



BHHHC
BRIGHTON & HOVE
HEBREW CONGREGATION
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SHOFAR

THOUGHTS FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

REFLECT | RENEW | RECONNECT | TOGETHER

ROSH HASHANAH 5787

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Rosh Hashanah Message
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*A Season
to Reflect,
A Year to Grow,
A Community
for Tomorrow*

ATTACHED SEPARATELY

A New Year Message
from the Board
(includes Times of the Services)



ONE COMMUNITY. ONE HOME. ONE FUTURE.



THE CHIEF RABBI

Rosh Hashanah Message 5787

Standing tall in uncertain times - with confidence, faith and pride.

“Not every question will be answered. Not every problem will be solved. But as we enter this Rosh Hashanah, we can face an uncertain future with confidence, faith and pride.”

In 2025, Netflix released a documentary entitled “Don’t Die: The Man Who Wants to Live Forever.” It followed Bryan Johnson, a billionaire entrepreneur who has devoted his life to slowing, and even reversing, the ageing process. His regimen involved aggressive medical treatments, extreme lifestyle disciplines and a vast array of scientific experiments. Yet despite these extraordinary efforts, Johnson was diagnosed this year with autoimmune gastritis, an incurable condition affecting the stomach lining.

His story serves as a powerful reminder that even in an age of unprecedented scientific achievement, there remain limits to what human beings can control. It is human nature to prize certainty. We crave clear answers and cast-iron guarantees wherever possible. Recognising this, the Rambam observed that “there is no joy as great as the resolution of doubt.” Whether waiting for a diagnosis, news from a loved one or clarity about the future, most of us would rather live with an answer than a question.

By contrast, prolonged uncertainty can leave us feeling vulnerable and anxious. Our community is no stranger to vulnerability. Over the past year, we have faced terror in our shuls and on our streets, alongside a tidal wave of anti-Jewish hatred across social media, university campuses and beyond. The Hebrew word for doubt, “safek”, comes from a root meaning “enough”. Doubt should therefore spur us to seek sufficient understanding and perspective to confront the uncertainty before us.

Fascinatingly, the word “doubt” does not appear in the Torah because, even in the most challenging circumstances, God’s presence is never absent. This is one of the central messages of Rosh Hashanah, reflected in King Avimelech’s observation about Abraham in our New Year Torah reading: “God is with you in everything that you do.” Abraham’s life was marked by hardship, upheaval and trial. Yet he achieved greatness because he knew he was in God’s hands.

A meaningful Jewish life is not necessarily one free from pain or uncertainty, but one in which we find the strength to move forward despite them, and sometimes because of them. Every morning in our prayers, we say: “Many are the intentions in the human heart, but the will of God will prevail.” Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe of the Be’er Yaakov Yeshiva offered a striking interpretation of these words.

When we are paralysed by uncertainty and do not know which path lies ahead, God’s guidance is contained in the final word of the verse: “Takum”. Stand up! Stand tall as Jews. Be proud of who you are, even when it is difficult. Hold fast to your values, even when they are challenged. Do so knowing that the same God who sustained our ancestors through generations of uncertainty continues to sustain us today. Not every question will be answered. Not every problem will be solved.

But as we enter this Rosh Hashanah, we can face an uncertain future with confidence, faith and pride, knowing that whatever lies ahead, our community will continue to stand strong together. Valerie joins me in wishing you all a sweet, fulfilling, safe and peaceful New Year.

**Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim
Mirvis KBE**

Valerie joins me in wishing you all a sweet, fulfilling, safe and peaceful New Year.

FROM THE RABBI

Where Does G-d Live?

by Rabbi Hershel Rader

“G-d lives where we let Him in.”

The challenge of these days is to extend that sense of spirituality to the rest of the year.

The likelihood is that we will all celebrate the Jewish New Year in some fashion. Most of us that are able will attend the Synagogue at least once, some of us more. We are moved, at least momentarily, by the sound of the Shofar. We see family, friends and acquaintances. We hear familiar melodies and eat familiar foods. Rosh Hashana ends and is soon followed by Yom Kippur with all its traditional sights and sounds. And then what?

Some will gather for the festival of Succot but for so many the High Holiday experience will have finished for another year. The High Holidays are our annual ‘contact with G-d’. A woman once asked me why so many people come to Shul on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. I answered that it was their time to identify as Jews. They feel that if they don’t ‘pitch up’ on these days then in what way are they Jewish? She countered with her feeling that they come ‘just in case it really is true’.

In other words, maybe there is a G-d in heaven looking down on us and we should take some time out to ‘hedge our bets’. Which prompts the question – is our Jewish identity or our faith in G-d something which should be limited to just a few days a year? It is obviously true that the Yomim Tovim are not the be all and end all of our Jewishness, so many of us practice Judaism, whether ritual or charitable, throughout the year.

But these special days are a time when a sense of spirituality comes to the fore and, to some degree, supersedes our usual modus vivendi. The challenge of these days, times of repentance and therefore change, is to extend that sense to the rest of the year. Rabbi Mendel of Kotzk, the famous Kotzker Rebbe, once asked his students, ‘Where does G-d live?’ They were stunned at the question. Where does G-d not live? Surely, we are taught that there is no place devoid of His presence.

He fills the heavens and the earth! ‘No’ continued Rabbi Mendel ‘You have not understood. G-d lives where we let Him in.’ Rabbi Mendel’s students were right, G-d is everywhere. But living is more than merely existing. Living is being active in a way which makes our presence felt. G-d lives where we let Him in, where we allow His values to flourish and when we heighten the spiritual quality of our lives.

Simple things such as the way we relate to others and the kindness we show them are an expression of G-dliness in our lives. Spending time in Shul or at prayer demonstrates our recognition of something which transcends the mundane and devoting part of our day to Torah study unites us with the Almighty – the Giver of the Torah. Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur can last more than three days. They last for as long as we let G-d in. Perla and I wish the entire community a very Good and Sweet Year.

