RABBI BARUCH LEVIN

Brondesbury
Park Synagogue

Residential Shabbaton

"Our residential Shabbaton set out to bring members of the community together in order to create a strong sense of communal spirit in a positive Shabbat environment.

CRE provided financial assistance to help make the weekend possible, which was, thank G-d, by all accounts extraordinary. It was the largest Shabbaton in United Synagogue history and people were deeply moved by so much of what they experienced. Our sense of communal cohesion has been deepened and permanently enhanced."

RABBI ADRIAN JESNER

Bournemouth
Hebrew Congregation

Shabbat with Rabbi Shalom Hammer

"CRE helped to source and pay for Rabbi Shalom Hammer, IDF chaplain, to join us as a guest speaker for our Shabbaton at the Shul. An incredible 170 people attended in total and Rabbi Hammer was excellent – people were spellbound at the Melava Malka. Perhaps the most significant result of the event was the way that it brought the community together - and thanks to CRE it was made affordable to everyone."

RABBI MICHAEL ROSE

Cardiff United
Synagogue

Friday night communal dinner and Jewish medical ethics lectures

"Thanks to the great success of the Friday night dinner, we are now holding communal meals at regular intervals. It's wonderful to know that even in a small community such as ours, we can have a full room, with so many happy people enjoying Shabbat together.

As a result, we have enhanced the minyan and provided an educational platform for our members and beyond. There is an increased sense of pride in the community and we have ensured some of the elderly and single members have a place they can come to where they can socialise on a regular basis.

The Jewish medical ethics lectures fostered a deeper respect towards the halachic position in this field, as well as an understanding and appreciation of the need to consult with a Rabbinic authority. We are experiencing a notable increase in participation in the Shul's educational programmes."

RABBI SAM TAYLOR

Western Marble
Arch Synagogue

'Connect' joint West End Learning Centre

"CRE helped us establish CONNECT, a genuinely ground breaking learning programme in Central London, which brought together Marble Arch, Central and New West End Synagogues. The advice we received from CRE was invaluable during the planning process and the funding was of course vital. CONNECT is proving to be a huge success, with an unprecedented number of people in the community attending this adult education series.

We have brought Jewish learning back to the West End, in a way that we could never have previously imagined was possible."

RABBI YEHUDA PINK

Solihull & District
Hebrew Congregation

Joint Residential Shabbaton with **Solihull, Leicester, Newcastle & Sheffield**

"CRE has so far helped me with two events; a residential Shabbaton, jointly with four communities and a project bringing a taste of the Pesach Seder to people living in areas with no organised community.

CRE most importantly, encouraged me to think bigger, so that we could achieve more. Together, with the funding, we were enabled to take the plunge and expand our project.

The results were quite incredible and a significant number of unaffiliated people have now started to attend events. In addition, some recipients of our Pesach Parcels told us that they were inspired to hold a Seder for the first time in their lives.

As the Rabbi of a tiny community, guidance from CRE has been invaluable in helping me to pull off events that would have been beyond our reach. CRE really is here to help Rabbanim develop their communities."

RABBI YOSSI SHWEI

Luton United Synagogue

Lunch and talk with Rabbi Aubrey Hersh on: Luggage vs Baggage - Our Journey Through Life.

"We wanted to bring people together and raise the profile of our Shul through quality events. CRE provided us with the funding and guidance to achieve that goal.

We have since had similar events which now attract a larger attendance, which has enabled us to expand and improve our programming to a standard at which we hope we'll no longer need subsidies."

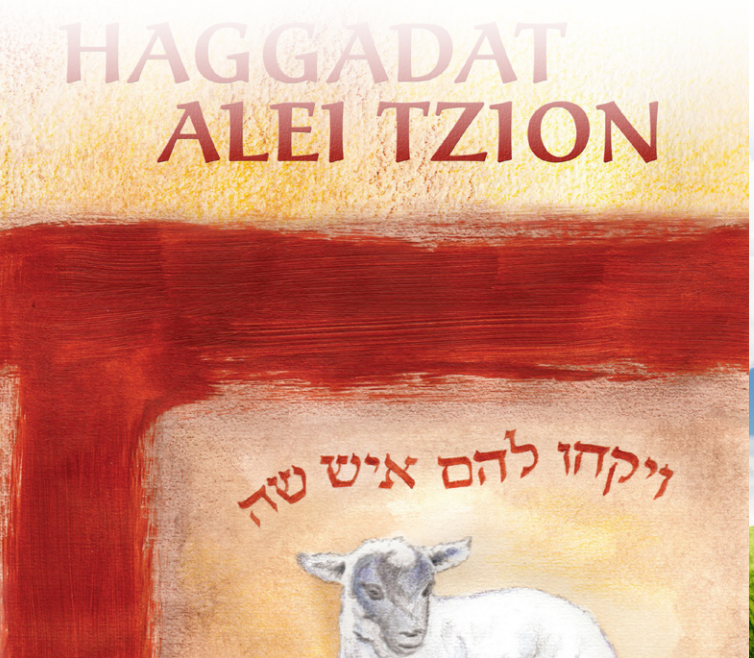
RABBI DANIEL ROSELAAR

Alei Tzion

The Alei Tzion Haggadah

"Alei Tzion produced its own community Haggadah this year for Pesach with a commentary written by members of the Shul. It was a great way for us to celebrate our 10th anniversary and to encourage our membership to write meaningful Divrei Torah.

