

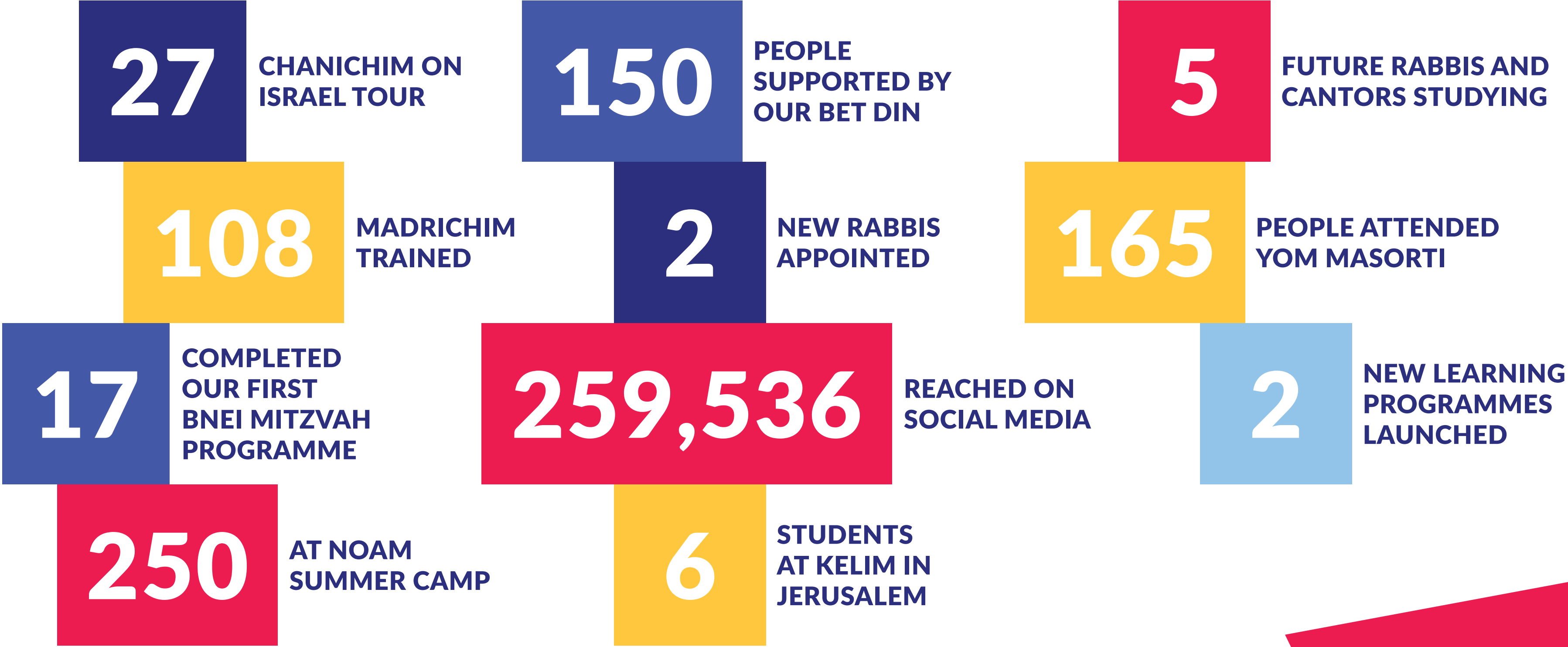
MASORTI JUDAISM IMPACT REPORT

5786

September 2025 – August 2026



Our year at a glance



The Shape of the Year

Our world was rocked this year by a succession of events, and at times it felt as though we would never return to normal.

Iranian ballistic missile attacks on Israeli cities were followed by the release of the remaining hostages from Gaza, for whom we had prayed so hard.

Then came the burning of Hatzola ambulances in Golders Green, firebomb attacks on synagogues in north-west London, and the stabbing of two Jewish men in Golders Green. A march of Jews against antisemitism in London followed.

At the same time, our communities have been confronted by profoundly different understandings of Israel's place in Jewish life, ranging from questioning its legitimacy to seeing it as the most significant Jewish project of the past thousand years. Against a backdrop of rising antisemitism, there has been a constant need to respond to events, issue public statements, reassure communities and navigate disagreement.

