	2022
The number of full-time equivalents was:	FTE	FTE
Spirituality and Sustainability	8.0	9.0
Learning & Community	11.2	13.2
Support	5.0	3.4
	<b>24.2</b>	<b>25.6</b>

**9 STAFF COSTS**

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	899,399	839,020
Employers' NIC	81,505	78,300
Other pension costs	91,744	45,745
	<b>1,072,648</b>	<b>963,065</b>

	2023	2022
The number of higher paid employees was:	No.	No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	2

There are three key management personnel within the charity. During the year, they received remuneration of £257,581 (2022: £247,510) including salary, employers' NIC and employer's contribution to pension.

**10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold property	Cemetery improvements	Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Asset under Construction	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 January 2023	4,477,426	155,256	480,966	25,571	231,222	5,370,441
Additions	—	16,481	28,038	8,181	33,618	86,318
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>4,477,426</b>	<b>171,737</b>	<b>509,004</b>	<b>33,752</b>	<b>264,840</b>	<b>5,456,759</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 January 2023	—	15,525	248,570	22,393	—	286,488
Charge for the year	—	17,182	45,078	3,321	—	65,581
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>32,707</b>	<b>293,648</b>	<b>25,714</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>352,069</b>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>4,477,426</b>	<b>139,030</b>	<b>215,356</b>	<b>8,038</b>	<b>264,840</b>	<b>5,104,690</b>
At 31 December 2022	4,477,426	139,731	232,396	3,178	231,222	5,083,953

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

11 HERITAGE ASSETS	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023	<u>54,450</u>	<u>54,450</u>

The figure represents the cost of the Shoah Memorial which was designed by Anish Kappor and dedicated on 10 November 1996. The memorial is very important to the LJS and its members given the significance of the Holocaust to the Jewish experience of the 20th Century. In addition, the LJS holds a collection of paintings and other artefacts. These are not included in the balance sheet as historic cost information is not available and they are not considered to be of significant value to the open market, being of particular relevance to the LJS.

12 FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS	Investment Property	Listed Securities	Unlisted Securities	Total
	£	£	£	£
Market Value				
At 1 January 2023	680,000	2,211,082	2	2,891,084
Additions	—	1,803,032	—	1,803,032
Disposals (proceeds: £1,747,043 realised losses: £54,412)	—	(1,801,455)	—	(1,801,455)
Unrealised gains on investments	—	35,583	—	35,583
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>680,000</b>	<b>2,248,242</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,928,244</b>
Cash held by investment manager	—	17,065	—	17,065
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>680,000</b>	<b>2,265,307</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,945,309</b>

FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS	Investment Property	Listed Securities	Unlisted Securities	Total
	£	£	£	£
Market Value				
At 1 January 2022	680,000	2,542,224	2	3,222,226
Additions	—	1,735,213	—	1,735,213
Disposals (proceeds: £2,145,745 realised gains: £39,770)	—	(1,962,860)	—	(1,962,860)
Unrealised gains on investments	—	(103,495)	—	(103,495)
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	<b>680,000</b>	<b>2,211,082</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,891,084</b>
Cash held by investment manager	—	21,827	—	21,827
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	<b>680,000</b>	<b>2,232,909</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,912,911</b>

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Investments at fair value comprise:</b>		
Investment property	680,000	680,000
Listed investments	2,248,242	2,211,082
Surplus cash	17,065	21,827
Unquoted investments	2	2
<b>Total investments</b>	<b><u>2,945,309</u></b>	<b><u>2,912,911</u></b>

The unquoted investment is in Eljayess Enterprises Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the LJS, which did not trade during the year. Blazer Court Limited is an associated company created to service the residential property above the synagogue through resident management charges. This has not been consolidated as it is not a beneficially owned company.



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

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<b>13 DEBTORS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Trade debtors	12,824	49,795
Other debtors	45,643	35,238
Prepayments and accrued income	113,315	190,723
	<b>171,782</b>	<b>275,756</b>
<b>14 CREDITORS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling within one year</b>		
Trade creditors	23,867	66,343
Other taxation and social security	21,264	19,603
Other creditors	111,822	95,525
Accruals and deferred income	170,811	129,725
	<b>327,764</b>	<b>311,196</b>
<b>15 PROVISION FOR LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
At 1 January 2023	233,000	302,000
(Decrease) in pension provision	(5,000)	(69,000)
At 31 December 2023	<b>228,000</b>	<b>233,000</b>

The pension provision shown above was adjusted in 2023 due to an actuarial re-evaluation of the liability for one pension. The provision was calculated in accordance with the provisions under FRS 102 and represents unfunded pension liabilities outside of a pension scheme.

