

Before thanking the chairman I would like to recall that in the Rosh Hashana edition of the shul magazine Jonathan associated himself with George Clooney, but only by virtue of hair colour.

However, his address to both of us was warm, charming and delivered in the rather cool, slightly laid back, charming manner that we now look forward experiencing every Shabbat at the end of service announcements

So forget hair colour only: You qualify in *all respects* as the George Clooney of all Pinner Chairs and we should all look forward to those mellifluously articulated announcements for a full six year term.

So, thank you chairman for those kind words and thank you the whole community for giving me this great honour of being Chatan Torah perhaps for me one of those life cycle events.

Like many: here tonight I have been fortunate enough to celebrate many simchas:

Weddings, Barmitzvahs, Bar mitzvahs, Anniversaries. Of course, we always share these with other family members: And I always hoped after some 30 years in Pinner: well one day someone will ask be to be one of the chatanim and that would be one simcha where I will be the focus of family attention: No sharing with other members of the family.

And look at what happened: Yet Another I have to share within the family

But it is of course great pleasure to share this occasion with my cousin.

Since Ray (Green) asked me be about being Chatan Torah 5779 I thought: Why me? What are the qualifications? What should be on the CV? How to I follow in the footsteps of the outgoing chatan Torah, Norman Terrett with his well respected credentials *including* as he has told us on a number of occasions being a trained Butlins Redcoat and being an accomplished bingo caller. Only the other night at the Succah Supper he taught us that the number 22 was not *Just* the number 22 but was in fact a gematria of the words **Quack Quack**.

Anyway I did research the qualifications needed for this title:

I read a Chatan Torah could be:

A scholar great in Torah learning: so Well I don't think I can lay claim to being the Gaon of Pinner: So I rule that out.

Another view is that Chatan Torah should be an

Eminent perhaps popular leader:

My biggest job in Pinner was Financial Representatives. Financial Representatives are not the most popular of honorary officers: So I ruled that out.

A third view is the honour goes to the

Highest bidder:

I'm scared of auctions and as some may say (unfairly I hasten to add) I'm not easy to get money out of.

So the reason must be that it's because of what the community thinks about me so: maybe in response I can say a few things about what I think about the community.

Firstly:

This is a fun community. For example : I feel ok looking slightly ridiculous at ABBA and Beatles tribute evenings, reliving my youth club days with all the other 60+s that Stan rather kindly labelled mature rather than old.

I just wish I had the hair to go with it!

So I have enjoyed being part of what for me is an entertaining community:

Secondly:

Pinner is a friendly community where we have made so many good friends. They have become the heart of our social lives. We're never short of mates to enjoy shabbatot and yomtovim with and with whom we generally schmooze around with. And, I've become particularly partial to the recently innovated male bonding nights in the Queens head. I thank all our friends for being friends. I could name them individually but I would be bound to miss some and then we'd have less friends.

Thirdly

We are also quite an adventurous community: Keen to travel to visit other communities, supportive of missions to Israel and Poland and free advert even have our own non ATOL protected tour company in ABLE Tours

Fourthly and more importantly

To me we are we are a supportive communal whole. In all the years I have been around I've heard plenty of outspoken opinions but no major bust ups or splits. We do respect and support each other, both communally and personally.

And it's been a great community to bring up a family. Simone, Andrew were babies when we moved here over 30 years ago and Danielle was born into this community. We came as middle of the road members occasionally coming to shul. But with the help of former and current community personalities we went on a journey of Jewish growth and development and those children are now part of Pinner's contribution to Jewish Continuity. So that's not just our achievement it's a community achievement. For which Estelle & I thank you.

And, Speaking of Estelle, wife and partner for nearly 35 years. I am most fortunate to have been married an amazing & loyal wife. As many of you know she is an incredible mum and grandma going to inordinate lengths to look after our children. Thank you Estelle for your all love and support over the years. And thank you again and for organising tonight's party with Marion. Of course they can't do that on their own so thanks to all our friends and helpers as well.

Sketch:

David:

So now I want to get very serious and touch on ***doctrinal matters*** and this may not be to everyone's taste

Pinner is Modern orthodox community and I would like to think I've done my bit so you the community will think of me as an innovative modern orthodox chatan Torah

After all:

I've always taken a favourable position integrating our Jewish traditions with more secular activity

I started the outreach to more esoteric communities that's modern orthodox.

I was the FR in post which started modernising the environment including this comfort inducing air conditioning.

Ray:

Hold on hold on: I did that: I installed the air con

And who do you think organised the other building modifications and installed the Cinema and worked on all the updated security work

David:

So you think you are a modernising chatan?

Ray:

Yeah I do

David:

So Maybe they should think of both of us as two modern

Chatanim