

Solihull & District Hebrew Congregation Trustee's

Annual Report and Accounts

For the year ended 29th February 2020





The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

Solihull and District Hebrew Congregation Registered Charity No. 1100938

Address of Synagogue and Jewish Community Centre:

3 Monastery Drive Solihull West Midlands,

B91 1DW

0121 706 8736

office@solihullshul.org



HOLDING TRUSTEES:

Mr Jon Gouldman

Mr Malcolm Hyams

Dr Gerald Langman

MINISTER:

Rabbi Yehuda Pink

PRESIDENT:

Mr J Gouldman

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Mr S Abrahams

Mrs S Epstein

Mr M Hyams

Dr G Langman

Mr G Stone

Ex officio: Mr J Gouldman

BANKERS:

Lloyds Bank PLC

The Priory

Queensway

Birmingham

B4 6BP

Barclays Bank PLC

25 High Street

Coventry, CV1 5QZ

Trustees:

The Trustees named on page one have served throughout the year unless indicated otherwise.

Appointment of Trustees is governed by the Constitution of the charity. The Board of Trustees is authorised to appoint new Trustees to fill vacancies arising from resignation or death of an existing Trustee.

The Constitution authorises the Trustees to make or hold investments in the general funds of the charity.

Description of Organisation:

The Solihull and District Hebrew Congregation was founded in 1963 and was registered with the Charity Commission on 28th November 2003 under registration number 1100938. The constitution was last updated and modified on 3rd September 2015.

Constitution, objectives, policies and public benefit:

The Charity is governed by a constitution and its objectives are:

- i. The advancement of the Jewish Religion to include provision and maintenance of a place of orthodox Jewish worship.
- ii. Provision of education to adults and children in the heritage, culture and language of Judaism.
- iii. Provision of welfare and social support for Jewish people.

We have an open door policy for all our activities welcoming both members and people with no affiliation. Further details of our activities for the benefit of the public particularly in the area of community cohesion can be found later in this report.

The policy of the Charity continues to be to seek additional finance and support in order to enable it to continue and expand its objectives and activities.

The Charity's main sources of income are from members' subscriptions, donations and grants received from charitable trusts.

Reserves:

The trustees regularly review the free reserves available to meet day to day expenses. Funds that are received for a specific purpose are ringfenced for that purpose. We currently have three restricted reserve accounts. The Coventry Burial Fund which may only be used for the costs of burial of people enrolled in the fund, the New Roof Fund to pay for the replacement of the flat roof within the next 12 months and the Eric Samuels Legacy Fund.

The trustees have identified a target of free reserves equal to six months operating expenses to ensure that any short term downturn in income will not cause undue harm to the day to day operations of the charity and to allow an orderly winding up of affairs should the charity no longer be viable.

Fund Raising

The charities fundraising is primarily carried out by the Rabbi and members of the Council, through direct approaches to individuals and other charitable trusts. In 2019-20, the fundraising objectives were met. No complaints were received about the nature of fundraising carried out on behalf of the Charity. The Trustees are grateful to the benefactors whose generous contributions remain an important element in the ability of the charity to continue its work.

Changes in policy:

The Charity's policies have remained the same throughout the year.

Organisational structure and Management of the Charity:

The Management of the Charity is vested in the Council which is comprised of five members elected for a period of two years. The members of the council have experience in a wide variety of fields and possess a broad range of knowledge and expertise that is of great help in the management of our affairs. The management members are elected by the membership in General Meeting.

The members of the Council give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

To assist in the smooth running of the charity there are a number of sub-committees that report back to the council and help them oversee certain aspects of the charity's work. The membership of the sub-committees reflects the particular skills that members of the Council can bring to the work of the charity. These sub-committees report back with their recommendations to the full meeting of the Council.

The Trustees and the Rabbi meet regularly to discuss any relevant matters and to determine which matters need to be placed before Council, and to keep the Council informed of all matters concerning the charity. The Council meet together as a body bi-monthly and are responsible for all decisions taken in relation to the running of and activities provided by the charity. The day-to-day management of the Community Centre and projects are delegated to staff.

Charity Governance Code

The third edition of the code for charities was published in July 2017. The code lays out seven key areas of governance together with recommended practice for each principle. The Trustees & Council have considered each principle to satisfy themselves that the Charity's current governance structure explained below satisfactorily addresses each of these principles and, where appropriate, what enhancements might be made.

Risk Management and Child Protection Policies:

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks that the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reviews to be carried out so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

In particular, insurance cover is in place and the finances of the charity are kept under review. Appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, supported by regularly reviewed policies, are made for all those who work with children or other vulnerable groups within the Community Centre. All volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults undergo training and hold certificates confirming that they have received the level of training appropriate to their work.

The charity has appointed a suitably trained member of staff to act as Senior Safeguarding Officer for both children and vulnerable adults.

All new employees and volunteers are given an induction into the charities policies and procedures and existing employees and volunteers all undertake an annual review of all policies that are applicable to them. Copies of all are policies are kept in a folder that is available for public inspection in the office of the Community Centre.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities:

The Trustees are required under the Charities Act 1993 and the constitution of the charity to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its results for the period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- (a) Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- (b) Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- (c) Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.
- (d) Prepare the financial statements in accordance with all applicable financial reporting standards, statements of standard accounting practice and charity statements of recommended practice.