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
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16 STATEMENT OF FUNDS	At 1					At 31
Unrestricted Funds 2023	January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers in/ out	Gains / (Losses)	December 2023
<i>Designated Funds:</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dr Max Hulbert Legacy Fund	128,016	—	(8,131)	—	—	119,885
Olga Field Fund	162,123	—	—	—	—	162,123
Rosa Mintz Legacy Fund	32,478	—	—	—	—	32,478
LJS Building Renewal Fund	299,730	—	—	—	—	299,730
General Legacy Fund	439,387	6,809	—	—	—	446,196
	1,061,734	6,809	(8,131)	—	—	1,060,412
General Funds	1,554,581	1,844,231	(1,920,220)	16,600	(16,228)	1,478,964
General Fixed Asset Fund	4,828,782	68,233	(68,999)	18,085	—	4,846,101
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>7,445,097</b>	<b>1,919,273</b>	<b>(1,997,350)</b>	<b>34,685</b>	<b>(16,228)</b>	<b>7,385,477</b>

Unrestricted Funds 2022	At 1 January 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers in/ out	Gains / (Losses)	At 31 December 2022
<i>Designated Funds:</i>	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dr Max Hulbert Legacy Fund	128,016	—	—	—	—	128,016
Olga Field Fund	162,123	—	—	—	—	162,123
Rosa Mintz Legacy Fund	32,478	—	—	—	—	32,478
LJS Building Renewal Fund	299,730	—	—	—	—	299,730
General Legacy Fund	418,887	20,500	—	—	—	439,387
	1,041,234	20,500	—	—	—	1,061,734
General Funds	1,788,661	1,736,002	(1,723,245)	16,600	(263,438)	1,554,581
General Fixed Asset Fund	4,783,286	—	(65,753)	111,249	—	4,828,782
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>7,613,181</b>	<b>1,756,502</b>	<b>(1,788,998)</b>	<b>127,849</b>	<b>(263,438)</b>	<b>7,445,097</b>

#### Unrestricted Funds 2023

##### *Designated Funds:*

**Dr Max Hulbert Legacy Fund:** the income arising from this unrestricted fund is used for publications and the intellectual promotion of Liberal Judaism.

**Olga Field Fund:** is currently used to further the religious and charitable work of the LJS in relation to the elderly Members of the community but is not restricted to this purpose.

**Rosa Mintz Legacy Fund:** the income arising from this unrestricted fund is utilised as agreed to support Nursery, Youth and Education activities.

**LJS Building Renewal Fund:** the synagogue building is now 29 years old. This unrestricted fund, established in 2017, will be used to fund building refurbishment projects to maintain the fabric and functionality of the synagogue.

**General Legacy Fund:** Chosen legacies (depending on the ongoing Synagogue finances or unless they are restricted) are allocated to this unrestricted fund and used to support the religious and charitable work of the synagogue.



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

**16 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

	At 1					At 31
Restricted Funds 2023	January	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains /	December
	2023			in/ out	(Losses)	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Care for the Community Fund	60,026	36,500	(2,848)	—	—	93,678
David Goldstein Library Fund	5,474	—	(176)	—	—	5,298
Drop in for Asylum Families	94,251	18,946	(71,233)	—	—	41,964
Education Fund	2,446	—	—	—	—	2,446
Ministers' Discretionary Fund	8,889	7,800	(2,410)	—	—	14,279
Out and About Club	31,607	13,162	(9,180)	—	—	35,589
Peggy Lang Publications Fund	5,503	—	—	—	—	5,503
President's Cup Fund	4,069	—	—	—	—	4,069
Rabbi J Rayner Bibliography Fund	4,670	—	—	—	—	4,670
Restaurant Tuesday	9,202	508	(139)	—	—	9,571
Singing for the Mind	3,144	2,816	(7,510)	8,400	—	6,850
Taxi Fund	3,006	—	(770)	—	—	2,236
EHCF Fund	204,000	—	—	(25,000)	—	179,000
Angela Ferst Fund	1,910	—	—	—	—	1,910
Cemetery resurfacing fund	13,751	—	—	—	—	13,751
John Rayner Room Window	—	18,085	—	(18,085)	—	—
Martin Slowe Legacy	—	16,500	—	—	—	16,500
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>451,948</b>	<b>114,317</b>	<b>(94,266)</b>	<b>(34,685)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>437,314</b>

