Great Get Together at Staines Synagogue

Members of Staines and District United Synagogue turned out in force last Shabbat to pay honour to the late Joe Cox MP. After Shacharit and before the Keriat Hatorah the committee of the local Council of Christians and Jews were welcomed to the Shul.

The guests of honour were:-

Mr. Cedric Dowe Anglican - Chairman
Mrs. Barbara Dowe Anglican - Committee Member
Ms Jennifer Britt  Anglican - Publicity Officer
Ms Stephanie Cliff  Methodist – Committee Member
Mr. John Bennett Methodist - Committee Member
Mr. Ray Wickman  Jewish - Committee Member

As soon as the distinguished guests were seated the Chairman of the Shul, Hilary Stone, addressed the Congregation. She explained that Joe Cox’s widower, Brendan had written to all the faith leaders including the Chief Rabbi asking for an event to be held in memory and in honour of his late wife. The Chief Rabbi had suggested that we invite members of other faiths to share a service with us. Mrs Stone said that when a child is asked by his parents who he would like to attend his party, the reply is my friends. Similarly we have invited our friends to day. She also said that differences between faiths are combated by education and that Life Warden, Les Fellman, had now shown one thousand non Jewish children around Staines Synagogue. There were letters of gratitude from the children on display in the Synagogue Hall.

The service continued with Keriat Hatorah and after the Sefer Torah was returned to the Ark, Reverend David Kale, Minister of Staines Shul addressed the community. After welcoming the distinguished guests and wishing them Mazel Tov on the twenty fifth anniversary of the formation of the local branch of the CCJ, he told a story which brought to the fore that everyone whatever their nationality, religion or colour are special and important because we are all created in the image of G-d. Variety makes life more interesting. Reverend Kale’s address then turned to the need for peace in the world. He said that all of us present believe in G-d, no matter what our religion and our task is to work together as a team to eliminate hatred and terrorism. Reverend Kale then recited a special prayer for the victims of the Grenfell Tower Block disaster.
After Musaph the whole congregation was invited to a very large, lavish and sumptuous Kiddush which included schmaltz and pickled herring, smoked salmon bridge rolls, lots of different varieties of cake, alcoholic drinks and lots more. Distinguished guests mingled and chatted with congregants during the Kiddush which lasted 45 minutes. The event was a great success.

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