

Chairman's Notes - August 2016 - Av 5766

Dear Friends,

At the AGM in June, during my acceptance speech, I said that I felt very privileged to have been elected by the membership to become Chairman of our excellent Shul, and that I would do my utmost to carry out the duties to the level expected.

I also said that I would be sending out articles to the membership from time to time, when there are issues or information that the kehilla should hear about in advance, rather than afterwards or via the rumour mill.

It was unfortunate that we had problems with the air conditioning and the central part of the ladies gallery in my first few weeks in the position, but with the excellent help from a number of board members the issues were resolved quickly.

There is one major problem in the Shul and that is regarding overcrowding in the ladies gallery. I do not remember this being so prominent in previous years, other than obviously on Pesach and Succot. However, the Shul was totally packed on Shavuot this year, and it has been on a number of Shabbatot since. In the last board meeting, we agreed to try, as an experiment, turning the seats round in the Beit HaMedrash (as per Yomim Noraim) so that there will be extra ladies seats for use. As this area is used by many men on Shabbat, this will push any potential problems to the main men's section of the Shul. However, we think that there will be sufficient room to accommodate all the men in the main Shul. This will require some ladies to be stewards in the ladies gallery so that, when it fills up, ladies will be directed down the back stairs to the Beit HaMedrash (we will not be opening up the back door to provide entry to the Shul). We are planning to move the pews this week.

As already mentioned previously, there are no reserved seats in the Shul other than on the Yamim Noraim, so it would be appreciated if ladies and gentlemen already present are not requested to move their seats by members coming in to the Shul after the service has commenced.

We have a board meeting this coming Thursday, therefore if there are any particular constructive suggestions you would like to put forward, please contact me at hiltonshare@gmail.com.

Kind regards,

Hilton