TEFILLATEINU 2027/2028

DEVELOPING PRAYER LEADERS FOR PROGRESSIVE JEWISH COMMUNITIES

In-Person Launch Day (Midlands), Sunday 17th January 2027, 10:00-16:00

Introduction to programme, discussion-based and practical workshops, establishing expectations and communication channels. No preparation required.

Community Based Mentoring (ongoing)

Before applying to course: Initial meeting with proposed Mentor to discuss:

- Suitability for programme – mentor to submit reference
- Strengths and challenges – list of areas to work on
- Schedule observations and further meetings

Mentor to observe and give feedback on the following:

February/March 2027:	Lead part of a service that you feel comfortable with
June/July 2027:	Lead part/all of a Friday Night service
Oct/Nov 2027:	Lead part/all of a Shabbat morning service
Jan/Feb/March 2028:	Lead part/all of a Friday Night service
	Lead part/all of a Shabbat morning service
	Read Torah and/or deliver a Sermon/Dvar Torah

Online Modules (February 2027 to January 2028):

Delivered on Zoom by the Programme Lead and a range of Rabbis, Cantors and Educators. Some preparation required for some sessions (eg. reading, videos, reflective writing, practicing) - this will be sent to participants by email at least two weeks before a session. Minimum 80% attendance at live online sessions – recordings available to catch up with any sessions missed.

Online Module: Progressive Liturgy:	Wednesday 24th February 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 3rd March 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 10th March 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 17th March 2027, 19:00-20:30

Online Module: Friday Nights:	Wednesday 5th May 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 12th May 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 19th May 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 26th May 2027, 19:00-20:30
Online Module: Shabbat Mornings:	Wednesday 23rd June 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 30th June 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 7th July 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 14th July 2027, 19:00-20:30
Online Module: Liturgical Music:	Wednesday 10th November 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 17th November 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 24th November 2027, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 1st December 2027, 19:00-20:30
Online Residential Prep:	Wednesday 12th January 2028, 19:00-20:30
	Wednesday 19th January 2028, 19:00-20:30

In-Person Residential (Midlands), Friday 4th to Sunday 6th February 2028:

Celebrate Shabbat together – co-lead services with other participants, further learning opportunities, practical workshops, D'var Torah workshop.

There are two online prep sessions in January 2027, during which preparatory work will be set for the residential.

Final Assignments & Feedback (due 31st March 2028):

- Reflective Essay: My Tefillah Leading Journey & Readiness to Graduate
- Mentor Feedback/Assessment: Observations summary, overall feedback, assessment of readiness to graduate.

Graduation & Induction Services (April/May 2028):

The group can decide if they would like an online graduation ceremony for all participants. Then induction services can take place in communities, focussing on becoming a service leader for that particular community.

A Four-Way Collaboration: Participant, Community, Mentor, Movement

Participants will:

- Be committed Jewish members of a Progressive Jewish community and regular service attendees with a passion for synagogue service leadership.
- Be over the age of 18, or over the age of 16 if a parent or guardian is also participating in the programme or is able to attend all in person elements with them (this will incur an additional cost for the residential).
- Have Hebrew reading skills appropriate to leading services in their own community, recognising that the level required may vary between communities.
- Commit to the full Programme, including all in-person elements and at least 80% of online sessions (recordings to be watched of any missed sessions).
- Complete required preparation, including reading and assignments, ahead of Programme sessions.
- Participate fully in mentoring and observed service-leading.
- Complete the end-of-programme Reflective Essay.

Sponsoring Communities will:

- Put forward suitable candidates who are ready to develop as lay service leaders within their community.
- Contribute towards Programme fees, with the fee-sharing arrangement agreed with each participant.
- Confirm that the proposed Community Mentor is considered a suitable service-leading mentor by the community's leadership.
- Provide participants with opportunities to lead at least six parts of, or full, services during the programme.
- Raise any concerns about a participant or mentor with the Programme Lead as soon as they arise.

Mentors will:

- Be a Rabbi, Cantor or experienced lay service leader, connected to the participant's own community, and who is familiar with the participant and their involvement with community life
- Meet with the prospective participant before they apply to establish suitability and agree a plan for mentoring and feedback.
- Meet with the participant a further 2–3 times during the Programme to discuss progress, observations, feedback, assignments and any concerns.

- Attend a minimum of six services at which the participant is leading part or all of the service, providing written feedback after each observation.
- Raise any concerns about the participant or mentoring arrangement with the Programme Leads as soon as they arise.

MPJ and the Programme Leads will:

- Assess applications and references and ensure that accepted participants are ready to begin the Programme.
- Signpost participants to additional resources or programmes where they have gaps in knowledge or experience that are outside the Programme's scope.
- Provide accessible, high-quality course materials and engaging learning opportunities.
- Provide recordings of online sessions when Participants cannot attend live.
- Reimburse participants' travel costs for the Launch Day and Residential.
- Send timely reminders to participants and Mentors about upcoming deadlines.
- Provide mentors with a Mentor Pack, containing guidance for observations and feedback, including pro forma feedback forms.
- Support participants, mentors and communities in resolving any issues that arise during the programme.
- Provide end-of-programme feedback and support participants and communities to arrange induction ceremonies.

A Note about Hebrew Reading Levels:

We have decided not to have a fixed entry requirement for Hebrew reading level. This is because the need to be able to read Hebrew in services will vary from community to community. Instead, we will ask prospective participants and proposed mentors to give a rough assessment of the participant's Hebrew reading level and to confirm that this level is considered high enough for lay service leaders in that particular community. There is no opportunity to work on Hebrew reading skills during the programme.

Programme Fees:

Tefillateinu is a subsidised programme. The actual cost of running Tefillateinu is £900 per participant. 50% of this cost is covered by MPJ, in partnership with the NLPS Trust (for affiliated communities only).

The remaining course fee of £450 should be shared between the participant and the community, with the exact split being agreed, based on the candidate's means and the community's need for new lay service leaders.

Travel bursaries will be available for reasonable travel costs to all in-person elements.