

My family moved from Welwyn Garden City (where I was born) to Crundale Avenue in Kingsbury in 1963. My parents very quickly became involved in the shul, and my father, Werner Lash, was warden for a number of years.

We all made friends very quickly amongst the friendly members of the community, and my parents were stalwart members of the Kiddush Club that included the Dykiermans, the Rubens, the Hirshs and the Vansons prior to their aliya. Every Shabbat after tefilla, the merriment and good fellowship flowed at someone's home before we all adjourned for lunch.

I remember High Holyday services in the old shul hall and at the overflow on Church Lane--I was one of the three teenage Judys (Judy Stalbow Hillman and Judy Goldstein Berlin were the others) who, together with Michelle Eckstein Melman made up a giggling row in the Ladies section. We're still friends today--three of us living in Israel.

The Kingsbury Youth Club in the old shul was a highlight of my early teenage years and I even remember one or two classes in Eden Lodge. As a student at Kingsbury Grammar School before I transferred to the JFS, kosher dinners at the old shul were a daily delight!

I recall walking up Woodlands Close when Norman and June Cohen, the Kirshens, the Goldsteins and the Gamses all lived there. The sukkah crawl that demanded stops at every sukkah between Woodlands Close and the top of Salmon Street is another fond memory.

I was married in December 1971 in the "new" shul, and left London the next day for Seattle, where I spent the next 27 years before making aliya in 1998 to Jerusalem. Several former Kingsbury shul members live in my Jerusalem neighbourhood, and it's delightful to have reconnected with people who share Kingsbury experiences and remember my parents.

Before they passed away, I would regularly visit Manfred and Frances Vanson, who lived close by and were among my family's closest friends.

David and Ilana Goodman's bulletins keep us all connected with the news of current and former Kingsbury shul members and remind us that we're privileged to be part of a large and extraordinarily warm community whose connections have remained intact over time and distance.

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