



contributing to life in the Inner City

*innovative open-minded and diverse
friendship, learning, prayer and social action*

Who We Are

Kehillah North London is a growing community and diverse Jewish community, based in Stoke Newington, established in 2002 (originally as North London Progressive Jewish Community), and about to enter its 20th anniversary year. We are proud of our inclusive, friendly and innovative approach to building Jewish community. Our rabbi, Rabbi Leah Jordan, became our spiritual leader just as the Covid pandemic began in summer of 2019, and our long-term home at the community rooms at St Mary's Centre in Stoke Newington was just beautifully renovated into a light, airy space of wood and various shades of blue. We meet there to sing, pray, eat, study, and commune together.

We aim to create a welcoming, inspiring and creative Jewish space, where we can collectively and individually share and develop our identities and experiences as Jews living in the inner city. We organise ourselves around the spiritual, social, creative and physical needs of the community. We pride ourselves on learning, exploring new ideas and approaches, and being innovative.

We love welcoming new members to our community. You bring us new ideas, new talents, and fresh perspectives – our life blood. Joining us gives you a stake in our future. And an opportunity to explore your Jewish identity, and to learn about Jewish thought, culture and heritage. Perhaps most importantly it gives you a whole community of people to share your Jewish life with.

For some, joining a Jewish community is a very big step. That's why we like people to get to know us first. And we make sure that when you join us, we do everything we can to help you get to know people and to enjoy being part of the community.

Much of our community is built around spirituality, learning and justice. To that end, we have a thriving cheder (Religion School), run by our Cheder teacher Ruth Hart with volunteer support, which normally meets twice a month during term-time. And our adult education is also weekly during term-time. We have various justice and mutual aid groups, as well as spaces to reflect on our prayer and spiritual lives. We have a programme of learning and religious events to suit a wide range of interests. We are an intergenerational, multi-racial and multi-ethnic diverse community which welcomes all who wish to experience Judaism in a range of different ways.

Some members had not been to a synagogue for years, and had lost touch with Jewish life. Some had never been before. Many have non-Jewish partners, are in multi-racial or multi-ethnic relationships, or are in same-sex relationships. Many are single. Others are rethinking their Orthodox background. What we have in common is our interest in maintaining some form of Jewish identity, whether through religious, learning or social activity.

We are different from many traditional synagogues as we make every effort to be inclusive and make everyone feel welcome. All are encouraged to share ideas and join in. Our services are interactive, with members contributing their ideas.

Our cheder is given high priority – our teachers and youth leaders encourage our children to participate in interesting and stimulating activities. We sometimes have family services and involve the children in parts of the Shabbat morning service.

Welcome, and we hope to see you soon at Kehillah North London!

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Kehillah North London is a constituent congregation of Liberal Judaism