



BRISTOL & WEST PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION

L'dor Vador

From Generation to Generation

Dear Member,

Our community is such a vibrant place, it's easy to assume that it is fit to pass to our next generation. When you observe the smiling faces of so many children at Lamdeinu, the strength we give to each other in times of need, the services led so ably by our Rabbi and lay leaders, the moving stories in Alonim where members express how much the community means to them, it does indeed feel that we are blossoming.

Of course, this is true. We have a wonderful community. However, it's my job as Chairman, along with the rest of Council, to bring to your attention that we have a serious problem with our foundations. And, if we ignore this problem, we will – to put it bluntly – be in some trouble.

As I explained recently in Alonim, we are spending £10,000 more than our normal income, each year. We are resting the entire security of our community on a few special donations. If, for any reason, those donations are not repeated next year, we will have some difficult decisions to make.

In addition, we are not putting any money aside. Clearly, this is not a good idea because there is always a risk of unforeseen costs around the corner. As you know, we spent a significant sum on essential building repairs just two years ago. If such costs are required again in a few years' time, we will not be able to afford them.

We are pursuing a number of fundraising ideas – including applying for external funding and providing more information to members about making the synagogue a beneficiary in their will.

For now, I would like you to consider the **BWPJC Giving Tree**. It shows what a donation, from you to the shul, could pay for. For example: £1.50/month could buy us communal Shabbat candles for a year; £30/month could subsidise our wonderful community weekends; and £250/month could pay for essential, on-going building maintenance.

Clearly, it's not for me to tell you how much to give. I can only ask you to think carefully before you decide. Please consider what the community means to you, the special moments you have shared here, and what you would like to pass to the next generation of members: our children and their children.

Thank you

Ben Weinberger
Chairman, BWPJC