Review of Activities:

We have continued to work in accordance with the stated aims of the charity, which are promoting Jewish worship, education, community welfare and social support. Our activities can broadly be divided into two categories. Those that service the religious and spiritual needs of our members and those of a cultural and social nature which on the whole are non-denominational and open to all-comers. Our community welfare and social support activities are non-denominational and are kept separate from the religious side of our activities. In order to safeguard this distinction we maintain separate bank accounts for our various activities that are overseen by a separate management committee and are managed by their own treasurer. As they all fall under the main charity mandate each of these groups reports back regularly to the trustees.

The trustees have reviewed the objectives and activities of the charity to ensure they continue to reflect our aims. In carrying out this review the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular its supplementary public guidance on the advancement of religion for the public benefit.

Finances:

Our accounts are prepared on an income and a receipts and payments basis in line with the Charities Commission guidelines for small charities (income below £250,000). As this is simply a snapshot in time we have listed below any anomalies resulting from income expected in the financial year being received late or usual expenditure being delayed.

Our accounts include a consolidated account for the five funds operating under the umbrella of SDHC, Synagogue, Ladies Guild, Thursday Club and Tzedokah Fund. These accounts were set up to allow much of the non denominational activities of the charity to be clearly seperated from the religous activities although there is some overlap as the main fund is responsible for the upkeep of our community centre which is the venue for many of our non-denominational activities . We have also included a separate break down of the income and expenditure for each fund. The funds that were transferred over to the Charity by order of the Charity Commission following the merger with Coventry Hebrew Congregation have now been transferred to the main charity account.

The Coventry Burial Fund is valued at £52,0000, the New Roof Fund at £30,000 the E Samuels Legacy Fund and £57,773 and we have a free reserve of £50,000. Bearing in mind the need for prudence and low risk the funds are deposited in interest bearing bank accounts backed by the FSCS.

Our headline figures show a net surplus for the group as a whole of £48,942 this was primarily due to a legacy of £57,773.

We have continued to expand the sources of our income to reduce reliance on membership subscriptions, with 80% of our income coming from other sources. With an ageing population and the general move amongst the younger generation towards 'pay as you go' rather than a membership relationship this move away from relying on membership income is becoming increasingly important. The Kol Nidrei appeal has continued to play an important role in our overall budget. We have been successful in expanding the appeal to past members and friends of the community who have moved away from Solihull but retain a connection with the community. Our current agreement with Renault who rent a section of our carpark is still in place providing another income stream with zero overheads. We have other companies interested in taking Renault's place should they decide to end the agreement. We have also received a significant amount of funding from the CST (£5,159) and the Chief Rabbi's Centre for Community Excellence (£13,869) this has helped reduce the amount we have had to spend on security and community events.

We have continued to build up our reserve fund to ensure that we have sufficient funds to safeguard the future of the charity in the case of a dramatic downturn in income and have invested £50,000 in a zero risk fixed interest account backed by the FSCS. The Trustees and Council have taken the view that the reserve is essential to our long term future and that security of the capital is of paramount importance and therefore have eschewed the chance of higher rate of return from investments that are not 100% secure. It is the aim of the Trustees and Council to continue building up this reserve recognising that as the community ages our income might reduce. The reserve will allow us to continue to operate and provide services to the Solihull community for the foreseeable future.

On the other accounts, each of the separate divisions are self financing and managed independently of the main shul account. Each fund has tried to build a small reserve to help cope with short term fluctuations in income. Our finances have allowed the Council to freeze membership subscriptions at the same level as last year. We hope that careful management of our finances will balance the books each year.

Overall we are satisfied that we are in a reasonable financial position, we have absolutely no debts and have a surplus in the bank to cover six months of expenditure in case of emergencies. We will continue to seek ways to broaden our revenue stream to further reduce our dependence on membership subscriptions.

We believe the synagogue finances are on a stable footing for the immediate future, however we cannot be complacent and must recognise that there is likely to be an increased demand for our activities and services with a diminishing income stream in the next few years. We are continuing to explore a number of options to ensure that we are able to guarantee the long term financial security of the community.

COVID-19 Resilience

Although this report refers to the period ending 29th February 2020 it would be remiss not to mention the effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on our activities. On the 17th March the Trustees took the decision to cancel with immediate effect all onsite activities. All our prayer services, educational and cultural activities moved to a virtual platform. In addition we implemented a comprehensive programme to support the vulnerable elderly and those self isolating. As a result of this swift action we have been extremely fortunate not to have suffered any COVID-19 fatalities amongst our members and user group. The positive impact of our work on the physical and mental welfare of our target audience has been immense.

We have assessed the financial impact of this new reality on our ability to operate and are confident that we can continue to carry out our activities without significant harm to our stability. Some of our overhead costs have reduced due to the reduced use of our community centre, some staff were placed on furlough and we have increased the use of volunteers. At the same time some of the income we generate from donations and activities has reduced. We have also been successful at attracting funding from a number of charitable trusts to allow us to

adjust to the new situation.

Area of Operation:

As the closest organised Jewish Community which retains the services of a Rabbi we are often called upon to provide support to Jews in an extremely wide geographical area, which includes in addition to Solihull, Coventry, Leamington, Malvern, Ross on Wye, Stratford, Warwick and Worcester as well as a host of smaller towns and villages.



