

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Kingston Liberal Synagogue Press release: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2008**

### **Local dignitaries attend Rabbi's induction**

The Mayor of Kingston Councillor David Berry, the Deputy Mayor of Elmbridge, Councillor James Vickers, and the Rt Hon Edward Davey MP for Kingston and Surbiton, were among a number of local dignitaries\* attending a special service to celebrate the formal induction of Rabbi Charley Baginsky as Rabbi of Kingston Liberal Synagogue (KLS).

The celebration Sabbath service, held on Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, included the induction ceremony, carried out by Emeritus Rabbi Danny Rich, who is Chair of the Kingston Interfaith Forum. Rabbi Baginsky's wider duties in the community include acting as one of the chaplains to the Mayor of Kingston, and the congregation for the day included some of her colleagues from faiths across the area.

Also present was Rabbi Marc Saperstein, Principal of Leo Baeck College where Rabbi Baginsky completed her rabbinic training.

The central part of the service included Rabbi Rich, who is a previous rabbi at KLS, symbolically handing over the pulpit to Rabbi Baginsky by formally handing her the sacred Torah scroll. He said: "her dynamism and skills make her one of the best rabbis of her generation". The synagogue choir led a special musical programme and there were also ceremonial contributions from the religion school.

Paul Levene, Chair of Kingston Liberal Synagogue's council, said: "This formal induction ceremony marks a milestone for this synagogue. I know that in Charley we have a wonderful rabbi who is more than capable of continuing and extending what has become a great tradition at KLS. We are also proud of our involvement in the greater community, particularly with interfaith groups and local schools, and our annual collaboration with the local orthodox Jewish community to teach local schoolchildren about the holocaust."

Rabbi Baginsky said: "It is wonderful to mark the formal start of my work with Kingston Liberal Synagogue. KLS is a particularly special community, which welcomes the new with open arms and makes them feel like old friends. It includes an extraordinary diversity of enthusiastic people of every generation. It is an inspiring and exciting place to work, both within the community and reaching out to the other communities around us."

\* Those attending included:

The Deputy Mayor of Elmbridge, Councillor James Vickers; The Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor David Berry and the Mayoress Mrs Dorit Berry; Mr Edward Davey, MP for Kingston and Surbiton; Rabbi Marc Saperstein, Principal of Leo Baeck College. Rabbi Danny Rich who led the service, is Emeritus Rabbi at Kingston Liberal Synagogue, Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism, and Chair of the Kingston Interfaith Forum.

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#### **About Kingston Liberal Synagogue**

Founded in 1967, KLS is a local Jewish community of several hundred people who meet regularly for prayer, education and social events. It has recently celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. KLS members live in and around Kingston, Surbiton, New Malden, Elmbridge, Wimbledon, Richmond, Twickenham and Teddington.

**Further information:** Ruth Foster, Press and Publicity, Kingston Liberal Synagogue  
Tel 020 8398 7400; email [office@klsonline.org](mailto:office@klsonline.org)

Kingston Liberal Synagogue: Minister Rabbi Charley Baginsky  
Rushett Road, Long Ditton, Surrey KT7 0UX  
Tel 020 8398 7400 Fax 8873 2405 [www.klsonline.org](http://www.klsonline.org) Email: [office@klsonline.org](mailto:office@klsonline.org)