



The Guild Windows

THE GUILD WINDOWS

Before leaving the ground floor windows it is worth touching upon the illustration on the windows of the emergency exit doors. This is the emblem of the Synagogue Guild.

The Guild was formed in 1950, the first organisation of its kind in the history of the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation. Its declared aims were to provide a programme of cultural activity within the official framework of the Synagogue organisation.

To make itself widely known it was decided to adopt an emblem which would visually tell its plan, and since then the Guild emblem has been extensively used on all its literature. It takes the tree as its theme with the appropriate words

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה

“It is a tree of life to them that grasp it” (Prov. 3.18) which refers to the Torah. Here the tree is represented with seven branches resembling a Menorah which is the symbol of Jewish culture.

The Guild Window over the exit door on the South side is “Dedicated in memory of *Louis Johnson* by his sons. 16th Shebat 5720”.