We open our activities to all-comers irrespective of whether or not they are formally affiliated with the Solihull Jewish Community. We are often called upon to provide help to visiting Jewish businessmen and tourists. In partnership with the NEC we have helped organise kosher food and prayer services for Jewish exhibitors and visitors to the Spring Fair.

Review of Activities

Community Cohesion

We have extended the use of our facilities to other local groups who have held meetings at our Community Centre, furthering our aim to be seen as a resource for the whole Solihull community.

Rabbi Pink is involved in many different organisations, serving as Chaplain or sitting on advisory committees to local hospitals, prisons, The NEC, SACRE, Solihull Faiths Forum, Safer Solihull Board and Birmingham International Airport Multi Faith Support Team. This has helped to promote a better understanding of the

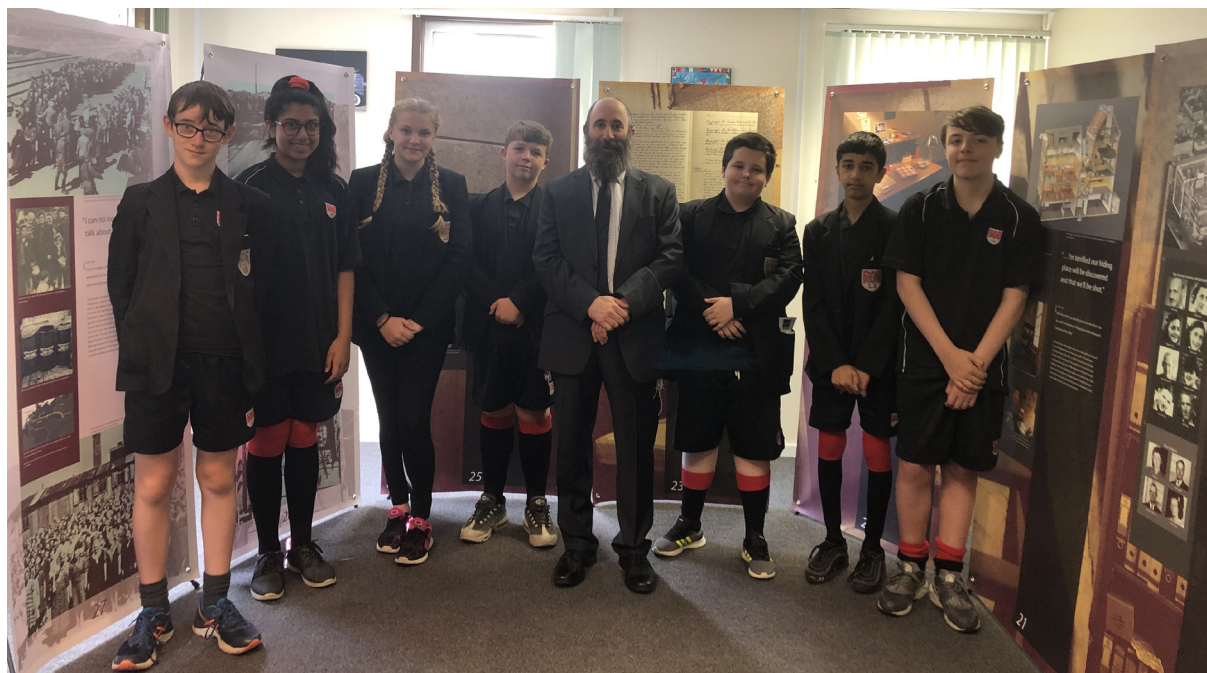


needs of the Jewish citizens of Solihull and also to promote harmonious relationships amongst the various ethnic groups that live in Solihull. Rabbi Pink again played a central part in the National Holocaust Day Service organised by Solihull Council. Our annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony during the Festival of Chanukah is attended by the Mayor of Solihull. This event attracts a large number of Jews and non-Jews who are all inspired by the universal message of the importance of freedom of religion and mutual respect and tolerance.

A central plank of our Promoting Tolerance programme are the visits of groups of schoolchildren from the West Midlands Region. Marina Kaplan, our School Visits Co-Ordinator has continued to expand the number of groups participating in this programme and we now host over 3000 people per year. The numerous thank-you letters that we receive from the schools and the pupils is testimony to the success of this important initiative.

We also participate in other Civic occasions such as the annual memorial service on Remembrance Day when we lay a wreath at the war memorial.

Rabbi Pink has developed a close working relationship with West Midlands Police and members of the local neighbourhood police team and he has worked with them on a number of initiatives to reduce racist behaviour in the borough. A fixture in our calendar is a special service and reception thanking the members of WMP for their work.



Rabbi Pink visits the elderly residents of Andrew Cohen House and Silverstone Court in Stirchley and on Chanukah we organised a Chanukah Party at Silverstone Court.

NEARLY 75% OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE USED A FOOD BANK HAVE AT LEAST ONE HEALTH ISSUE.



TWO-THIRDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE USED A FOOD BANK HAVE HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE BENEFITS SYSTEM IN THE PAST YEAR.



THE AVERAGE WEEKLY INCOME AFTER HOUSING COSTS FOR PEOPLE REFERRED TO FOOD BANKS IS JUST £50.



This year when preparing for Pesach (or at any other time) don't throw away any unwanted or chametz food, bring it to the food bank donation box at Shul (located in the first classroom) and it will be passed on to the Trussell Trust Food Bank before Pesach



various community groups that use our facilities. The Stanley Middleburgh library is the best stocked Judaic library in the Midlands, it contains a large number of books, journals, videos and DVD's and is a valuable resource to members of the community as well as others wishing to research aspects of Judaism.


