

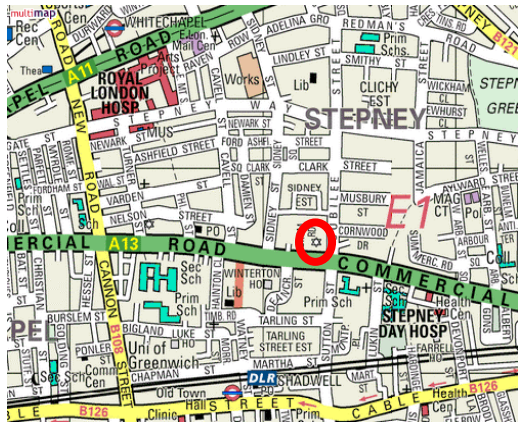
בית הכנסת קהלת יעקב

CONGREGATION OF JACOB SYNAGOGUE

351 - 353 Commercial Road, London E1 2PS

Tel: 020 7790 2874 Email: info@congregationofjacob.org Web: www.congregationofjacob.org

KEHILLAS YA'AKOV



The Congregation of Jacob Synagogue, also known as Kehillas Ya'akov, is a "valuable and venerable relic of Anglo-Jewish social history" and "one of England's last intimate folk-art Eastern European synagogues" (Dr Sharman Kadish).

Kehillas Ya'akov was the first Mizrachi Synagogue in Britain, founded in 1903. The original congregation consisted of first generation immigrants from Eastern Europe; and was founded on the merger of Chevra Yisroel, Bikur Cholim and Steziver Synagogue, moving into our current premises in 1921.

How to find us: We are at 351 - 353 Commercial Road, about 5 minutes walk from Shadwell DLR (one stop from Bank)

Image (right):
The Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks gives an impassioned speech at the centenary of the CoJ in June 2003.



Today we are diverse, with members from all types of trades and backgrounds. We are affiliated to three burial societies,, Adath, Chesed Ve'emeth and Federation, but we are most proud of the fact that we retain our independence, reflected by the fact that the synagogue is owned, managed and maintained by members of the community. Kehillas Ya'akov "is a remarkable survival ... and is all the more exceptional for continuing in use as a synagogue" (English Heritage Report).

We are a friendly group, truly offering a hearty welcome to anyone who comes through our doors. We are currently embarking on a regeneration project; to restore not only the original beauty of our building but also the community that it serves. Kehillas Ya'akov needs support. And that is why we are launching this appeal to attract new members.

We would be delighted if you were able to join us for a service. We are open ever Friday night (5 minutes before Shabbat) and Saturday morning (at 9:10am), and all major festivals.

Please do visit our web site for more information and further details and timings: www.congregationofjacob.org. And please do not hesitate to contact our warden Rev. David Brandes on d.brandes@congregationofjacob.org if you have any questions or would like to learn more about membership of about attending of our services or events. Or visit our website at: www.congregationofjacob.org

Image (left):
Synagogue
by Catherine Yass, part of the Art in Sacred Spaces series (2000) staged at CoJ



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From the address given by Chief Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks at the Congregation of Jacob Synagogue Centenary Service (June 2003)

"It is an enormous delight to celebrate with you this lovely moment and I commend all of you, not for just keeping it going, but for keeping it strong and keeping the flame alight. For me coming here is like coming home because most of my early childhood was spent in Commercial Road. This is a very very proud tradition that you have sustained here. And what a mechiah it is that you have kept this shul alive and more than alive, you have renewed it. I want to give my congratulations to all of you who have had a share in it. You are preserving, conserving and renewing something that is unique. May your great great spirit lift everyone who enters your door. May you continue to be as warm and welcoming as you are today and may everyone who enters here to pray feel that they are not strangers here - here where they belong. May your future be no less distinguished than your past."



A view of the Aron HaKodesh during conservation

Restoring the Congregation of Jacob Synagogue

Due to a number of grants from organisations including the World Monuments Fund, Rothschild Foundation (Europe), Heritage of London and the Veolia Charitable Trust we have been able to restore the synagogue back to its former glory. Come join us, to share the splendour!



The Founding Document (1903)



The Bishop of Stepney, Alan Finlay, Rev David Brandes and The Chief Rabbi outside the Congregation at the Centenary



Children enjoy an InterFaith Klezmer workshop at the Congregation

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