IT HAS BEEN A NOISY AND EXHAUSTING YEAR

Within this context, Masorti Judaism remained focused on its core mission: strengthening communities, nurturing the next generation, developing Jewish leaders and building a vibrant, inclusive and traditional Jewish future.

Led by Rabbi Adam Zagoria-Moffet, Director of Strategy, Chantal Jacobs, Director of Operations, and Martha Limburg, Director of Communities, we invested in people, institutions and ideas. We supported our rabbis and community leaders, expanded opportunities for learning and engagement, deepened connections with Israel, and created new pathways into Jewish life.

The pages that follow tell the story of that work: the communities we strengthened, the leaders we developed, the young people we inspired and the partnerships we built. In a year of uncertainty, Masorti Judaism continued to provide what our movement has always sought to offer: meaningful Jewish community, rooted in tradition and responsive to the world in which we live.

Strengthening Our Communities

SUPPORTING LEADERS

Chairs' Forums, one-to-one coaching and practical support with governance, succession and organisational change. We have provided one-to-one support, advice on governance and succession, and help for communities going through change. This included ongoing work with Brighton, Kehillat Or Tzion in Manchester and SHEMA. These relationships allow us to offer support that is specific to each community, while also connecting leaders to the wider movement.

HELPING BUILDERS OF COMMUNITY

The three-day Jewish Community Organising Programme, co-led by Martha Limburg and Rachel Sklan, gave community leaders practical tools in relational leadership, listening campaigns and action learning. Participants came away with new ways to bring people together around the things their communities care about, and with the benefit of learning from one another rather than having to work things out alone.



BUILDING PRAYER LEADERSHIP

Shema Koleinu, EAJL bursaries and one-to-one tuition are helping communities develop the skills to lead their own prayer.

BELONGING FOR ALL

Our neurodiversity project gathered 40 responses to help produce practical guidance for more accessible communities, alongside our continuing LGBTQIA+ work.

Kehillat Or Tzion: a community takes root

In December 2024, Kehillat Or Tzion held its first Erev Shabbat service in South Manchester. Fourteen people came, four more than expected. As they welcomed Shabbat together, there was a shared sense that something special was beginning.

The community grew quickly. Services, learning and social events followed, and by Pesach the community was hosting its first communal Seder. In July 2025,

members voted unanimously to affiliate with Masorti Judaism. Jonny Becker became Chair the following month, and in September, just before the High Holy Days, Kehillat Or Tzion officially joined the Masorti movement. As yet, they have no appointed rabbi and no fixed building, but the community is currently thriving, with members themselves making it happen.

Today, Kehillat Or Tzion continues to build Jewish life through regular services, learning and community events. As a warm, egalitarian, halakhically rooted and proudly Zionist community, it is already looking ahead to the next milestones in its journey: bnei mitzvah, weddings, children's services and, perhaps one day, a permanent home of its own.

'We have only just begun. In the space of a single year, we have achieved more than any of us dared to imagine. Our community is not defined by titles or by the walls that surround us, but by the people who fill our spaces with warmth, openness, and spirit. Kehillat Or Tzion is, and will always be, a proudly Zionist, egalitarian, LGBTQ+ friendly, traditional and halachic, and deeply welcoming community.'

Engaging the Next Generation

NOAM: A YEAR OF RETURNING TO STRENGTH

Noam has had a great year. Israel Tour went ahead despite a nail-biting planning process and was a huge success. Summer Camp returned to form, with strong numbers and months of careful preparation. Particular attention this year went into strengthening safeguarding practice and improving SEN and individual needs planning.



Reuben Green ends his tenure as Noam Director on a high. Under his leadership this year, Noam got Israel Tour back on the road, saw Summer Camp return to form and reintroduced Kelim, once one of the movement's great training grounds for young Jewish leadership.

Six young adults joined Kelim this year, learning with Rabbi Joel Levy at the Conservative Yeshiva, living independently in Jerusalem and creating a community of their own.

