



new london
synagogue



How To Face the Angel of Death

Today is Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan. The month of Tishrei, with its huge and complex demands is behind us. I want to thank everyone who supported and came together to allow us, as a community, to experience the season so powerfully, especially at the end of a year so dominated by the news from Israel and Gaza. Thank you all.

Our survey of your reflections on this last month, available [here](#) has a couple of additional questions to allow members to share reflections on the Succot, Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. We are very grateful for the reflections, support and critiques which allow us to do ever better. You can also share any reflections with me directly on rabbi.jeremy@newlondon.org.uk.

Our major programming for the remainder of the calendar year will focus on end of life. As many will be aware, legislation is currently before Parliament to allow for Assisted Dying, more accurately legal protection for those, including medical personnel, who assist suicide. This is a hugely important issue for many of us as we view end of life journeys for ourselves and for those we love, and also for our broader society. We are hosting a flagship event on Wednesday 13th November, 7:30pm in association with Pathways; a coalition of local Jewish, Christian and Muslim clergy. Joining me will be Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London and former Chief Nursing Officer for England and Professor Julian C. Hughes, psychiatrist, ethicist and editor of the recently published *The Reality of Assisted Dying*. This will be high-level and, I think, really important event for anyone thinking on this issue. Hugely recommended.

Following this event, I will be teaching two sessions looking at specifically Jewish responses to the end of life; Thursdays 28th November and 5th December, 7:30pm at the Synagogue. The first session, *How To Face the Angel of Death*, will be more spiritual, the second, *A Jewish Approach to Advanced Medical Directives*, will be more focussed on legal, Halachic, issues.

All events will be available digitally, but in person attendance is hugely welcomed.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Jeremy