Our Judaica store is a valuable facility that is used by Jews and non Jews seeking a source where they can purchase cards, books and Judaism related items as well as expert advice. This resource is greatly appreciated by local schools looking to boost their RE department. .

We have continued to work with the Trussell Trust Food Bank located in Chelmsley Wood and have made a number of deliveries of food donated by members of the community. This is another important element in our drive to ensure that we play a full role in the life of the broader community. Members of the community have also participated in the Race for Life organised by Cancer Research UK and have raised valuable funds for this important cause.

Communications and PR:

Our newsletter, Hakol has continued to play a valuable role in communicating details of our activities to our members and supporters. Graham Stone, our advertising manager and has been successful in increasing the revenue that we generate through advertising, which ensures that this aspect of our work is self funding. We produce two versions of the Hakol a full colour version that is distributed as a PDF to all the

Our multi media resource centre is central to many of the activities that we run, including the Sunday School, Youth Clubs, Anti-Racism Workshops and Senior Citizens activities. We have continued our rolling programme of updating our equipment and resources. Our equipment has also proved an invaluable resource to the



Solihull Synagogue
@solihullshul

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Solihull Synagogue
7 July · 🌐

We had the pleasure of welcoming the Mayor of the West Midlands to show him behind the scenes of our Thursday Club and what the Thursday Club is doing to help the elderly during the COVID-19 crisis.

Mayor of the West Midlands
5 July · 🌐

I had the pleasure of meeting with Solihull Synagogue today to discuss their work supporting the #WMCommunity during lockdown, delivering weekly meals through t...
[See more](#)



members and friends of the community on our email distribution list and a slimmed down paper version that is sent out to those members who do not have internet access.

We have increased the number of our members and supporters who receive information via email helping us cut down on stationery and postage costs and helping us meet our commitment to reduce the environmental impact of our activities where possible. We continue to keep in touch with the elderly members of the community who are unable to venture out by phoning them up or paying them a visit.

Our weekly email bulletin is received and read by an increasing number of our members and friends, we also maintain a regularly updated website. Our Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter Feed is managed by Chana Miriam Golub and is another important tool in ensuring that as large a group as possible are aware of our activities and services. We receive a large amount of enquiries as a result of visits to our website.

Solihull Shul

DUE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION ALL PRAYER SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES AT THE SYNAGOGUE HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

[Home](#) [How Can We Help?](#) [Daily Inspiration](#) [Our Shul](#) [Activities](#) [Shabbat Times](#) [Ask the Rabbi](#) [Donate](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Newsletter](#)

Registered charity no. 1100938

Welcome to the Solihull Shul Website

If you are isolated and need help with shopping, collection of medication, would like a fresh meal delivered or any other activity, or simply would like a chat please contact office@solihullshul.org

We have cancelled all activities at the Synagogue and Granby Close however we have a full programme of activities and lectures on Zoom for details contact office@solihullshul.org

Donate



School Visits



Photo Gallery



COVID 19 Help



Religious & Educational Services:

During the past year our religious activities have remained the cornerstone of our Community. We have been



fortunate in having an excellent group of lay people to help conduct the services. David Fine has provided welcome support in helping lead the services and his support is greatly appreciated.

Education has continued to be a central plank of our work and there are learning opportunities for all ages and skill levels virtually every day of the week. In total there are eight classes every week, the week starts with Bagels Lox & Torah at 10.00 am on Sunday morning, a 30 minute breakfast and discussion of an issue of Jewish law or tradition, this is open to men and women and is ideal for someone who is unable to attend classes during the week. The Halacha Shiur is a text based shiur aimed at more advanced learners and takes place every Sunday evening. The SMILES lecture series on a Monday evening continues to attract a loyal following and mention must be made of Hilary and David Fine who have attended virtually every Shiur since it first started over 26 years ago. The Retired Gentlemen's Shiur on Tuesday Morning, Ladies Discussion Group on a Wednesday Morning, the Shiur on Jewish Philosophy for Ivrit Speakers on Wednesday evening, the Saturday morning shiur and Talmud Shiur on Saturday Evening provide a variety of opportunities for every age range and level of learning. In addition there are some seasonal events such as the late night Cheesecake and Whisky Study Session and the supper and study of the Book of Ruth both on Shavuot proved popular as well.

A number of people have also sought to improve their knowledge by setting up one to one study sessions with the rabbi. A Rabbi's primary job is to teach and Rabbi Pink will happily accommodate anyone who wishes to further their knowledge of Judaism. We know that some people feel that they do not want to add to his already packed schedule but teaching Torah is the lifeblood of every Rabbi and he will always find time to fit in another learning opportunity.

Every event in the Jewish Calendar is marked with a communal activity including a honey cake Kiddush on Rosh Hashona, break the fast refreshments after Yom Kippur, Dinner in the Sukkah, Sukkos Party, Simchas Torah Lunch, Chanukah Menora Lighting, Purim Party and Purim Seudah, Communal Seder, Moshiach Seudah, Lag B'Omer BBQ and Bonfire, Late Night Shavuot Study Session, and Shavuot lunch. None of these



would have been possible without the work carried out on a voluntary basis by Rebbetzen Dinie Pink which has allowed us to provide top class events at a fraction of the price it would otherwise cost to organise.