Across these programmes, young people develop Jewish literacy, deepen their Jewish identities and discover what it means to build community together. This is how Noam nurtures confident, committed Jews who are, above all, real mensches.

Next year, Noam will be led by Aaron Conway. We look forward to welcoming him and a new team of Movement Workers as they build on Reuben's work and begin the next chapter for Noam.



B'NEI MITZVAH PROGRAMME – SMALL COMMUNITIES COMBINE FOR A BIG RITE OF PASSAGE

This year, 17 young people from four Masorti communities joined our inaugural Small Communities Bnei Mitzvah Programme.



Developed by Mosaic Masorti, SHEMA, New Stoke Newington Masorti and The Havurah, the programme gives children from smaller communities the opportunity to prepare for Bnei Mitzvah as part of a wider Masorti cohort. Combining online learning with some of Masorti Judaism's most experienced educators and hands-on experiences led by NOAM, participants explored Jewish learning, identity and community through activities including Sukkah building, a Shabbaton, matzah baking and a tour of the British Museum and London's Jewish East End.

The programme helps young people prepare not only to lead from the bimah, but to take their place in Jewish community with confidence. By bringing communities together, it has created a richer Jewish learning experience than any one community could have offered alone. We are now planning the next year of the programme.

CONNECTING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ISRAEL

This year, during an exceptionally challenging time for Israel and the Jewish world, Eden Berman has brought warmth, resilience and a deep commitment to Israel to Masorti UK's youth and young adult communities as our Shlichah.



Working across NOAM and Marom, Eden has strengthened the connection between young people in the UK and Israel through education, leadership and shared experiences. From Summer Camp and Hadracha to Winter Camp, Israel fellowships and educational programmes, she has helped develop the next generation of Jewish leaders while bringing Israeli culture, Hebrew and festival celebrations into communities across the country.

Eden has also expanded opportunities for students and young adults, leading learning sessions, community events and social programmes, from Tu Bishvat seders and fermentation workshops to university visits, seminars and retreats.

Alongside these programmes, she has built partnerships and created new spaces for young Jews to connect with one another, their communities and Israel, helping to ensure that Israel is not simply something they learn about, but an enduring part of their Jewish lives.

Investing in Jewish Leadership

Over the next five years, five future rabbis and cantors currently supported by the Rabbinic Training Fund are expected to receive ordination. This represents an £80,000 investment this year in the future leadership of Masorti Judaism.

Alongside training future clergy, we also aim to build communities strong and sustainable enough to provide them with meaningful roles in which they can serve, teach and lead.

Ariel Kahn
Leo Baeck College
2031



Sara-Beth Neville
Yeshivat Maharat
2027



Ayala Gottlieb-Alter
JTS
2030/31



Zachary Carruthers-Rothberg
Leo Baeck College
2027



Tim Motz
Hebrew College
2028/29



Prayer leadership

£3,100

INVESTED
IN PRAYER
LEADERSHIP

£1,000 subsidised one-to-one prayer leadership tuition, while seven members of Masorti communities received **£2,100** in bursaries to attend the European Tefillah Leaders Retreat.

Through Shema Koleinu and our partnership with the European Academy for Jewish Liturgy, we also supported new haftarah recordings, mentoring and opportunities for young leaders to develop practical skills, including Noam participants leyning Eicha on Tisha B'Av at pre-camp.

The goal is to help communities build their own capacity to lead meaningful Jewish prayer.

CLEI KODESH NETWORK

Our Clei Kodesh network provides regular opportunities for Masorti rabbis and cantors to meet, learn and support one another. This year included regular meetings and a successful retreat in Brighton, while Rabbi Danny Nevins and Rabbi Zachary Bernstein-Rothberg joined the network.

We are also beginning to extend the network to rabbis serving independent communities that share our commitment to traditional, egalitarian Jewish life.



Building a Strong Jewish Ecosystem

150+ CASES. 150+ JEWISH JOURNEYS

The European Masorti Bet Din supported more than 150 cases this year, many representing the culmination of months or years of learning, preparation and commitment involved with conversion. Alongside this work, we established a working group to review financial governance, safeguarding and working practices, helping to strengthen and professionalise this essential institution of European Masorti Judaism.

