Volunteering at Nottingham Liberal Synagogue

Since its founding in 1965, NLS has been supported by members who contribute their time and effort to sustain the life of our synagogue. From running our Judaica shop and helping with gardening, to taking services and organising social events, to sitting on our elected Council, our community members are central to everything we do. Our thriving NLS community could not continue without the help of many, many pairs of hands.

Whether you have 30 minutes to spare, or a day or two every now and then, your help can make real a difference. Let us know your skills and interests, and we will let you know how you can contribute. Also – look out for calls for specific volunteer needs in our emails.

Listed below are some of the ways you can offer your help and support. If you would like to be involved in any of these, please contact us.

Governance

Like most synagogues, we are managed by a group of volunteers. If you have a set of skills that can enhance the operations and governance of our congregation, please let us know. The most effective way of getting involved is by standing to become a member of the NLS Council, which would make you a synagogue Trustee.

Committees and groups

There are other committees and groups who would appreciate your input and support, so you might also consider volunteering to serve on one of the these.

Religious services

Nottingham Liberal Synagogue has a strong group of lay leaders who are only too willing to share their skills and support new leaders. All aspects of our services come under the umbrella of Rites and Practices. This committee is responsible for coordinating services, being shammas at services, and helping to develop and work towards the spiritual vision of the congregation. People joining might have the opportunity to:

- introduce new ideas
- lead services
- help out with service admin

Festivals and food!

The Jewish calendar is interspersed with key festivals. We aim to make these as enjoyable as possible, and you can help us make sure we celebrate them in style by offering to help with coordinating an event or offering to provide general help with:

- our communal Seder and/or our Chanukah party
- our annual Purimspiel
- Sukkot hospitality
- Shavuot learning sessions
- High Holy Days services and events

Most of the festivals include food, in one way or another! Our Kitchen Crew is an important element in helping us to celebrate. You could join the team, or offer to help out in other ways, including:

- coordinating catering plans
- ad hoc cooking and baking
- helping out with serving and clearing up

Many hands ….

Technology

Running Zoom and hybrid services and events is vital to keeping our members connected when they cannot make it to synagogue in person. Minimal technical knowledge is needed, and full training is provided. These are just some ways you can help:

- Zoom hosting
- switching on synagogue technology for hybrid services and events
- video editing

Communications

Our Comms team keeps our community well informed through regular newsletters, service bulletins, and email announcements. You can help with:

- gathering and writing copy for news emails
- keeping this website up to date
- monitoring and updating our social media

Learning

Several groups help make our synagogue a House of Learning for all NLS members, from the youngest to the most senior. You could volunteer to:

- help at Cheder – by teaching, offering practical support in the classroom (keeping track of supplies, keeping classrooms in order, working one-to-one with students when necessary, and more)
- organise and/or lead talks and discussions
- join the team of Parashat HaShavuah facilitators
- join the team of school visit hosts

Welcoming at services

We love to make people coming to Nottingham Liberal Synagogue feel welcome Could you be the warm and welcoming face of NLS? You could help by:

- greeting people as they arrive
- welcoming visitors and introducing them to synagogue members
- supporting new participants during a service

Security

Help keep our synagogue safe while at the same time being welcoming to guests. Among the ways you can help:

- coordinating the security rota
- being on security rota

Home hosting

Opening your home to fellow congregants for small or large gatherings might involve:

- offering meals (and sometimes accommodation) for visiting rabbis and other visitors
- hosting a small gathering in your home – e.g., an afternoon tea or a Friday night dinner
- hosting a larger gathering in your home – eg, a Home Hospitality Erev Shabbat or a summer picnic or garden party

Social events

We offer a variety of social events to help keep our community engaged and connected. You can get involved in a variety of ways:

- helping to plan and organise social and entertainment events
- cooking and/or coordinating cooking for events
- organising trips away

Caring for our synagogue

Big differences happen through small tasks such as:

- gardening
- washing table linens
- tidying before and after synagogue events

Caring for each other

The Care Group always welcome volunteers to help them look after the needs of members who are ill or need some support. You could help out by:

- delivering festival gifts
- making keep-in-touch phone calls
- visiting and shopping for elderly or housebound members
- offering lifts to services and events

Activity groups

Nottingham Liberal Synagogue has several special-interest activity groups. You might be interested in joining, or contributing to, one of these:

- EcoSynagogue
- NLS History/ Archive group
- Salaam Shalom Kitchen (SaSh)
- Social Action group
- Friends of Czech Scrolls

With the number and variety of ways to be involved with NLS, there is something for everyone, no matter how much or how little time they can spare. Please consider joining one or more of these groups and activities – you will reap the rewards of greater connection with our community, and we will all benefit from and be grateful for your contribution. For information about any of the above, please email info@nottinghamliberalsynagogue.com. We look forward to hearing from you!