

BES Chatanim & Neshot Chayil 2018



Chatan Torah – Johnny Maurer

Johnny has lived in Borehamwood for around 20 years with his wife, Janine and 3 kids, Josh (currently serving in the Israeli Army), Natalie and Amy.

He ran the Children's Services for many years in the early days, was on the Board of Management and then served as Gabbai for 3 years, always with humour and a smile on his face. Johnny has also inspired his family to serve the Community as Janine has helped run Kaytana for many years and Josh and Natalie have both been Rosh of Bnei Akiva. Asked for a quote Johnny simply said: "It has been a great privilege to be part of this Community".



Chatan Bereishit – Rabbi Yaacov Finn

Rabbi Yaacov grew up in Borehamwood and this is actually the third time he has been a BES Chatan (once in the children service and another in the youth). He attended Sinai and Immanuel college before going to learn in Netiv Aryeh in the Old City of Jerusalem. He studied Psychology in UCL, after which he went on to gain Semicha from the Montefiore College and a MSc in Health Psychology from UCL & Kings - he even has an article published in a psychology journal.

Whilst training as a Rabbi he became the Interim Minister of Shenley, and upon becoming a "qualified Rabbi" BES were delighted when he returned home to join the Rabbinic team in October 2013. With the exception of 2 short breaks to support Radlett US and Northwood US, Rabbi Finn has supported BES services across both site, initiating new ideas such as the current CRP program and interactive learning in the Limmud minyan. Rabbi Finn was the Rabbi at Yavneh for 6 months where he played a full role and helped develop the community offering on the Southside. Rabbi Finn is incredibly popular within BES (not just for his short sermons) and is a regular feature in all our services even making a real effort to pop in to children's services to share a quick thought for the week.



Eishet Chayil – Gillian Assor

Gillian and her husband David moved to Borehamwood in 1995 and have 3 children: Benjamin 22, Oliver 19 and Isabel 17. Gillian runs her own company "Nanny to the Rescue", and first became involved with BES when she joined the Board of Management with a vision to develop the children's services and incorporate many more activities, games and props on Shabbat and Yom Tov. Gillian led and coordinated the 6 individual services for several years, creating the structure that continues to this day.

Six years ago, Gillian helped to set up a Baby Equipment Gemach in the community and has instigated a toy collection via Facebook and our local communities for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Recently, Gillian started a weekly service providing kosher bread (from a NW London kosher bakery's surplus stock at the end of the day) for members of the community. Gillian also volunteers for Our Community Care Service and is part of the "snow patrol" team checking up on our elderly members during inclement weather. More recently, Gillian has agreed to co-chair the BES Mikveh Trustee Committee.

Gillian truly loves being part of such a dynamic community and looks forward to continuing to support BES in the future!



Eishet Chayil – Rachel Bernstein

Since Rachel moved to the area she has been instrumental in overhauling the approach to women's programming within our community, spending the best part of the last year designing and beautifying the refurbished on-site mikveh, and co-chairs the Borehamwood Mikveh Trustee Committee.

Rachel has led the Women's portfolio on the Board of Management for the past 2 years, which involves running and coordinating events, including a Simchat Torah event that was attended by over 100 women, along with supporting senior management in the goal of promoting the interests of women within our community.