One moment captured the significance of this work. As wildfires swept through parts of Spain this summer, the Bet Din gathering in Madrid was forced to abandon its usual mikveh. Instead, at sunrise beside a nearby lake, those completing their conversion immersed in living waters and entered the Jewish people.

As Rabbi Chaim Weiner reflected afterwards:

“We had to change the place we usually go for the mikveh because of the fires. We ended up at this beautiful lake at sunrise.”

Against a backdrop of destruction, new Jewish lives were beginning.



BRINGING THE LOUIS JACOBS LEGACY INTO MASORTI

This year, the Louis Jacobs Foundation officially became part of Masorti Judaism. We have taken responsibility for the archive created by Ivor Jacobs and the Friends of Louis Jacobs, begun integrating the Foundation’s websites into Masorti’s digital platforms, and taken over production of the weekly Jewish Quest podcast.

The Rabbi Louis Jacobs Memorial Lecture has also joined our annual calendar. The first lecture under Masorti auspices, delivered in July by Rabbi Danny Nevins on Judaism and the AI revolution, brought Rabbi Jacobs’ characteristic combination of intellectual curiosity, Jewish scholarship and engagement with the modern world to a new generation.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MASORTI ISRAEL AND MERCAZ

Israel remains an essential part of Masorti Jewish life, even, and perhaps especially, when the conversations surrounding it are difficult.

In December 2025, 25 lay leaders travelled to Israel for an intensive educational mission, meeting people and organisations and engaging directly with some of the questions shaping Israeli and Jewish life.

Building on that experience, we established a new working group to develop Israel education across the movement, organise learning opportunities and strengthen relationships with our partners, particularly our partners in the Israeli Masorti movement.

At a time when Israel can be a source of profound connection as well as difficult disagreement, our aim is to create opportunities for serious engagement rather than simple answers.



Yom Masorti

**165 PEOPLE. 16 SESSIONS.
ONE DAY OF JEWISH JOY IN A
WORLD OF OY.**

Including 12 participants from outside Masorti communities, our annual movement gathering brought together people from across the country for leadership development, Jewish learning, prayer and celebration, strengthening connections across the movement.

This year's theme, Jewish Joy in a World of Oy, reflected the reality of Jewish life today. As one participant observed afterwards:

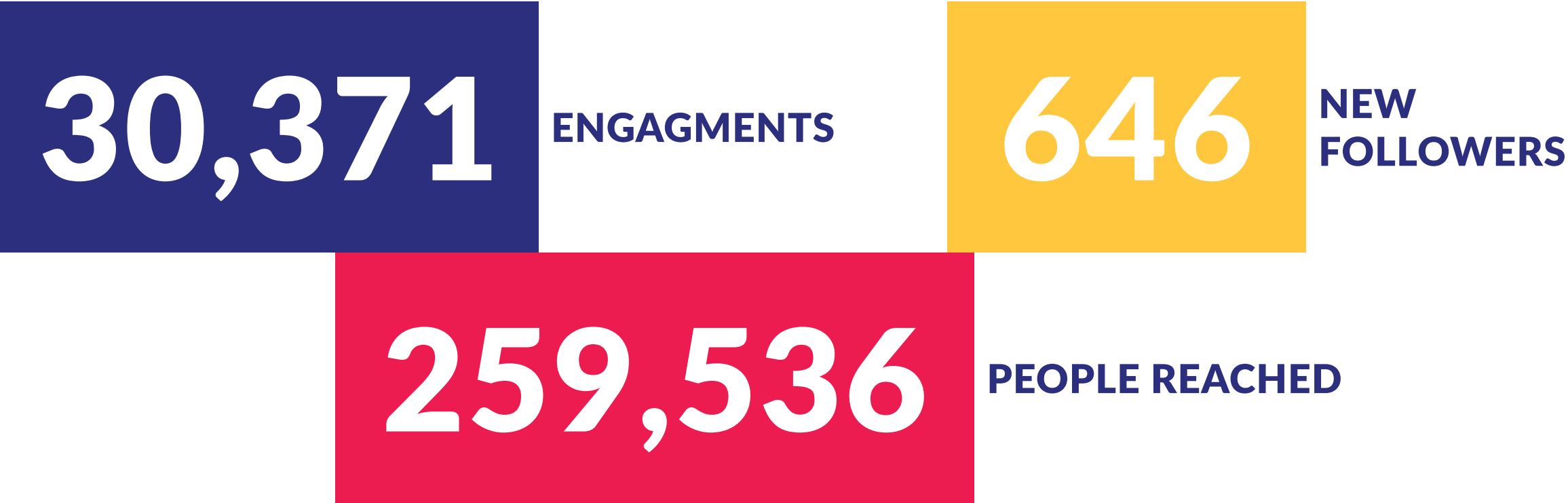
"It was quite exhausting and far from joyous at times, but there were really interesting and moving sessions."

