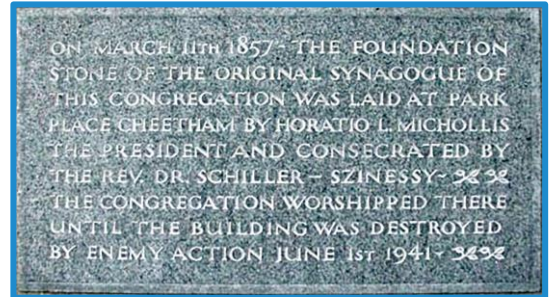
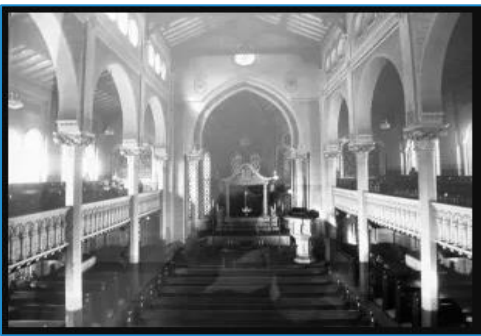


Our History

The **Manchester Reform Synagogue**, affectionately referred to as **Jackson's Row**, has a rich history that traces back to the early 19th century, when Jewish communities in Manchester sought to establish a new religious movement that would balance tradition with modernity. Also known as **Sha'ar Zion** (The gates of Zion) our community's connection to Israel and its' communities is deep and long lasting.



Early Days and Growing Influence



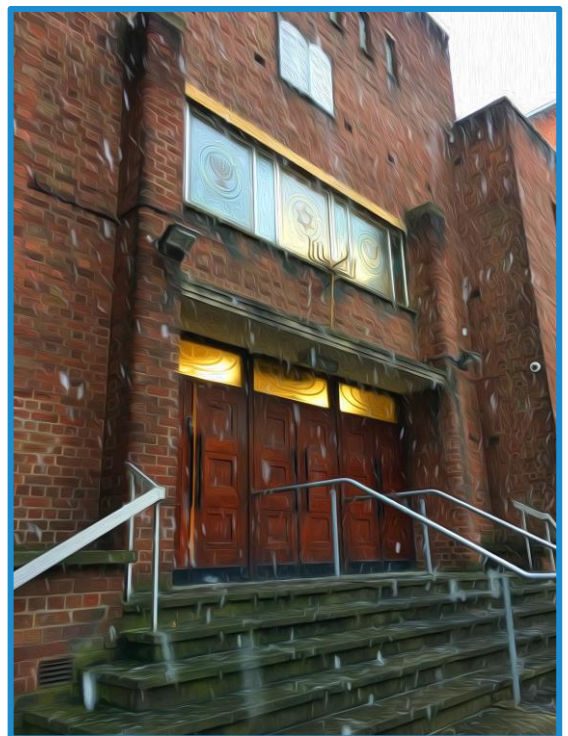
Established in **1857**, the community quickly found its footing. In **1858**, the synagogue established its first building on **Park Place** in Cheetham Hill, a neighborhood that was home to many of Manchester's Jewish residents at the time and was a major step in cementing the Reform presence in the city.

The 20th Century: Expansion and Resilience

By the 20th century, the **Manchester Reform Synagogue** had established itself as a central institution for Jews in Manchester, particularly those who were interested in a more flexible form of Jewish observance. The congregation grew significantly during this period, especially after **World War II** when many Jews sought religious communities that would help them reconcile their traditions with a rapidly changing world.

In the **1930s** and **1940s**, the synagogue became a place of refuge for Jewish refugees fleeing persecution in Europe. The congregation played a key role in helping these new arrivals adjust to life in the UK.

The building was bombed during the blitz in **1941**, meaning a new home had to be found for the growing congregation. In **1949** that home became **Jackson's Row**, where the synagogue remained until **2022**.



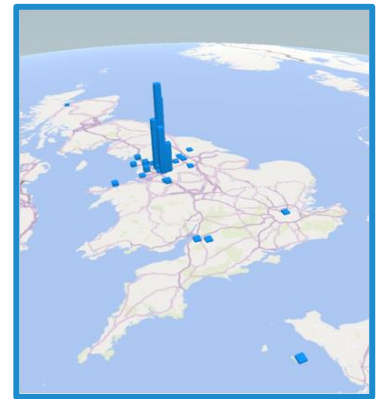


Throughout the **20th century**, the synagogue modernized its services and approach. It adapted to the needs of its members, embracing changes like the introduction of mixed-gender seating, greater participation of women in services, and the celebration of significant milestones in members' lives through a variety of rituals and celebrations.

Greater Manchester Reform Community

In the 1970's a growing community outside the now much larger city center led to the founding of the daughter Reform congregations; **Menorah** in South Manchester shortly followed by **Sha'arei Shalom** in North Manchester.

The three, now sister congregations, have remained closely linked to ensure support and community for all our members wherever they are.



Into the 21st Century



In recent years, the **Manchester Reform Synagogue** has continued to thrive as a dynamic and diverse community. It is known for its inclusive approach, welcoming Jews from all walks of life, including those from interfaith families, **LGBTQ+** individuals, and anyone interested in exploring Reform Judaism. Our members reside far and wide across Greater Manchester and beyond. We stream our live services online to ensure all

our members feel connected.

The synagogue offers a wide range of activities, from traditional services to cultural events, educational programs, and social action initiatives. It plays an important role in Manchester's Jewish community, promoting values of **equality, inclusivity, and social justice**, in line with the principles of **Reform Judaism**.



167 Years of History



In 2017, the synagogue celebrated its **160th anniversary**, a testament to its enduring presence and impact in Manchester. Today, the Manchester Reform Synagogue remains an important spiritual home for many in the city and beyond, blending its rich history with a forward-looking vision for the future of Jewish life in Manchester.

Development and The Future.

With a need to modernize the synagogue building as well as the city center itself, the site on Jackson's Row was sold for development to ex-Manchester United football player Gary Neville for £15m.

Putting us in unique position of stability and funds to be able to define and shape our own future within Greater Manchester and Reform Judaism.



We currently reside in the beautiful building of Elliot House (Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce), on the corner of Jackson's Row and Deansgate it has easy access to all public transport, amenities and everything Manchester has to offer. Although it is a temporary location while we look for a more permanent home, Elliot house is a stunning environment to work and worship that reflects our community's blend of traditional and modern.

We are currently looking at the needs and requirements of our congregation, and the reform community of Greater Manchester and beyond.

We have a rich history and traditions at our core, and we have endless possibilities for our future.

We offer a unique opportunity for anyone wishing to join our family, we have the space to dream and the funds to make those dreams a reality, we just need a dream Rabbi to be the heart of that community.

Learn More About Us Here:

<https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterReformSynagogue>

<https://www.jacksonsrow.org/>