	At 1					At 31
Restricted Funds 2022	January	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains /	December
	2022			in/ out	(Losses)	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Care for the Community Fund	25,556	36,500	(2,030)	—	—	60,026
David Goldstein Library Fund	5,564	—	(91)	—	—	5,474
Drop in for Asylum Families	95,984	55,690	(57,423)	—	—	94,251
Education Fund	2,591	—	(145)	—	—	2,446
Ministers' Discretionary Fund	8,654	1,600	(1,365)	—	—	8,889
Out and About Club	22,385	17,329	(8,107)	—	—	31,607
Peggy Lang Publications Fund	5,503	—	—	—	—	5,503
President's Cup Fund	4,069	—	—	—	—	4,069
Rabbi J Rayner Bibliography Fund	4,670	—	—	—	—	4,670
Restaurant Tuesday	8,888	530	(216)	—	—	9,202
Singing for the Mind	797	1,813	(7,866)	8,400	—	3,144
Taxi Fund	3,170	—	(164)	—	—	3,006
EHCF Fund	229,000	—	—	(25,000)	—	204,000
Angela Ferst Fund	1,910	—	—	—	—	1,910
Cemetery resurfacing fund	—	125,000	—	(111,249)	—	13,751
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>418,741</b>	<b>238,462</b>	<b>(77,406)</b>	<b>(127,849)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>451,948</b>

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**16 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

**Restricted Funds 2023**

**Care for the Community Fund:** the fund is used for Members most in need.

**David Goldstein Library Fund:** this fund is to be used for books and equipment for the LJS Library.

**Drop-in for Asylum Families:** this fund was created for donations received to support the LJS Drop-in for Asylum Families. Funded entirely by donations, the monies raised support this project on an ongoing basis.

**Education Fund:** this fund supports youth and educational activities and was formed by the amalgamation of the Celia Rapp Fund, Theodore Goodman Fund, John Haggard Memorial Fund, Louis P Jacobs Prize Fund, Marsden Family Fund.

**Ministers' Discretionary Fund:** this fund is for donations given for our Rabbis to use at their discretion to support the charitable objects of the synagogue.

**Out & About Club:** is a community initiative which provides food and entertainment fortnightly for local elderly and disabled people. Funded entirely by donations, the monies are used to support the club on an ongoing basis.

**Peggy Lang Publications Fund:** the fund was created to support publications in furtherance of Liberal Judaism.

**President's Cup Fund:** this fund provides for an annual prize to the young person showing the greatest commitment to the community.

**Rabbi J Rayner Bibliography:** this fund is to finance an LJS Research Fellow to undertake scholarly research into the sermons and lectures of Rabbi John Rayner and to facilitate the dissemination of his thoughts and writing.

**Restaurant Tuesday:** this fund is used to provide a monthly meal for elderly Members and visitors.

**Singing for the Mind:** this fund is used to enable people with memory problems or dementia to come together to sing. This includes Members and Non-members, local and London-wide. Funded entirely by donations, the group meets weekly, using the monies raised for its ongoing professional support costs.

**Taxi Fund:** this fund finances the cost of taxis to and from the synagogue for the elderly or infirm who are unable to afford private transport but depend on it to get to the synagogue for religious services and other activities.

**EHCF Fund:** this designated fund has been established from a gift given by the Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation to be used over the next ten years to fund the Singing for the Mind programme and to fund activities and projects that promote online learning, religious observance and community events for children and elderly, isolated or disabled adults. Monies will be allocated annually to the specified projects and programmes.

**Angela Ferst Fund:** this fund was set up in 2016 following a specified legacy to buy prayer books for the community.

**Cemetery resurfacing fund:** this fund was set up following a specific donation to complete resurfacing works at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery.

**John Rayner Room Window:** the fund has been used for the creation and installation of a new window, Earth, in the John Rayner Room which compliments the existing window, Water.

**Martin Slowe Legacy:** A legacy fund left in perpetuity by Martin Slowe, ex Liberal Jewish Synagogue President, which will be received annually and spent on a specific project as agreed with his family.



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

**16 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)**

Endowment Funds 2023	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/ out £	Gains / (Losses) £	At 31 December 2023 £
Angela Ferst Cemetery Fund	315,389	9,293	(1,856)	—	(2,599)	320,227
<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>	<b>315,389</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>(1,856)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(2,599)</b>	<b>320,227</b>

Endowment Funds 2022	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/ out £	Gains / (Losses) £	At 31 December 2022 £
Angela Ferst Cemetery Fund	345,683	9,948	783	—	(39,459)	315,389
<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>	<b>345,683</b>	<b>9,948</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(39,459)</b>	<b>315,389</b>

**Angela Ferst Cemetery Endowment Fund:** the estate of Angela Ferst has bequeathed a fund towards the maintenance of the Ferst family graves at the LJS Cemetery. Established in 2019, income generated from the investment of this fund may be used for the maintenance of the cemetery only.

