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13th Annual Louis Jacobs Memorial Lecture

“Love Your Neighbour”:
Jews, Christians, and the Meaning
of a (Very) Elusive Commandment

Sunday June 23rd at 7.15pm
– Doors open 6.45pm Middlesex University – Hendon

Rabbi Shai Held. Ph.D.

“The leader of Post Denominational Judaism and one of the most influential Rabbis in America.”

President and Dean, The Hadar Institute -
Combining the best of Yeshiva, The Jewish
Theological Seminary and University Thought.

The lecture will be preceded by Simon Eder
(Director of Friends of Louis Jacobs) interviewing
Rabbi Held about his life and impact on modern
day Judaism.



Rabbi Shai Held



Simon Eder

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**The only chance, for us, in the
UK, to hear from an inspiring
and visionary teacher, leader
and thinker, so BOOK NOW!**

Admission £12.00 in advance £15.00 at the door

Love Your Neighbour

No less a figure than Rabbi Akiva describes the mandate to “love your neighbor as yourself” as “the great principle of the Torah.” But what does the verse actually mean, and what are we being asked for?

In this lecture, we'll examine the history of Jewish interpretation of Leviticus 19:18 and ask: is the commandment about emotion, action, or both? If actions, what kind? If emotion, can emotion really be commanded? (The commandment is so elusive that Rabbi Louis Jacobs appears to change his mind about it over the course of his career.) Who is my neighbor anyway? We'll also explore the different ways Jews and Christians have traditionally read the verse and ask what the two traditions and their respective approaches can learn from one another.

Rabbi Shai Held is the founder and chair of Jewish Thought at Mechon Hadar in New York - an institute for Prayer, Personal Growth and Jewish Study. He earned his PhD from Harvard University in Religious Studies. He attended both Orthodox and Conservative yeshivot, gaining his Rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. In 2011 Shai was awarded the Covenant Award for excellence in Jewish education. David Ellenson then-president of Hebrew Union College, wrote in a letter of support that “Rabbi Held could easily have a career as a professor at Harvard or Yale, but has chosen instead to live his life ‘in the trenches,’ helping a generation of Jews take hold of their birthright and find ways to make Judaism meaningful, compelling, and sustaining in the twenty-first century. Held’s first book was *Abraham Joshua Heschel: The Call of Transcendence* and his most recent is *The Heart of Torah*, a two volume set of his written sermons.



Getting to the Middlesex University

The Quad Theatre (Room CG76)

The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BT

Buses 143, 183, 32,

Hendon Central Underground

Parking in Streets around

Possible parking in University Car park

Church End

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