

**Sukkat Shalom Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community (SCIO)**  
**Scottish Charity No. SC035678**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

As has been the case for the whole nation, our activities can be considered in two halves. Between September – early March, our activities continued broadly as they have done in previous years. From late March onwards, all our activities moved to being on-line. This is reflected in the details of the activities described below.

- In the first half of the year we held a religious service every weekend, either on a Friday night or Saturday morning. In the second half of the year we held Zoom services on both a Friday evening and Saturday morning. We also held short Havdalah services on a Saturday night. The Zoom services have mostly been led by our part-time Rabbi Mark Solomon, and have been held together with the Leicester Liberal Jewish Community; Rabbi Mark is also their part-time Rabbi. Latterly the Manchester community also joined the services.
- We have also held services for Jewish festivals. Again these were in-person in the first half of the year and by Zoom in the second half of the year.
- Rabbi Mark visited us once a month in the first half of the year. In the second half of the year he has been leading services by Zoom as noted above. This has meant that we have had weekly 'access' to Rabbi Mark and how we structure our services and indeed other activities in the future ('blended' services etc.) is something we are aware we need to carefully consider.
- Rabbi Mark continues to lead Talmud study and Philosophy discussion groups. In the first half of the year these were held every month, but were held by Zoom on a weekly basis in the second half of the year. For those interested in converting, Exploring Judaism classes were held by Rabbi Mark; every month in the first half of the year and then weekly during the second half.
- In addition to his regular activities, Rabbi Mark continues to provide support to us both as a community and to individual members.
- Our religion school (cheder) met on average every other week on a Saturday afternoon. As with other activities, this was in-person in the first half of the year and then via Zoom. We have some 25 children in our cheder.
- In the first half of the year when we were meeting in-person, we met at our usual venues; St Mark's Unitarian church and Marchmont St. Giles church centre.

- Nearly all our communication with members is now sent electronically, albeit we still do send out some 'paper-based material' to one or two members. Our bi-monthly newsletter, Etrog, contains articles of general information and in the second half of the year, the frequency of our reminders was increased from bi-weekly to weekly. Copies of Etrog can be found on our website (<http://eljc.org/index.php/new-newsletter>) as can other details about the community.
- With the onset of lockdown in March, we identified that we needed to make changes to our activities, many of which are noted above. We also realised that we needed to increase contact with our members and various initiatives, such as ringing round all members to see if they needed any help, and setting up a WhatsApp group for mutual support and requests for help, were undertaken. As with services, it is likely that many of these will be continued as we move back to 'normal'.

More details about our activities are available in the reports that were presented to members at the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 and are available on our website at <http://eljc.org/index.php/organisation>.

#### **Trustees as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

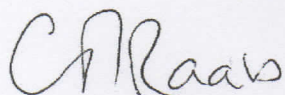
Sue Bard, Jonathan Broadie, Marjory Broadie, Norman Crane, Wendy Crane, Helen Ford, Stefan Giossi, Lorraine Hershon, Ricky Hogg, Maurice Naftalin, Gillian Raab, Nick Silk

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Nick Silk (co-chair)

Date 14/04/2021



Gillian Raab (secretary)

Date 12/04/2021

10/1 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6AS