**SUMMARY OF FUNDS 2023**

	At 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/ out £	Gains / (Losses) £	At 31 December 2023 £
Designated Funds	1,061,734	6,809	(8,131)	—	—	1,060,412
General Funds	1,554,581	1,843,231	(1,920,220)	16,600	(16,228)	1,478,964
General Fixed Asset Fund	4,828,782	68,233	(68,999)	18,085	—	4,846,101
	<b>7,445,097</b>	<b>1,919,273</b>	<b>(1,997,350)</b>	<b>34,685</b>	<b>(16,228)</b>	<b>7,385,477</b>
Restricted Funds	451,948	114,317	(94,266)	(34,685)	—	437,314
Endowment Funds	315,389	9,293	(1,856)	—	(2,599)	320,227
	<b>8,212,434</b>	<b>2,042,883</b>	<b>(2,093,472)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(18,827)</b>	<b>8,143,018</b>

**SUMMARY OF FUNDS 2022**

	At 1 January 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/ out £	Gains / (Losses) £	At 31 December 2022 £
Designated Funds	1,041,234	20,500	—	—	—	1,061,734
General Funds	1,788,661	1,736,003	(1,723,245)	16,600	(263,438)	1,554,581
General Fixed Asset Fund	4,783,286	—	(65,753)	111,249	—	4,828,782
	<b>7,613,181</b>	<b>1,756,503</b>	<b>(1,788,998)</b>	<b>127,849</b>	<b>(263,438)</b>	<b>7,445,097</b>
Restricted Funds	418,741	238,462	(77,406)	(127,849)	—	451,948
Endowment Funds	345,683	9,948	(783)	—	(39,459)	315,389
	<b>8,377,605</b>	<b>2,004,913</b>	<b>(1,867,187)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>(302,897)</b>	<b>8,212,434</b>

**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2023**

**17 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Endowment Funds 2023	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	5,104,690	—	—	5,104,690	5,083,953
Heritage assets	54,450	—	—	54,450	54,450
Investments	2,187,768	437,314	320,227	2,945,309	2,912,911
Current assets	594,333	—	—	594,333	705,317
Creditors due within one year	(327,764)	—	—	(327,764)	(311,196)
Provisions for liabilities	(228,000)	—	—	(228,000)	(233,000)
	<b>7,385,477</b>	<b>437,314</b>	<b>320,227</b>	<b>8,143,018</b>	<b>8,212,434</b>

**18 COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES**

As at 31 December 2023, the charity had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for office equipment as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Not later than 1 year	15,722	15,722
Later than one year but less than five years	15,357	31,079
	<b>31,079</b>	<b>46,801</b>

**19 TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND RELATED PARTIES**

None of the Trustees received remuneration during 2023. One trustee was reimbursed £553.9 (2022: one trustee was reimbursed £810.75) for expenses incurred. During the year, a number of trustees made donations to LJS. The aggregate value of these donations was £20,440 (2022: £123,046). During the year, one trustee was related to a person who is employed by the charity.

One of the Trustees (tenure now complete) is the Vice Chair of Liberal Judaism, the umbrella organisation for all Liberal Jewish synagogues. The LJS makes an annual contribution on behalf of Members to Liberal Judaism. The LJS also received rental income of £18,750 (2022: £25,000) from Liberal Judaism, which was offset against the contribution made.

**20 CORPORATION TAX**

As a charity, the LJS is exempt from UK tax on income and gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No UK tax charges have arisen in the charity, during 2023 or in the previous year.



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE**

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## **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 2023 and of 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.

## **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report and financial statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report and financial statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
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## **Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which 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.

## **Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, 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, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;



**The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**THE LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE**

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- we obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the charitable company and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those that relate to the reporting framework (Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing this accounts in accordance with the Financial reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and the Companies Act 2006), those that relate to data protection (General Data Protection Regulation) and those in relation to safeguarding, specifically the requirements of the Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act 2015.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships; and
- performed substantive testing of expenditure including the authorisation thereof;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions; and
- assessed whether the judgements and the assumptions made in determining accounting estimates for the valuation of the pension liability, the useful economic lives of tangible fixed assets and the estimations of future income and expenditure flows were indicative of potential bias.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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**Use of our report**

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 auditor's 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.



13 May 2024

Edward Finch (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Buzzacott LLP, Statutory Auditor  
130 Wood Street  
London  
EC2V 6DL