Despite the tiny size of our community we have continued to have a service every Friday Night, Shabbos Morning and Sunday Morning as well as all Yomtovim. We have also organised minyanim to allow members who are saying kaddish or observing a yarzeit to do so. We would like to thank all those who make the effort to attend to ensure that we have a minyan. We are a tiny community and every person makes a difference.

We started the year with the Shabbat UK weekend. We were fortunate to be joined by Chazan Zali Rodal who enriched the occasion with his fantastic singing.

The explanatory format for the High Holy Day Services was continued again this year and once again enabled members and visitors to relate to the prayers that were being recited. This year we were fortunate to attract the services of Chazan Zali Rodal, as one member put it, Solihull Moors were able to attract Ronaldo to play for them! Chazan Rodal was ably assisted by Daniel Littlestone and their melodious singing and lively tunes had everyone tapping their feet and singing along. We are also fortunate to receive help from Rabbinic Interns affiliated to the Chabad Lubavitch Movement during the High Holy Day period and during Pesach they are a great help in ensuring that even those people who live in an outlying area are visited and provided with any help they need.

Social Activities

The functions committee co-ordinates all the social functions organised by the community as well as ensuring that maximum use is made of the facilities that we have to offer as a community centre by other groups in the area. We have a full a calendar of events to cover the following areas: Fundraising events, Social events to promote community cohesion, Cultural events to celebrate dates of cultural and/or religious significance. We have also shared some succesful events with our twin community of Sheffield that have strengthened the links between our two communities.

The highlight of the year was the Bosworth Shabbaton which took place for the third time attracting a large group of people from small communities around the UK for a weekend



packed with cultural and educational activities. It was a massive undertaking that was superbly organised by Rabbi & Rebbetzen Pink and the tremendous positive feedback received following the event is testimony to their hard work and attention to detail. The event further strengthened our ties with neighbouring communities and fulfilled our aims of breaking down the generation gap building bonds between the different age groups. We are very grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Chief Rabbi's Centre for Communal Excellence who providing funding to allow us to run this project at an affordable cost and ensured that no one who wished to attend was turned away on financial grounds.



The table tennis club meets on a Monday afternoon, it offers the opportunity for people to meet in a social setting, enjoy a chat and a cup of coffee and get some exercise.

We have had our usual busy social year, with many celebrations to mark our many festivals. We began with Purim celebrations, the traditional party hosted by Rabbi & Rebbetzen Pink at Granby Close was of the high standard that we have become used to. The following day we enjoyed a wonderful Purim Meal with excellent entertainment from a Mentalist who had us gasping at his uncanny ability to read our minds.



Then, of course, we come to Pesach and a record number of people attended the Communal Seder, held once again in the Shul Hall, due to the expanding numbers who wanted to attend. Due to an outbreak of illness at the Andrew Cohen Nursing Home, the communal seder organised by BJCC was cancelled. Fortunately we were able to step in and accommodate all those who wished at the last minute. This was voted a great success, the Seder and the meal being very much enjoyed by all.

We celebrated Lag B'Omer with our usual bonfire and BBQ, with a superb bonfire being built with the great help of the Pink boys, who assiduously and dedicatedly scrounged around for all the necessary bits wood and old fencing. The event was further enhanced by the addition of a wildlife display and workshop where we were all able to learn about different animals and get a chance to hold them!

We also had our annual Shavuot Lunch, with over 60 people attending! The word has obviously got around regarding our special lunches and

once again, we were not disappointed in the standard of catering provided by Dinie Pink.

Our Summer BBQ with our twinned Community of Sheffield was a great hit. In addition to the great food we enjoyed a circus skills workshop, watching Rabbi Pink trying to balance on the tightrope (it was only a foot of the ground!) was hilarious.

The annual pre-Pesach shopping trip to London was replaced with a pre-rosh Hashona trip where we were once again hosted by Paul and Koti Kay and listened to a fascinating talk by Myra Wineman on the Valmadonna Collection of books curated by her late father Jack Lunzer.



The Sukkos under the Stars Dinner was a sellout affair, the new retractable roof allowed us to prepare everything in advance. The Sukkos Party was held as usual at Granby Close and catered, also as usual, to the high Pink standard we have come to know and appreciate. This was followed shortly afterwards with our sumptuous Simchas Torah lunch, which was enjoyed by a record number of people.

Shortly after this, it was time for our turn to make the trip to the beautiful Sheffield Shul, with whom we have been twinned. We enjoyed one of Frada's great lunches and a comedy show by Sheffield's home grown talent. In November we enjoyed a fascinating evening with the Klezmatics who played and explained a medley of Eastern European Music.

In December, we had the pleasure of attending the Menorah Lighting in Mell Square, with Rabbi Pink officiating assisted by Chazan Tiefenbrun and an address by the Mayor of Solihull. Everyone enjoyed the hot latkes and doughnuts provided by Rebbitzin Pink as well as an awesome firejuggling show. We are extremely grateful to Eversheds Sutherland and Finesse Services for their sponsorship of the event. It was generally agreed



that it had all been worth the effort and had been a very meaningful experience. Boxing Day coincided with Chanukah and we enjoyed a great roast beef and latkes lunch on Chanukah after which we watched an ice sculptor craft a menorah from a block of ice.

