



West London Synagogue (WLS) is Britain's oldest and foremost Reform Synagogue with an international reputation for excellence

SENIOR RABBI POSITION

We are seeking a person of outstanding quality to be our Senior Rabbi. He/she will play a vital role as our spiritual leader and be a recognised scholar and teacher. He/she will reach out and engage with all our members and lead our rabbinic team in pursuing our key priorities: Taking Care of Each Other, Repairing the World - Tikkun Olam, Growing Jewishly and establishing our role in the wider London community.

The Senior Rabbi will make an active contribution to the vision, strategy and development of WLS, working in partnership with the lay leadership and the professional team. The Senior Rabbi, together with the Chair and the Executive Director, will represent WLS in both the Jewish and wider community.

The applicant should be an experienced and motivated leader with exceptional interpersonal and organisational skills and be able to engage with, motivate and guide all elements of the community.

Application process for this position:

Applications for the above position should be submitted by CV, together with a brief supporting statement of up to 1,000 words demonstrating your interest and suitability for the position of Senior Rabbi at West London Synagogue. We will require the contact details of two referees, which will not be taken up without your consent.

The equal opportunities monitoring form (pages 5 and 6) must also be completed and submitted as part of your application.

The closing date for this post is **Thursday 26 September 2019** and applications will be considered immediately after the closing date. Interviews will be conducted on **Sunday 27 October 2019**.

Applications should be emailed to rabbinicsearch@wls.org.uk or by post, marked Private & Confidential, to Patrick Mocatta, Chairman, West London Synagogue, 33 Seymour Place, London, W1H 5AU.

SENIOR RABBI [Julia Neuberger](#)

PRINCIPAL RABBI [Helen Freeman](#)

RABBI [David Mitchell](#)

RABBI [Neil Janes](#)

RABBI [Sybil Sheridan](#)

PRESIDENT [Mark Fox](#)

CHAIRMAN [Patrick Mocatta](#)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR [Stewart Sether](#)

THE WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE OF BRITISH JEWS, A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE, REGISTERED IN ENGLAND & WALES.
INCORPORATION NUMBER: 08578248 REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1155821

REGISTERED OFFICE AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO
33 Seymour Place, London, W1H 5AU | Telephone: 020 7723 4404 | Fax: 020 7224 8258 | Email: admin@wls.org.uk

SENIOR RABBI JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Senior Rabbi
Reports to: Chairman

The Senior Rabbi is the senior religious leader, scholar and teacher, pastor, representative and spokesperson for the Synagogue. The Senior Rabbi will give it spiritual and intellectual leadership, promote an inclusive Jewish ethos, work with Reform Judaism as appropriate, reach out to members of the WLS congregation in all ways possible and help develop the congregation's strategy. The Senior Rabbi will take a leading role in representing the Synagogue in the outside world and will encourage activities within the congregation that impact on the wider world from interfaith to tikkun olam with a serious emphasis on playing a leadership role locally within Westminster, in London and on the national stage. The Senior Rabbi will have prime responsibility, along with the lay leadership and the rabbinic team, for services, education, lifecycle events, social care and wider communal events and programming. The Senior Rabbi will play a leading role in maintaining and building Synagogue membership and will be expected to play an important role in fundraising.

In view of the size of the WLS membership and the scale and scope of its activities the Senior Rabbi will need to empathise and connect with a broad cross-section of people. The Senior Rabbi will lead a rabbinic team, work with an Executive Director and his professional team and the lay leadership. The Rabbinate, the Executive Director and the lay leadership will each have their areas of responsibility but must work together to achieve the goal that WLS continues to be a flagship synagogue and the vibrant hub of progressive Jewish life in central London.

The Senior Rabbi, reporting to the Chairman of the Synagogue, will have particular responsibility for the main areas referred to in the employment contract.

1. SERVICES

- 1.1 To have primary and managerial responsibility for the organisation and general content of Synagogue services during the year, in consultation with the other Rabbis and the Senior Warden.
- 1.2 In liaison with the other Rabbis, to participate in the main Synagogue and parallel services sharing the services or taking them alone as may be agreed between them and in consultation with the Senior Warden(s).
- 1.3 In relation to those services which the Senior Rabbi is leading, to liaise with the Senior Warden(s), the Director of Music and the lay readers to ensure the smooth running of the service.
- 1.4 To provide spiritual and intellectual stimulus in the services and to promote the participation of the community.
- 1.5 To liaise with the Senior Warden and the other Rabbis as to lay participation in the formal part of the services.
- 1.6 To encourage the high standard of music in services, together with the Rabbis and Director of Music.
- 1.7 To consult with the Wardens, either directly or by way of recommendation from the Wardens' Committee and with the other Rabbis, as to any other changes of substantive nature in the Synagogue Services.

2. EDUCATION AND BNEI MITZVOT

- 2.1 To participate fully in the formal and informal educational programmes of the Synagogue.
- 2.2 To share participation with the other rabbis in Bnei Mitzvot services.



