

# A Place to Call My Jewish Home: Memories of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue

by Pam Fox

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue, 2011.

The centenary of a synagogue is a sign of many things: of the stability of the country in which it is situated, the cohesiveness of its membership, the attraction of the principles and beliefs for which it stands, the strength of its lay leadership and the power of its spiritual leadership.

Founded in 1911, the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, widely known simply as 'the LJS' and opposite Lords' Cricket Ground, is the flagship, the founding parent, synagogue of UK Liberal Judaism. It is both a building and an identity that has been part of the lives of successive generations of Liberal Jews, and which has helped to shape Liberal Judaism in Britain for over a century.

This book is divided into three parts: A chronological history of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, Themes and issues spanning the synagogue's hundred-year history and Memories. These are then sub-divided into yet more sections looking at every aspect of LJS life, with the last part, in many ways the most fascinating, being the memories of key individuals and couples who have played a major part in the life of the LJS over the decades.

A Place to Call My Jewish Home is rich in anecdote, made more special and even poignant if one knows or knew the individuals concerned; it is well-illustrated with some wonderful old photos and was clearly a labour of love for its author, Pam Fox. This is a book that will be of immense value to future historians of Anglo-Jewry; and for those of us whose lives have intertwined with that of the LJS and its members, an evocative, powerful reminder of its importance in so many of our lives.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh