JJBS report – Sara Myers

During the last seven years the Society has grown from 38 to 43 member synagogues having taken

on the two largest Masorti synagogues plus two Liberal and one Reform synagogues

as well as absorbing 1,000 members from Hendon Reform Synagogue who joined

with Edgware and District Reform Synagogue. This has helped the number of

synagogue members to increase to 18,000, although sadly over that period we have

also dealt with the funerals of over 2,000 members plus nearly 500 non-members.

They have become more professional in their management and have added new staff to cope with the greater complexity of managing the organisation and are now about to make changes to the governance to bring the Society in line with the best standards of charity management with a new Trustee board.

2020 was the year of Covid. They dealt with 382 deaths compared with a five year average of 273, an increase of 40%, almost all in March and April as they saw no increase in the second wave at the end of 2020. While these increases have put great pressure on our staff and the undertakers and the staff at the Western Cemetery, what they did not plan for was the huge social disruption of successive lockdowns. They also had to put a stop to stone settings which has led to a huge backlog, both from funerals in 2019 and the increased number of funerals in 2020-21. They are now trying to catch up with this backlog in the second half of 2021.

Sara has agreed to continue as a trustee for JJBS. The Exec all thanked Sara.