



IN LOVING MEMORY

In Loving Memory of Solomon Goldberg

18th April 1940 – 3rd February 2025

10 Nisan 5700 AM – 5 Shevat 5785 AM

Watchmaker, Warden, Scholar, Mensch



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Solomon Goldberg was born on 18 April 1940 in Cheetham Hill, Manchester, the only son of Rivka and Nathan Goldberg, who had arrived from Kaunas in 1936 with a watchmaker's toolkit and very little else. He grew up in the tight weave of the Manchester Jewish community, attended Manchester Grammar School on scholarship, and qualified as a watchmaker under his father's instruction before opening his own shop — Goldberg & Son Horologists — on Bury New Road in 1966. The shop became a neighbourhood institution and remained open until Solomon's retirement in 2008.

He served the Prestwich Hebrew Congregation as warden for thirty-one years, a role he discharged with characteristic diligence and dry humour. He sat on the bimah with the quiet authority of a man who had read the entire siddur so many times he could be in two places at once — present in prayer and watchful over the congregation simultaneously. He was known as the person you went to with a problem, because he would listen properly, give you his honest view, and then point out the thing you had not thought of. This service was free but he accepted cake.

In 1965 he married Ruth Fischer, who remains the most important decision of his life, as he said at their golden anniversary. They had two children, Rachel and Daniel. He was a grandfather of four and a great-grandfather of one, who arrived just in time for him to hold.

Solomon passed away on 3 February 2025 at Prestwich. He is survived by Ruth, Rachel, Daniel, and all who loved him. Baruch Dayan HaEmet.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Passing of Solomon Goldberg — Shiva Details

yasin · 7 June 2026

The family of Solomon Goldberg announce with great sorrow his passing on 3 February 2025. Baruch Dayan HaEmet. Solomon was 84. Shiva will be observed at the family home in Prestwich. The family ask that visitors bring themselves and their memories. Donations in Solomon's memory may be made to the Manchester Jewish Museum or to the synagogue's scholarship fund, which he supported quietly for many years.

EVENT

Shiva — All Welcome

yasin · 7 June 2026

When: 5 February 2025, 10:00am — 11 February 2025, 8:00pm

Where: 14 Waterpark Road, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 0GE

The family will observe Shiva at the family home. Friends, former colleagues, and members of the congregation are welcome throughout the week. Food will be provided. Ruth would be very pleased to see familiar faces.

EULOGY

For My Father

Rachel Goldstein · 7 June 2026

My father was a watchmaker by trade, which means he spent his working life taking apart something that looks simple and revealing it to be extraordinarily complex. He brought the same approach to people. He was interested in how they worked. He did not make assumptions. He asked questions, listened to the answers, and treated the answer as information rather than confirmation of what he already thought. This is rarer in a person than it ought to be.

He was also, and this perhaps surprised people who did not know him well, very funny. A dry, patient, surgical humour that arrived when you were least expecting it and departed before you were sure you had heard it right. He deployed it most lethally in the synagogue committee, where it served as a pressure-release valve for situations that might otherwise have become arguments.

He loved Ruth with an uncomplicated wholeness that their children found extremely instructive. He said she was the only person he had ever met who was reliably right about things that mattered, and he had learned to listen accordingly. He said this in front of her often. She always pretended to be exasperated by it. She was not.

He held his great-granddaughter Lila, who was six weeks old, three times before he died. He said she had very good timing. She did.

MEMORY

Shabbat at Waterpark Road

Rachel Goldstein · 7 June 2026

Friday evening at my parents' house had a particular quality I have never fully been able to describe. By six o'clock the house smelled of soup and the table was set and the candles were ready and something in the atmosphere had shifted — the week was receding and something quieter was arriving. Dad would come in from the shop, still in his work clothes, and twenty minutes later he would be at the table in a clean shirt looking like a different person. The kiddush in his voice. The same blessing, every week, for fifty years. That is not nothing.

MEMORY

What He Said About Watches

David Levi · 7 June 2026

I brought Solomon a watch once that had belonged to my grandfather, a pocket watch that had stopped working. He opened the back of it, looked at the movement for a long time without speaking, and then said: "Your grandfather took good care of this. You can tell." He repaired it and refused payment. He said some work you do because it's the right work to do. I have thought about that many times since.

MEMORY

Thirty Years in the Same Pew

David Levi · 7 June 2026

Solomon sat in the same seat in the synagogue for as long as anyone could remember. You could set your watch by him, which was appropriate. He arrived before anyone else, he stayed after most had left, and in between he was absolutely present — not performatively devout, but genuinely elsewhere. I have sat near him for twenty years and I never saw him distracted. It was instructive simply to be in his presence.

MEMORY

The Way He Listened

Miriam Katz · 7 June 2026

I had a very difficult period about fifteen years ago, the kind you do not talk about easily. I went to Solomon not because I had any particular plan but because I trusted him. He listened to the whole thing without interrupting, which took some time. Then he asked me one question — not a fixing question, a clarifying one — that unlocked something I had been unable to see. I have no idea how he knew to ask it. I think he was simply paying attention in a way most people are not.

CONDOLENCE

From the Prestwich Hebrew Congregation

Rachel Goldstein · 7 June 2026

The Prestwich Hebrew Congregation mourns the loss of Solomon Goldberg, our warden and friend for over thirty years. He gave this community his time, his wisdom and his whole attention. He will be deeply missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Ruth, Rachel, Daniel and the grandchildren. Hamakom yenachem etchem b'toch shaar avlei tziyon virushalayim.

CONDOLENCE

From the Bury New Road Community

David Levi · 7 June 2026

Goldberg & Son was not just a watch shop. For anyone who grew up in this part of Manchester, it was a fixture — a place where things were mended properly, and where you might leave fifteen minutes later than intended because Solomon had asked you something interesting. The stretch of road will feel different without it. We grieve with the family.

PRAYER

El Malei Rachamim

Rachel Goldstein · 7 June 2026

O God, full of compassion, who dwells on high, grant perfect rest beneath the wings of the Divine Presence, in the exalted spheres of the holy and pure, who shine as the brightness of the firmament, to the soul of Solomon, son of Nathan, who has gone to his eternal home. May he rest in peace, and let us say: Amen.

CONDOLENCE

A note from someone he helped

7 June 2026

I am not going to identify myself because this is between me and Solomon, in a way, and I think he would prefer it stayed that way. Thirty years ago I was struggling badly and I went to him — not for practical reasons, simply because he seemed like the kind of person who would not be frightened by the truth. He was not. He helped me in a way that cost him time and effort and he never mentioned it to anyone as far as I know. He deserves to be remembered for all his public service but also for the private kind, which was, I suspect, considerably greater.

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