



ENJOYING a reception at Princes Road Synagogue, from left: Paul Corrie, Jill Scales, the Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis, Robin Makin, Stephanie Wilson and Shirley Makin



SARA Radivan, Jeremy Wolfson, Anne Robinson and Robin Makin during the Grand Civic Event in St George's Hall



THE Chief Rabbi is flanked at Princes Road Synagogue by Rabbis Ariel Abel and Shlomo Katania



SIR Ephraim Mirvis unveils a plaque commemorating the site of Liverpool's first synagogue. Left is Robin Makin and right, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Richard Kemp

# Civic event starts shul's 6-month heritage season

**LIVERPOOL** Old Hebrew Congregation, Princes Road, launched its six-month heritage season with a Grand Civic Event on Sunday at St George's Hall, to mark its 150th anniversary.

Lord Mayor Councillor Richard Kemp praised the "great service" Jews have given to the city, recalling that Liverpool had the first organised Jewish community in the north-west, which remained the case until the 19th century.

He mentioned Liverpool's first Jewish Lord Mayor, Charles Mozley, who assumed office in 1863 and stopped anti-Jewish riots.

In a video message, the historian Simon Sebag Montefiore referenced his great-great-grandfather Joseph Sebag who, in 1874,

donated five guineas to the Hebrew Ladies bazaar.

He added that his great-great-uncle Moses Montefiore had contacted the synagogue urging it to keep good records.

Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis described Princes Road Synagogue as "one of those magnificent buildings which has the wow factor . . . but that is only there for the sake of bringing God into our hearts and our lives".

He added: "It's people who count. The heart of our Jewish community is not the building. The heart of our Jewish community is people."

Metro mayor Steve Rotherham highlighted the Jewish community's "vital contribution to the very spirit of our people", adding in reference to the recent riots in Southport: "We need to make it absolutely clear that

racism and anti-semitism have no place."

Diversity, he said, was always Liverpool's greatest strength.

Other speakers included Dame Louise Ellman, whose husband Geoffrey was a trustee of the synagogue, Lee Kendall, an art historian, who said that Princes Road was "one of the most beautiful and spiritual buildings in Liverpool", and shul chairman Alison Cohen.

Robin Makin, who also spoke, organised all the heritage events.

Internationally acclaimed cellist Prof Hannah Roberts performed, along with Cantor David Rome.

The Chief Rabbi later unveiled a plaque in Liverpool's Metro Quarter marking the site of the first synagogue built in about 1745 by Joseph Clegg, and the community's first burial ground.



LEFT: The Chief Rabbi greets a guest at Princes Road Synagogue. ABOVE: He chats with Metro mayor Steve Rotherham and Alison McGovern MP. BELOW: Sir Ephraim addresses the audience at St George's Hall