The annual Friday Night Dinner took place for the 27th time and we enjoyed a tremendous evening of tradition, education and great food.

The year ended with a bang



with the Barmitzvah of Chanoch Pink, the Rabbi & Rebbetzen's second son. This was truly a community affair with everyone invited to share in the special occasion.

We also have enjoyed baking challahs on the first Thursday of each month. The session is called "Loaves of Love" and we also make extra challahs for anyone that needs it.

We have visited people in hospital, who may not have many relatives or indeed, just to brighten the day with some company. We have also taken them to hospital appointments and done the shopping if they can't get to the shops themselves. All in all, we are there for people who need some form of "back-up" and can offer support if required.

We strive to be a very caring community, enjoying all the social aspects of the calendar as much as possible, so long may that continue!

We have been extremely fortunate in attracting significant funding from the Chief Rabbi's Centre for Rabbinic Excellence which has allowed us to organise events that would otherwise be beyond our financial capability.

The Thursday Club

The Thursday Club is the vehicle through which we deliver our Social Welfare Programmes, these are non-denominational and open to all irrespective of whether or not they are members of the community.

In addition to the weekly meeting every Thursday where we provide a freshly cooked nutritious hot meal for



our clients and a varied programme of education and entertainment, we also provide support to elderly people in the area. This includes visiting people who require a low level of support such as a friendly face to chat to over a cup of tea, someone to provide help with a trip to the shops or transport to the doctor.

We also work closely with other agencies such as Birmingham Jewish Community Care, Age UK, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf etc. to ensure that the services provided by these agencies are properly signposted to our users.



The Thursday Club has continued to provide a beacon of light in the lives of many of our elderly members and friends. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Stuart Davis to the Club.

We have continued to provide a stimulating and varied programme of activities as well as delicious hot nutritious meals. We are extremely grateful to Rabbi & Rebbetzen Pink for the delicious food that they prepare every week. Despite rising food costs we have strived to keep our admission charge to a minimum by maximising the use of volunteers. We are extremely grateful to all those helpers who are on the rota to help set the tables and serve the meals. We are also fortunate that most of our speakers do not charge for their services.

The rising cost of food and an increasing number of users who are receiving subsidised entry due to financial hardship has led to the gap between entrance fees received and the core cost of providing the service increasing. We have taken steps to reduce this in the coming year by implementing a small increase in the entry fee. We have also secured a commitment from one of our regular supporters that they will increase their annual grant to cover the balance of this shortfall.

Rabbi Pink has been extremely successful in raising funds, primarily from Charitable Trusts to support the rest of our activities. This year we have received grants from Birmingham Jewish Community Care and the We Are All Making A Difference Foundation and the Baron Davenport Foundation. Our funds are managed separately to the main Shul funds ensuring that every penny raised for the Club is used to further the work of the Thursday Club.



Our work would not be possible without the help of our team of volunteers and we give our wholehearted thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers, many of whom are not members of the Solihull Community for their continued support. Particular mention must be made of our caretaker and security officer, Eric Harrison who consistently goes over and above the call of duty in his work for the community.

Unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated the closure of our community centre and weekly lunches however we have ramped up our activities moving the weekly activity on line with a host of speakers, quizzes and other activities. Our volunteers are maintaining regular contact with all those who are self isolating. Helping them with shopping, collection of medication and other errands. We are also delivering freshly cooked meals to all those who need.

Tzedokah Fund

The Tzedokah Fund has had a successful year. Our income is derived from donations to the tzedokah (charity collection) boxes in the Shul, private donations and gift aid where the donation was eligible as well as grants from charitable trusts. All donations received are allocated to general charitable use unless the donor has specifically asked for it to be earmarked for a specific purpose or project.

We have continued to support a variety of charitable causes both in response to appeals received and proactively when the Rabbi is made aware of an individual or family needing assistance. The privacy of all recipients is carefully protected to ensure that no one will ever refrain from requesting help due to a fear of the request become public knowledge.

We have also distributed funds and food items before Festivals to people requiring assistance, offered short and medium term interest free loans to people in financial need, provided scholarships to young people wishing to pursue further education and helped families cope with the immediate aftermath of accidents, bereavement and natural disasters.

Youth Activities

Our Youth Activities are primarily delivered through Solihull Cheder which provides a Sunday School for young children to learn about their culture and heritage. It organises social activities for young people and their families. It is also the vehicle through which we run some of our programmes aimed at tackling racism and anti-Semitism by promoting tolerance amongst young people.

The Alan Leigh Children's Playground continues to provide a safe and secure environment for children to play under their parents supervision. Our youth lounge in memory of the late Esta Benson is equipped with comfortable couches and armchairs it is a great place for teenagers to hangout and chill.



Summary of our achievements:

Highlights of the Year

- 520 hours of Adult Education delivered by Rabbi & Rebbetzen Pink
- 1631 Meals served by the Thursday Club
- 3245 School Children and Adults Participated in tours of the Synagogue as part of our Cultural Awareness and Anti-Racism Programme organised by Marina Kaplan.
- 6 Deliveries of Food to the Trussell Trust organised by Andrew Goldstein
- 2385 Hours logged by our Volunteers

We have continued to increase the scope of our activities in the areas of Social Welfare, Adult Education and Social Cohesion and maintained our level of activities in all other areas. This has allowed us to deliver all our aims and objectives in a manner that surpasses expectations, we have increased the use of volunteers and have successfully implemented feedback from our users to further improve the quality of the services that we offer. With the aid of donations and grants we have been able to continue our programme of refurbishment of our community centre, particularly the facilities for the elderly and disabled. We have diversified our sources of income and have been able to create a financial reserve to allow us to weather any unforeseen emergencies.