A grant from CRE enabled us to create a high-quality production that people were proud to have on their tables for Seder night. It inspired our members to take a closer look at the text of the Haggadah and it helped us promote the community as a kehillah, which is committed to learning and teaching Torah."



RABBI STANLEY COTEN

Ruislip Synagogue

ReJEWvination programme

"Our ongoing reJEWvination programme features a host of events over Shabbatot and weekdays as part of a strategy to take the community forward to the next stage of its development. With the existence of CRE, this dream was able to become a reality. We had a great Melave Malka with Rabbi Livingstone, Jewish Chaplain to the Armed Forces, as guest speaker and now look forward to having Shabbatot with other scholars in residence, as well as hosting guest Chazanim to enhance our services.

We have successfully created a wonderful 'feel good factor' which we wish to maintain, bringing together our regular supporters plus crucially, some new people.

The funding from CRE has placed Ruislip Synagogue on a firm footing for the future in staging high quality activities with confidence."

RABBI CHAIM KANTEROVITZ

Borehamwood and Elstree Synagogue

Programming to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our Kehilla

"When we planned an array of impressive social events and educational initiatives, which would bring the kehillah together, in all its layers, to mark our 60th anniversary, it was clear that we would need a great deal of financial support to pull it off. CRE made it possible and an unprecedented year of programming which reflects the Modern Orthodox, Religious Zionist ethos of the community was the result. "

RABBI SHMULI PINK

Leicester Hebrew Congregation

Young retired tour to London

"The objective of this trip was to engage the participants intellectually and socially, in order to preserve the fabric of the community.

To quote one participant: "It was so nice to feel positive with other Jews from Leicester; sometimes we forget to connect and spend time together."

The day trip brought people together in a fun, social and educational way, creating a positive feeling amongst members about Leicester and their Jewish identity.

This has activated the membership and some participants have come together to organise a number of communal Friday nights - this is a very positive step."

RABBI NAFTOLI LIFSCHITZ

Hull Hebrew Congregation

Lunch & Learn Tefilla series

“CRE helped us with financial support for a lunch and Learn, four-part, audio-visual series on Tefilla, together with a meal. We looked at the how’s, why’s and when’s of Tefilla with informal group discussions.

We wanted to bring the community together for a social event, combined with an opportunity to reflect and learn.

This programme has given members and non-members new insights and prepared them for a deeper connection when coming to shul. ”

RABBI ELIEZER WOLFSON

Newton Mearns Hebrew Congregation

Shabbaton with Rabbi Steve Burg

“We had a wonderful Friday night dinner that attracted over 100 people from the community who came to be inspired by our guest speaker, Rabbi Burg.

The dinner was a beautiful Shabbat experience with a fantastic speech and inspiring singing, which was enjoyed by everyone.

The purpose of the Shabbat was to inspire and engage with our members and bring people into Shul and it did just that!

Without CRE’s help, the dinner and Shabbat with Rabbi Burg would not have been possible.”

RABBIS FOR COMMUNITIES

CRE is committed to providing Rabbinic support to outlying communities that may not otherwise benefit from the leadership of an inspiring Rabbi.

We have an excellent team of personable and experienced Rabbanim, who have a part-time role to support those communities which will undoubtedly benefit from the programme.

They will be assisting with:

- Visits on several Shabbatot throughout the year
- Visits on several weekdays throughout the year
- Officiating at life-cycle events
- Programming for communities
- Giving general assistance and advice to members and lay-leaders

Our Rabbis for Communities scheme will provide our קהילות with all they need to proudly sustain and maintain their Judaism.

COMMUNITY TWINNING

We are fortunate to have numerous Jewish communities in the UK operating under the aegis of the Chief Rabbi – each one of them special and impressive in different ways. Yet, we often miss out on opportunities to take part in a wide variety of activities together, establish links across our congregations and share enriching Jewish experiences, which strengthen our Jewish identity and enhance our personal and communal lives.

Twinning is about bringing communities together to share experiences, best practice and build new relationships and friendships - and of course, there is plenty of room for creativity in how best and how often to join forces. Joint activities can be social, cultural, educational or religious in nature, e.g. holding a joint Shabbaton, joining together for חגים, joint youth programming, sharing newsletters and דברי תורה, days out or Jewish heritage trips abroad together, etc.

We would like as many communities as possible to twin and CRE will help to match your community with another. We also have funds available specifically for twinning events.

We have had an overwhelming response to Community Twinning so far and if you would like to register your community to take part, then please get in touch:

0208 343 6309
Rachel@chiefrabbi.org

Which community will you twin with?

THE IMPACT

After only ten months, CRE is already seeing the very positive impact that quality social, educational, cultural and religious programming is having on communities across the UK. The ripple effect of the successful events that we have made possible is plain to see.

CRE is looking to help you plan and fund חידושים for your communities and each application is considered on a case by case basis by the allocations board.

There is currently no limit on the amount of funding you can apply for, or the amount of times you can submit an application for your קהילה.

CRE will fund one-off events, or a series of events and programmes that span over a longer period of time and we strongly encourage forward planning in this regard. Our vision, is that the seed-funding we allocate to new programmes, will be a catalyst for many more events and activities. The successes (and there are many) will create a momentum and an enthusiasm in communities, which will pave the way for even greater engagement.

Please take advantage of the wonderful resources available to you and your קהילה.

To get in touch with the CRE department at the Office of the Chief Rabbi:

020 8343 6309
Chiefrabbi.org/cre
Rachel@chiefrabbi.org

Office of The Chief Rabbi

Centre for Rabbinic Excellence

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה · · · It is a tree of life for those who grasp it

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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL