

Bristol Hebrew Congregation

Charity Number 1139964

Bank Accounts - movement for the year ending 31st July 2016

Esther White ACA

Chartered Accountants

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	2015/16	2014/15
<u>Income</u>		
Members Contributions	£7,494.67	£7,106
Women's Guild	£0.00	£138
Chevra Kadisha	£25.00	£188
Board of Deputies	£0.00	£193
Donations and Offerings	£16,281.36	£7,224
Investment Income	£3,581.65	£4,024
Gross Rental Income	£24,228.07	£23,405
Syngenta - sale of shares	£0.00	£1,448
Justgiving	£20.00	£314
	£51,630.75	£44,040
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Ministerial Assistance	£16,740.88	£5,400
Women's Guild	£466.50	£0
Gas	£1,044.54	£716
Electricity	£467.82	£318
Rates (Water & General)	£96.51	£309
Telephone	£215.38	£200
Insurance	£4,520.00	£4,520
Subscriptions & Donations	£838.00	£216
Repairs, Maintenance & Cleaning	£21,514.45	£24,520
Recorder	£517.30	£224
Wine and provisions	£434.11	£649
Rental Expenses	£3,314.97	£3,910
Legal Expenses	£7,249.60	£4,982
Board of deputies	£626.00	£0
School visits	£120.00	£40
Sundries	£422.00	£0
Accountancy	£384.00	
	£58,972.06	£46,004
Movement for the period	-£7,341.31	-£1,964
Bank Balance Brought Forward	£14,829.00	£16,793
	£7,487.69	£14,829
Bank Balance Carried Forward	£7,487.69	£14,829
Trade Debtors @ 31st July 2016	£0.00	£0
	£7,487.69	£14,829

Approved by



Esther White ACA
DATE 28th November 2

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRISTOL HEBREW CONGREGATION

CHARITY NUMBER. ~~1165722~~ 1139964

1st AUGUST 2015-31st JULY 2016

This has not been a year of plain sailing, although there have been some significant achievements.

As most of you will recall, we have moved from being an unincorporated charity to being a Charitable Incorporated Organisation: (CIO) This change took effect in August 2016. To facilitate this change the shul council stood down to be replaced by eight trustees: namely: Leonard Glynn, Ian Kane, David Turns, Gerald Levy, Arnold Greenwood, Martin Vegoda, Garry Temple and me.

At the AGM, These trustees will all stand down to allow for the election of officers and committee members of the new CIO.

At the moment and due to Charity Commission procedures there are in fact two charities called Bristol Hebrew Congregation: There is the old un-incorporated one (Charity Number 1139964) and the new CIO (Charity Number 1165722) At the general meeting to be held directly after the AGM members of Bristol Hebrew Congregation will be asked to vote to request that the Charity Commissioners to dissolve the unincorporated charity.

As the Charity Commission regulations stipulate the format and purpose of a CIO, rather like the articles of association of a company; many of the procedural rules as laid out in the old constitution could not be included in the new constitution. These will now be included in a Bristol Hebrew Congregation Rule Book, which will be consistent with the CIO constitution.

You will be asked to approve this rule book in due course.

Under the new constitution all subscribing members of Bristol Hebrew Congregation will be voting members as individuals.

I now move to the more everyday management matters. Mark Daniels continued to be our part time rabbi until August 2016. His sudden departure left the trustees with an urgent need to find additional celebrants for the high holydays. I would like to stress that Mark felt obliged to resign his post for very personal and family reasons not in any way connected with the Bristol community. In his time with us, Mark made an important contribution to this community. His outreach into the wider Jewish community was valuable, whilst his evening lectures were of the highest academic standard. I am sure that we will all wish Mark and Sonia every good thing that they must surely wish for themselves and each other.

However, we have been fortunate in having Chabad Rabbi Mendy Singer, who has regularly taken services, commenced a teaching programme and liaised with the wider community. Similarly Rabbi Avi Rosten has been the student chaplain, and we have been delighted to note the increasing student presence in the synagogue.

On matters of membership and attendances: I am pleased to note that that new members' figures now out strip those who depart, and at this point I would like to welcome all our new members.

Shul attendance did dip at Mark's departure, but figures are rising once more and attendance on *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur*, buoyed by a presence of students and young people, was the best that we have seen for some years.

One of Mark's innovations was a new approach to schools' visits, based very much on how visits are handled by Reading Hebrew Congregation. Basically, after a short talk in the synagogue, the

children are divided into groups of ten, taken to the *shul* hall, where there are a number of tables laid out with items relating to aspects of Jewish life and the festivals. At each table there is a member of our community who will talk to each group for about ten minutes. At the end of the visit the children are given grape juice, *matza*, honey cake and latkes. These visits, for which we charge £2.50 per child, have proved to be very successful.

As most of you will know; comparative religious studies are now part of the curriculum; it is therefore both necessary and constructive that we engage with the education system, particularly at a time when anti-Semitism and general intolerance is rising.

Besides schools' visits we are hosting an increasing number of adult group visits, which this year included two parties from the Friends of Bristol Museum. We have also participated in the various heritage open days. At the most recent we welcomed nearly three hundred visitors in a five hour period.

Regular shul attendees have long been irritated by the bins and general scatter of associated rubbish that collects just within the lower gate, so I hope you will all be pleased that we have applied for planning permission and listed building consent to create a lockable bin area just under the tiny raised garden area to the left of the gate. Your pleasure will no doubt be unbounded when I inform you that to undertake this work, we have obtained a 50% grant from CST in London.

At the back of the shul site: last year I was able to report that we had been negotiating with the "Liberal" community (B&WPJC) with the prospect of a joint development. We discovered that there were major legal problems for both communities. These were compounded by the probability that any joint venture would prove internally divisive for both groups and that the so-called Oxford model would leave us with Oxford's problems plus some. The departure of Ben Weinberger meant that one of main proponents within the Liberal community was no longer present, and on our side of the fence it was felt that other opportunities for development could now arise. No doubt these will be explored by the new trustees and then referred back to the community. In the meantime, the university is now undertaking a major restoration of Lunsford House, and their proposed new uses there could well reflect on how we develop our site.

Within the *shul* we now have an embryonic *cheder* that meets regularly, and I would like to thank all of those younger members of the community who have organised and supported it.

Occasional social events and *kiddushim* have been held in the Frank Cohen Hall, including, in June, the *barmitzvah* of Jack Hartley.

On the somewhat vexed matter of the proposed *mechitza* to provide for women to sit down stairs in the synagogue: The present situation is as follows: The trustees have agreed a *mechitza* in principal, to be created at one side, for a trial period until the end of Pesach 2017. Further discussion on site revealed that a raised balustrade would need to be additionally secured to the iron columns and that anything professionally produced to *halachic* requirements could cost in excess of £2000 to install. At this point Rabbi Daniels left Bristol and we lost our adviser on *halachic* matters. Simultaneously several women members complained that they had not been consulted and that furthermore they were minded to continue to sit upstairs. I must admit that from then-on, much of my available time was taken up with finding and accommodating the celebrants for the high holy-days. Inevitably, the whole matter has now been left for the incoming trustees.

It now remains for me to thank the retired shul council members who stood down, also to thank the seven other trustees who have carried shul business forward.....May I also thank all the people who have come forward to ensure that Bristol Hebrew Congregation functions.

There are the ladies who ensure that we have everything from catering to toilet paper, there are the people who take services, those who run the *cheder*, those who do the weeding outside, and those who have supported our schools' visits and our open days and those who have undertaken specific tasks like web site management, the Recorder and security.

For a small community, we are quite doing well !

Alex Schlesinger.

Hon Chairman Bristol Hebrew Congregation