Plans for the future:

Continue to reach out to more unaffiliated Jewish families in the area to expand our membership base thus reducing our reliance on donations and fundraising.

Continue our programme of upgrading and repairing the physical infrastructure of our Community Centre.

Broaden our off site activities to ensure that we can safely operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continue to expand our educational activities to reach a greater number of our members.

Identify areas where we can reduce expenditure by the use of volunteers from within our community.

The financial summary of the last financial year ended 29th February 2020 is attached.

Approval:

This report was approved by the Trustees on 16/08/2020 and signed on their behalf.

Gerald Langman



Malcolm Hyams



SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION
Registered Charity Number: 1100938

Accounts

29th February 2020

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE SOLIHULL AND
DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY 2019**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act)
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act)
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act.
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities Act (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that they give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A.M. Berger FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant

5 Gardner Way
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 1QW

15th May 2020

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2020
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
Receipts		
Synagogue	138,721	87,045
Coventry Hebrew Congregation	222	326
Cheder	1,000	-
Ladies Guild	4,989	6,391
Thursday Club	4,795	8,902
Tzedokah	49,352	26,734
	199,079	129,398
Payments		
Synagogue	86,777	86,334
Coventry Hebrew Congregation	-	224
Cheder	1,566	67
Ladies Guild	4,863	7,185
Thursday Club	5,071	9,646
Tzedokah	51,860	24,532
	150,137	127,988
Net Inflow(Outflow) of Funds	48,942	1,410

Within the parent charity there are a number of subsidiary activities that operate independently of the main account with their own bank account and treasurer. Namely, Ladies Guild, Tzedokah Fund, Thursday Club, Coventry Fund and Cheder. The detailed analysis of these accounts is attached.

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2020
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2,020	2,019
	Total	Total
Receipts		
Subscriptions	26,012	25,698
Gift Aid	8,405	9,290
Kol Nidrei Appeal	11,300	10,789
Donations	5,659	6,602
Legacies (Eric Samuels dec'd)	57,773	1,000
	<u>109,149</u>	<u>53,379</u>

Operating activities to generate funds

Functions & Fundraising	2,039	2,802
Sale of Judaica	11,284	12,897
Rent received	10,000	10,000
Advertising Income	990	1,579
Burial Fees	100	-
Restricted Grants	5,159	6,388
	<u>29,572</u>	<u>33,666</u>

Total Receipts	138,721	87,045
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PAYMENTS

Charitable Activities

Ministerial & Religious Expenses	30,514	27,763
Chazan Expenses	4,165	2,813
Subscriptions, Printing & Adverts	565	427
Burial Fund	-	300
Cost of Judaica	12,976	10,894
Affiliated Organisations	385	250
Other Salaries	10,087	8,459
Community Activities	5,918	12,851

Support Costs

Repairs & Maintenance	956	1,914
Cleaning & Gardening	4,909	4,351
Telephone/Internet & Postage	2,758	2,101
Insurance	3,110	4,115
Gas , Electricity and Water	3,812	3,120
Bank Charges	42	294
Security Costs	6,256	5,803
Secretarial Costs	324	880
Total	86,777	86,335

Bank and Cash funds last year end	71,593	70,883
Transferred from Coventry Account	70,030	-
Net Inflow (Outflow) of Funds	51,944	710
Bank and Cash funds this year end	193,567	71,593

Note - Gift Aid

Due to HMRC regulations the Gift Aid claims for all subdivisions are handled by the main synagogue account and subsequently allocated to the main sub account on receipt. Gift Aid relating to Tzedakah, Thursday Club and Ladies Guild were transferred to their accounts during the year.

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION – CHEDER
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2020

	2020	2019
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Grants (Unrestricted)	1,000	-
Cheder Fees		
Fund raising income		
Total Receipts	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>
 <u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Charitable Activities		
 Support Costs		
Bank Charges	66	67
 Management		
Salaries	-	-
Food	-	-
Education expenses	1,500	-
Ink Cartridges		
Total Payments	<u>1,566</u>	<u>67</u>
 Net (payments)/Receipts	- 566	- 67
 Bank and Cash funds last year end	<u>9,510</u>	<u>9,577</u>
Bank and Cash funds this year end	<u>8,944</u>	<u>9,510</u>

NOTES

Cheder refers to a Sunday School to educate children about Jewish culture and heritage
This branch of our charity also carries out work with youth and school children in particular
our anti-racism and tolerance programmes promoting peaceful co-existence and British values.