3. WEDDINGS

- 3.1 In liaison with the other Rabbis of the Synagogue to meet with couples intending to marry at WLS and to advise them as to the marriage ceremony or kiddushim.
- 3.2 In relation to those weddings for which the Senior Rabbi becomes responsible, to oversee the necessary formalities in conjunction with the ceremony and to officiate at the ceremony.

4. DIVORCES

- 4.1 In relation to those individuals or couples that seek advice on divorce, to offer such support and counselling as is appropriate and to assist in obtaining the 'get' if the divorce proceeds.

5. FUNERALS AND SHIVAS

- 5.1 In liaison with the Synagogue administration and the other Rabbis, to officiate at funerals, cremations, tombstone consecrations and memorial services.
- 5.2 In relation to those funerals for which the Senior Rabbi becomes responsible, to attend Shivas or ensure the attendance at them by other Rabbis or lay readers as agreed by Wardens.
- 5.3 In relation to those funerals for which the Senior Rabbi becomes responsible, to liaise with the Rabbis and the Social Care team, as appropriate, to ensure the provision of counselling to the immediate family.

6. SYNAGOGUE ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 To attend each meeting of the Board of Directors of the Synagogue and such Executive Committees as may be formed from time to time as a Sub Committee of the Board, for which your attendance is requested.
- 6.2 As an ex-officio member of all Synagogue Committees, to attend such committee meetings as appropriate and to provide guidance to committees.
- 6.3 To work closely with the Synagogue Executive Director in all matters of Synagogue business and where appropriate through the Executive Director to support measures to improve administration and membership support.
- 6.4 As well as reporting to the Chairman, to consult regularly with the Synagogue Chairman, keeping the Chairman informed particularly on any matters relating to the religious and spiritual welfare of the Synagogue and its members.

7. SYNAGOGUE COMMUNITY

- 7.1 To encourage members of the community to play an active role in its affairs.
- 7.2 To foster a strong sense of community and generational continuity amongst the membership.
- 7.3 In conjunction with the other Rabbis to provide spiritual guidance and support to those in need including the sick, whether in hospital or at home, as well as those with family or private problems.
- 7.4 To encourage and promote actively the recruitment of new members to the Synagogue and to ensure that they are warmly welcomed into the community.
- 7.5 To participate in fundraising activities of the Synagogue in liaison with the Chairman, following the strategy which is agreed from time to time.
- 7.6 To support a policy of equality as to gender, race, sexual orientation and identity within the Synagogue in accordance with Reform Jewish principles.
- 7.7 To become familiar with, and abide by, the Constitution rules of the Synagogue.



8. WIDER COMMUNITY

- 8.1 In conjunction with the other Rabbis and lay leaders to represent the Synagogue in the local and wider community as appropriate.
- 8.2 To encourage intra-Judaic and interfaith respect and understanding for Reform Judaism and play an active role in Tikkun Olam in consultation with the Chairman and the lay leadership.
- 8.3 To play an active role within RJ and Progressive Judaism more generally consistent with the Synagogue's policies.
- 8.4 To foster a supportive but balanced view on Anglo-Israeli relationships.
- 8.5 To encourage support and understanding for the needs of vulnerable Jews abroad, working with the World Union for Progressive Judaism where appropriate.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

West London Synagogue is committed to a policy of equal opportunities in all aspects of employment. The information provided by equal opportunities monitoring helps us to comply with the law under the relevant Acts and to ensure that our employment policies and practices are fair and effective. Your responses will be treated in the strictest confidence and used only for statistical monitoring.

This form is divided into five parts and you are asked to complete all sections.

Job ID: Senior Rabbi

1. Gender/Gender Identity

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex |

2. Age

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65+ | | |

3. Sexual Orientation

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/Straight | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay woman/Lesbian | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay man |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bi/Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | |

4. Ethnic Origin

The groups listed below are ethnic categories used in the 2011 Census.

Please choose **ONE** section from A to E, then within that section, tick the appropriate box to indicate your ethnic group or background.

A White

- ☐ English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Any other White background, please specify:

C Asian/Asian British

- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Any other Asian background, please specify:

B Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups

- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ White and Black African
- ☐ White and Asian
- ☐ Any other Mixed/Multiple Ethnic background, please specify:

D Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

- ☐ African
- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ Any other Black background, please specify:

E Other Ethnic Group

- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Any other ethnic group, please specify:



5. Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act, as incorporated in the Equality Act 2010, defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Do you consider yourself to have a disability, impairment, learning difference or any other condition that you feel we should be aware of? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please tick any boxes below that apply to you.

- ☐ Specific Learning Difference
Eg. dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D etc
- ☐ General Learning Disability
Eg. Down's Syndrome etc
- ☐ Social/Communication Impairment
Eg. Autism/any disorder on the autistic spectrum
- ☐ Long-standing Illness or Condition
Eg. Cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease or epilepsy
- ☐ Physical Impairment/Mobility Issue
Eg. blindness, deafness, speaking, memory/Paralysis of a leg/arms, progressive conditions. Use of wheelchair/crutches
- ☐ Mental Health Condition
Eg. Depression, Schizophrenia, anxiety disorder
- ☐ Any other Long Term Condition
Has, or is likely to last at least 12 months.

If you have ticked any boxes in this section, please give further details below regarding your disability/condition:
