

THE LIVERPOOL MIKVA

ORDER OF SERVICE

on the

OPENING

of the

NEW COMMUNAL MIKVA

16th May 1976. Childwall Synagogue

16th Iyar 5736

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Rabbi Plitnick and Party will then lead the
 Congregation to the Mikva where Psalm 30
 (page 16) will be recited.

Rabbi Plitnick opens Liverpool's new Mikva

LIVERPOOL'S new communal Mikva was formally opened on Sunday, May 16 by Rabbi Zalman Plitnick, former communal Rav of Liverpool who came over from Israel, where he now lives, especially for the occasion. The function attracted a remarkably large attendance of both men and women. It was a representative gathering and included distinguished religious leaders from the Manchester community.

The Mikva is in the grounds of Childwall Synagogue, having been built in one of the former classrooms of the synagogue. The opening ceremony began with the recital of the Mincha service in the synagogue, conducted by Rev. B. Kass. The verses from Psalm 119 were recited by Dayan Golditch, Dayan Krausz, Rabbi Margulies and Rabbi Posen.

The address was given by Rabbi Plitnick, who spoke of his pleasure, in meeting his Liverpool friends again, and to see and hear that the spirit of Judaism is flourishing in the city where he had served as their Rav for so long. It was good, said Rabbi Plitnick, to know that the Yeshivah was thriving and it was no coincidence that those responsible for the new Mikva were former pupils of the Yeshivah.

He hoped that a communal Rav would be appointed as soon as possible. "Liverpool needs a Rav," declared Rabbi Plitnick, but they must always remember that a Rav cannot achieve anything worthwhile without the support of the Bale Battim of the town. Although he was now living in Eretz his thoughts were often with them in Liverpool, concluded the Rabbi and he wished them well.

After the service Rabbi Plitnick lead the congregation to inspect the new Mikva. There followed a reception in the synagogue hall at which Mr. Bernard Wolfson, chairman of the Mikva committee, presided.

Thanking those institutions in Liverpool who had responded generously to their appeal for funds Mr. Wolfson said that the project had cost a lot of money and there was still a balance to be met. He was sure the community would not fail them.

They were grateful to the shoets of the city who had all contributed and also to the Nusach-Ari congregation and the trustees of Grove Street.

Special thanks were due to Childwall Synagogue who had donated the class room in which the Mikva

was built. Without the gift of that room, said Mr. Wolfson, the Mikva would never have come into existence.

It was interesting he said, and indeed to the credit of the Liverpool community that there was an unbroken tradition of a communal Mikva in the city since 1798, when the first one was opened in the basement of the synagogue in Frederick Street. Their last Mikva in Croxteth Grove had been looked after by Mr. Prins and his family since 1928; they were deserving of the community's thanks for their service.

The ladies committee of the Mikva had been responsible for the publicity they needed, and the Liverpool Jewish Gazette had been very helpful in that way too.

Thanks were due, Mr. Wolfson said, to Rabbi Dr. Norman Solomon who when in Liverpool had inspired them by his enthusiasm for the scheme. Mr. Harvey Harris had been of immense help in negotiating with the builders as had Mr. Sam Learman in keeping a watchful eye on the progress of the work. They very much appreciated the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Ian Rabinowitz in making the arrangements for the occasion.

Rabbi Posen, of Manchester, who was present at the opening, is the architect of the new Mikva and in thanking him, Mr. Wolfson spoke of Rabbi Posen as a world authority on the building of Mikva'oth. The committee of the Mikva were deeply grateful, Mr. Wolfson said, to Rabbi Plitnick not only for his enthusiastic acceptance of their invitation to him to perform the opening ceremony but also for the way

he had inspired them while he had been in Liverpool.

Mr. Arnold Austin, vice-president of the Merseyside Jewish Representative Council, deputising for Mr. N. Heller, the president, who was on a visit to Israel, made a presentation of a set of books to Rabbi Plitnick as a memento of the occasion. Mr. Austin also expressed the thanks of the community to Mr. B. Wolfson, the chairman of the Mikva committee, whose magnificent work for the scheme could not be praised too highly.

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