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION – LADIES GUILD
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2020

	2020	2019
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Interest	2	2
Gift Aid	574	650
Donations and Fundraising	4,415	5,741
	<u>4,989</u>	<u>6,391</u>

PAYMENTS

Function Costs	4,011	5,779
Waitresses and Cleaning	852	1,406
	<u>4,863</u>	<u>7,185</u>

Total Payments

Net (payments)/Receipts	126	-	794
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Bank and Cash funds last year end	<u>2,489</u>	<u>3,283</u>
Bank and Cash funds this year end	<u>2,615</u>	<u>2,489</u>

Notes

The Ladies Guild is a separately managed subsidiary of the main charity whose purpose is to support the social and cultural activities of the community

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION – TZEDOKAH FUND
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2020

	2020	2019
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Gift Aid	1,631	1,241
Donations Restricted	7,232	4,029
Donations Unrestricted	3,319	7,542
Loan Repayments	4,250	
Grants	21,319	4,134
Activities	11,601	9,789
Total Receipts	<u>49,352</u>	<u>26,735</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Charitable Activities	40,134	10,535
Charitable Payments	7,775	4,537
Loans	-	6,000
Synagogue Refurbishment	3,951	3,388
Library Fund	-	73
Total Payments	<u>51,860</u>	<u>24,533</u>
Net (payments)/Receipts	- 2,508	2,202
Bank and Cash funds last year end	<u>32,411</u>	<u>30,209</u>
Bank and Cash funds this year end	<u>29,903</u>	<u>32,411</u>

Tzedokah means charity. This account handles both donations made for specific charitable purposes in line with the wishes of the donor (restricted funds) such as the library fund, building fund, and donations made for general charitable use, examples of this is grants made to organisations such as soup kitchens or youth clubs who have appealed to us for charitable funding, or Interest Free loans to people suffering temporary financial difficulty.

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION - THURSDAY CLUB
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2020

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT	2020	2019
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Donations	195	462
Gift Aid	49	102
Legacy	0	1500
Unrestricted grants received*	1000	1800
Restricted grants received**	1000	2000
<u>Operating activities to generate funds</u>	<u>2244</u>	<u>5864</u>
 Entrance fees	 2551	 3038
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>4795</u>	<u>8902</u>
 <u>Payments</u>		
<u>Charitable Activities</u>		
Cost of catering	4744	6522
Lecture fees	0	40
<u>Support Costs</u>		
Equipment & repairs	0	916
 <u>Management & administration</u>		
Other salaries	318	2005
<u>Other Payments</u>		
Newspapers	9	163
<u>Total Payments</u>	<u>5071</u>	<u>9646</u>
 <u>Net Payments (Receipts)</u>	<u>-276</u>	<u>-744</u>
 <u>Bank and Cash Funds last year end</u>	 4055	 4799
 <u>Bank and Cash Funds this year end</u>	 <u>3779</u>	 <u>4055</u>

NOTES

This fund was set up under the auspices of Solihull and District Hebrew Congregation and is non denominational, and it exists to provide social activities and welfare support for the elderly

* Unrestricted (May be used at the discretion of the donee charity in support of the objects of the donor)

** Restricted (To be used for specifically designated purposes)

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION
COVENTRY HEBREW CONGREGATION FUNDS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2020
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	2020	2019
	Total	Total
Receipts		
Interest	222	326
	<u>222</u>	<u>326</u>
Payments		
Insurance		224
	-	<u>224</u>
Net (payments)/Receipts	222	102
Bank and Cash funds last year end	69,808	69,706
Transfer to SDHC account	<u>- 70,030</u>	<u>-</u>
Bank and Cash funds this year end	<u>-</u>	<u>69,808</u>

These funds were transferred during the year to the control of Solihull and District Hebrew Congregation

The membership of Solihull Hebrew Congregation & Coventry Hebrew Congregation merged in 2004. In 2013 the Charity Commission issued a scheme transferring the assets of Coventry Hebrew Congregation to Solihull Hebrew Congregation, with SDHC being responsible for ring fencing the funds relating to the burial fund for exclusive use for the purposes of burial in the Jewish section of the London Road Cemetery in Coventry

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2020

Cash Funds

	2,020	2019
Bank accounts:-		
Synagogue (Less Halifax Credit Card)	48,567	21,593
Cambridge and Counties Bank	85,000	50,000
United Trust Bank	60,000	-
Coventry Hebrew Congregation (Lloyds Bank)	-	24,715
Coventry Hebrew Congregation (NS & I)	-	45,092
Thursday Club	3,779	4,055
Ladies Guild	5,615	2,489
Tzedokah Fund	29,903	32,411
Cheder	7,944	9,510
	240,808	189,865

Assets Retained for Charity's own use

	2,020	2019
Loan - Repayable within 12 months	1,750	6,000
Synagogue & Community Centre	330,351	330,351
Fixtures and Fittings	150,000	150,000
Sifrei Torah	56,000	56,000
Stock and Equipment	6,000	6,000
	544,101	548,351

The trustees have not had the synagogue and community centre professionally valued and is shown at cost. They consider the current market value to be £1,200,000

Liabilities

Coventry Hebrew Congregation Burial Fund	52,000	50,000
	52,000	50,000

Note

The Coventry Hebrew Congregation Burial Fund is estimated at current prices plus 1.5% p.a. for inflation in respect of 16 living members whose ages range from approximately to 60 to 85. Membership of the burial fund excludes any payments due to Coventry City Council who are the owners of the cemetery.

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 2020

Schedule of Grants Received

Charitable Foundation

	Amount	Purpose
CST Security	5159.00	Security
Chief Rabbi Centre for Community Excellence (United Synagogue)	13869.00	Activities
Birmingham Jewish Community Care	1000.00	Work with Elderly
National Lottery Awards for All (Bosworth)	7450.00	Activities
We are all making a difference	1000.00	Working with youth
We are all making a difference	1000.00	Work with Elderly
	<u>29478.00</u>	