That captured the spirit of the day perfectly. Jewish joy is not about ignoring difficulty. It is about finding meaning, connection and hope amidst it.

Sixteen sessions led by Masorti rabbis, academics, chazanim and educators explored Jewish text, Israel, music, history and creativity. The day also launched the Louis Jacobs Beit Midrash and concluded with a conversation between pioneers of the Masorti movement in the UK, reminding us how far the movement has come, and inspiring us to imagine what comes next.



Masorti Ideas reached more people



From January to mid-July 2026, Masorti Judaism’s social media generated 30,371 engagements and attracted 646 new followers, bringing our total audience to 4,867.

Our most successful content reflected the breadth of the Masorti conversation. A post from the March Against Antisemitism generated 4,324 engagements; a post exploring the halakhic journey towards women counting in a minyan generated 2,719; and a reflection on the complexity of living a halakhic life generated 1,760.

The response demonstrated an appetite not only for news from our movement, but for serious Jewish ideas, distinctive Masorti values and a confident Jewish voice in the public square.



Taking Masorti ideas further

Through the weekly Jewish Quest podcast and Masorti UK newsletter, the annual Louis Jacobs Memorial Lecture, and our rabbis regularly sharing Jewish wisdom on the BBC, Masorti Judaism continues to offer a distinctive voice in British Jewish life: intellectually serious, halakhically rooted and grounded in welcoming communities.

A PUBLIC JEWISH VOICE

Our rabbis continued to represent Masorti Judaism in the wider public sphere through broadcasting, writing, interfaith engagement and public speaking. Alongside their work within our communities, they brought Jewish wisdom into national conversations and helped articulate a distinctive Masorti voice.

As Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg

continued to be one of Britain's most respected Jewish voices. Through his books, broadcasting, interfaith work and public engagement, he has served as an ambassador for Masorti Judaism while continuing to mentor our Clei Kodesh and support communities across the movement.



Looking Ahead

The work continues. In the year ahead, we will build on what we have learned, investing in the people and institutions that will shape the next chapter of Masorti Judaism.

In practise this looks like:

- Support Aaron and the new Noam team
- Strengthen the Small Communities Bnei Mitzvah Programme
- Put our neurodiversity guidance into practice
- Continue investing in community and prayer leadership
- Develop the rabbinic and cantorial pipeline
- Explore UK-based clergy training
- Strengthen the European Masorti Bet Din
- Deepen our relationship with Israel

Our purpose

Meaningful Jewish community doesn't happen by accident. It is built through thousands of acts of participation: someone learning to lead a service, a madrich taking responsibility for a group of chanichim, a volunteer becoming a community leader, a child preparing for their bnei mitzvah, a rabbinical student preparing to serve the next generation.

It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.

Pirkei Avot 2:16
The work continues.

Our role as a movement is to make those things possible.

Masorti Judaism brings together traditional Jewish practice, serious learning, welcoming communities and a willingness to engage honestly with the questions of our time. At home in community.

That is the Jewish future we are building together.

לֹא עָלֶיךָ הַמְּלָאכָה לְגֹמֵר, וְלֹא
אַתָּה בֶּן חֹרִין לְבָטֵל מִמֶּנָּה

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And donors**