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SCHEDULED STONESETTINGS

Hazel Rubin	11 October 2026	noon
Anne Conn	18 October 2026	2.00 pm
Lionel Sterne	25 October 2026	2.00 pm
Tony Rose	20 December 2026	1.30 pm
Sheila Jacobs	4 April 2027	2.00 pm
Doris Levinson	18 April 2027	2.00 pm

Unless advised otherwise, all stonesettings will take place at Meadowview. All arrangements are subject to change. Before any particular date, contact the shul office to find out if there are any changes.

COMMUNITY

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 2026

Rabbi and Mrs Rader, the Honorary Officers and all members of your Board of Directors wish all of our Congregants a very happy and healthy New Year and an easy fast.

Harvey Abb
Ceslava Abrahams and Family
Gerry Adler and Family
Adam and Avital Agaventa
Adrian and Rosalind Alan and Family
Julius Alexander
Laurence and Marsha Alexander and Family
Ron, Sarah, Ben, Ittai and Maya Amram
Paul and Phyllis Appleby
Ian Ashleigh and family
Rachel Barnard, David Seidel, Moses and Gabriel
Sandra Barnett
Dan and Tessa Bass and Ruby
Paul and Paulina Bass and family
Avril Benhacoun
Greta Bennett
Kathy Bennis
Joy Bennis
Mark and Stella Benson and family
Derek Berman and family
Corinne Blass and family
Russell Bloch and Lindsay Davidson, Henri and Jacob
Anthony and Linda Bloom and family
Ray and Claudia Bloom
Ronnie & Wendy Bloom and family
Cherry Brookes and family
Tony and Sorrel Bourne and family
Sheila Burack and family
Alma Caplin and family
Ivor Caplin and family
Sandra Carlton and family
Sarah Chasen & Rowan Jacobson and family
Harold Cohen
Louise Cohen
Sefton Cohen and family
Stanley and Michele Cohen and Family
Jean Collins
Jonathan Conway

Susan Conway
Martyn and Michelle Cooperman and Naomi
Michael and Ann Crook and family
Jeremy and Saonie Crown
David and Shan Cuddis and family
Michael and Adrienne Davids and Family
Myra Davidson
Jack Davis and Family
Joe and Angela Davis and Family
Peter Davis and Family
Roger and Amanda Davis
Roy and Ruth Davis and family
Anthony Doctors
Phillip Doctors
Jacob Doweck
Mervyn Eason
Sonia Elliman
Maurice Emanuel
Gary and Amanda Epstein and family
Diane Faull and family
Benita Ferris and family
Steven and Carly Fixman and family
Michael and Ros Flashman and Family
Gordon Franks
Valerie Freedman
Sam Freeman & Natasha Isaac & family
Martin Gilbert
Zippy Gilmour
Alexa Eve Gilbert-Obrart
Henry Gierer
Shiela Goldring
David Gordon
John Green
Sharon Granville
Anita Gross and family
Bernice Gross and family
Esther-Jane Hamilton
Howard Hamilton
Jeremy and Sarah Horne and family
Paul and Adrienne Horowitz and Family

Shirley Huberman and family
Jonathan Hyman and Family
Jonathan and Devorah Jacobs
Enid Jenshil and family
Sarah Katz and family
Derek Keston
Rene Kruger
Malcolm and Doreen Lasky and family
Nigel Leff
Alard Leigh
Gary Levene and family
Victor and Wendy Levenson and Family
Cecile Levine and family
Howard and Marcia Levitan
Len and Lucinda Lewis and family
Eleanor Lind and family
Ivan and Nina Lyons and family
Judy March and family
Dudley Margo
Helen Markowe
Michelle Martindale and family
Raynor Mason and Family
Claire Massey-Levy
Jeannette Mazzier and family
Jonathan Metliss and family
Pearl Miller
Tony and Jane Morcowitz and family
Steven and Phillippa Morris and family
Roland Moss and Family
Gerald and Rochelle Oberman and Family
Stuart and Rosa Panto and Family
Stella Penso Lancaster and Family
Georgina Phillips and family
Michael Phillips and Family
Jonathan and Suzy Polin
Martin and Catherine Powell and family
Rene Rents and family
Michael Rentz and family
Paul Ress and family
Steven Ritter
David Roddyn

Ann Rose and family
David and Susan Rose and family
Jack and Elaine Rose and family
Julie Rosehill and family
Michael Rosehill and Tania Sless
Philip Rosen and family
Jessica Rosenthal and family
Alan and Suzanne Ross-Dale and family
David and Zippy Rothstein and family
Howard and Gail Rudolf
Sandra Rutherford and family
Steven and Angela Samuels and Family
Rose Sandler
Rina Selby
Ian and Wendy Scorch and family
Simon & Melanie Seligman and family
Beryl Sharpe
Michael and Lesley Shaw and family
Hugh Silver
Rochelle (Corinne) Silver and Family
Lisa Simon and family
Ruth Simons
Robert and Debra Sinclair and Family
Laurence Sissling and family
Simon and Judith Spector
Eleanor Stein
Marilyn Sterne
Lucy Sugarman and family
Rachel & Marc Sugarman and family
Laurence and June Temerlies and family
Ben and Judith Tobin and family
June and Ivan Topper and family
Nicolas Werner & Family
Bernard Woolf and family
Julian Woolfe and family
Natalie Wrightman and family
Zev and Rose Yarom
Judith Young (Nathoo) and Family
Elias Zilkha
Linda Zilkha and family

**SHANAH TOVAH
U'METUKAH**

May 5787 be a year of health, happiness, peace and stronger community.