**Update from Ritual Committee**

During this year the Ritual Committee has discussed the use of music during services. This linked with and supported the input received from Judith Silver in working to develop the synagogue choir.

The other major discussions took place with input from Rabbi Sheridan which focused on establishing a set of guidelines regarding the use of the following itemswith respect to Shabbat and Festivals:

* **Photography**
* **Mobile phones**
* **Writing**

It has long been appreciated by the Synagogue that at a simcha or special event the taking of photographs to commemorate the occasion is a natural and popular desire. There are also times during Shabbat/Festivals when the limited use of phones and writing will be necessary. For this purpose your Ritual Committee has put together a few recommendations for your guidance during Shabbat, Festivals, and special events.

**Photography**

To preserve the solemnity of the services there is to be no photography during servicesor during the Kiddush until after the blessings, and any speeches or addresses, are completed.

***Photographs of distinguished visitors;*** these should ideally be taken outside the Synagogue. In exceptional circumstances, photographs may be taken inside the Synagogue in one of the rooms leading off the foyer. To avoid undue disturbance of the congregation, and respect for the place of worship, please refrain from using the main hall/sanctuary and the office library.

***Photographs at family events e.g. bar/bat mitzvah;*** it is preferred that any photograph featuring a Sefer Torah should be taken prior to or after the event, (subject to the availability of key family members and friends). If this is not possible then photos can be taken on the day, but only when all religious formalities have been completed.

**Mobile phones**

The warden or service leader will politely ask the congregation to please switch off mobile phones or to turn them to silent mode whilst in the Synagogue.

In cases of emergency all calls should be answered outside the main hall

For the purpose of security and in an emergency, the warden or security officer is required to carry a phone.

**Writing**

The warden may need to write notes related to the service, however, this should be carried out discreetly and not in full view of the congregation. Other members of the congregation are not expected to write.

The Synagogue recognises that parents with small children need to feel comfortable and relaxed during services, and that their little ones need to be engaged and occupied. Therefore, there is no problem with young children who want to busy themselves colouring and drawing using pencils and crayons.

Alan Reid

On behalf of the Ritual Committee