



# קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

*Shabbos 7 June 2008/ 4 Sivan 5768*

## *Service Times*

Shacharis	9.00 am
Pre-Shabbos Minchah Shiur	8.05 pm
Minchah followed by Seudah	8.50 pm
Ma'ariv & Shabbos ends	10.19 pm
Shabbos next week	7.30 pm

We are just a day away from **Shavuos** which begins tomorrow evening. It is ironic that Shavuos is such a little-known holiday because, in fact, it commemorates the single most important event in Jewish history – the giving of the Torah at Har Sinai. The giving of the Torah was an event of awesome proportions that indelibly stamped the Jewish nation with a unique character, faith and destiny. And in the 3,300 years since this event, Torah ideals - monotheism, justice, responsibility -- have become the moral basis for Western civilisation. Celebrate at Clayhall with our **Tikun Leil Shavuos** tomorrow evening and our **ice cream Kiddush** on the first day, Monday 9 June. (Details inside)

## *Torah Reading*

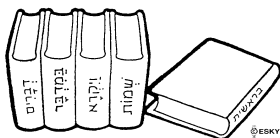
Leyning: Naso  
Hertz p 586, Soncino p 814

Haftorah:  
Hertz p 602, Soncino p 835

*Rabbi Nissan Wilson*

*Lester Harris*

In addition to support needed for the Shacharis services, we also require extra help with Tuesday and Wednesday evenings for Minchah and Ma'ariv.



*This week's Clayhall Kehilla is kindly sponsored by Ivor Lethbridge in loving memory of his father, David Lefcovitch*

**Children's & Youth Service:** 10.30 am - 11.30 am

### ***Weekday Services***

Shacharis: Monday to Friday, 7.00 am. Sunday @ 8.15 am.

Shacharis Rosh Chodesh: 6.45 am Monday to Friday.

Shacharis Rosh Chodesh: 8.00 am Sundays.

Minchah: 1.45 pm, Monday to Thursday.

Minchah & Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sunday breakfasts: 6th July & 3rd August.

### ***Ice Cream Kiddush***

Clayhall Children and Youth (CCY) invites the community to a colourful ice cream Kiddush after the service on 1st day Shavuot, Monday 9 June. You can select from different flavoured ice creams, marshmallows, haribos, sprinkles and other sweet and sugary delights. The customary cheesecake will naturally be an annual favourite. We look forward to seeing everyone wide awake after the Tikun.

### ***Fun Footie & Beefy BBQ***

The inaugural Clayhall Shul 5-a-side Football Tournament takes place on **Sunday 22 June 2008** on the amazing RJCC AstroTurf. Open to all men and boys over 12, you can prove your soccer prowess by dazzling stunned spectators with your silky skills. Afterwards, why not enjoy a succulent big beefy BBQ at the home of Rabbi & Rebbetsen Wilson? Application forms have just been sent out in the Shul mailing with full cost details. Please do your best to support this event whether by playing, watching or eating! Bringing Euro2008 to your backyard!

### ***Shavuot Times***

#### **Sunday 8th June**

Minchah followed by

Ma'ariv 7.30 pm

Tikkun Leil Shavuot 11.45 pm

#### **Monday 9th June (Day 1)**

Shacharis 1st Minyan 3.50 am

Shacharis 2nd Minyan 9.00 am

Minchah followed by

Maariv 7.15 pm

*Do not light candles until 10.21 pm*

#### **Tuesday 10th June (Day 2)**

Shacharis 9.00 am

Minchah 9.00pm

followed by a Shiur

Ma'ariv/ Yom Tov ends 10.22 pm

### ***Contemporary Series***

The dates have been changed and they are now as follows:

Tuesday 17 June: *Stem Cell Research* @ chez Segall.

Tuesday 24 June: *The Lost Ten Tribes* @ chez Lyndon (junior!)

Tuesday 8 July: *The Divine Origin of the Torah* @ chez TBC.

The evening begins at 8.30 pm followed by questions and answers, and refreshments.

## ***Eat, Drink & Learn the Night away!***

Clayhall's **Tikun Leil Shavuos** is always one of the highlights of the year. Fine single malts, lashings of gorgeous cheesecake, other edible delights and some great home-grown and inspiring words of Torah provide the perfect mix for a terrific night-out! We are delighted that Freda & Leslie Pollock will be hosting the Tikun on **tomorrow evening** from **11.45 pm** until the wee small hours. Rabbi Wilson's keynote talk is **"It's My Life": The Parameters of 'Honour Your Parents.'** The more that come, the greater the ruach (spirit) and atmosphere. If you would like to present a D'var Torah, be it two minutes or twenty (there's a hint there somewhere!), please speak to either Rabbi Wilson or Lester. If you've never been to a Tikun before, you won't be disappointed. We shall daven Shacharis at about 4.00 am. For those not too nocturnal, the Shavuos morning service will be repeated at 9.00am! The custom for the Tikun Leil Shavuos has its source in the *Zohar*: 'Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai would toil in the study of Torah on the night when the bride (Israel) is united with her groom (G-d and the Torah)...Rabbi Shimon and his group would rejoice in the joy of Torah and each one of them would seek new insights into it.

**We recite Yizkor on the 2nd day of Shavuos, Tuesday 10 June. This takes place after leynung and it will start at about 10.45 am.**

### ***Shabbos Shiur***

Rabbi Wilson's popular pre-Shabbos Minchah Shiur continues today at 8.05 pm. Based on the Maharal of Prague's 'Tiferes Yisrael', Rabbi Wilson will be focusing on a philosophical analysis of the Torah with specific reference to Matan Torah (the Giving of the Torah) as we approach Shavuos. The Shiur will always commence 45 minutes before Minchah.

### ***Clayhall Community Shabbaton***

**Rabbi Danny Kirsch**, founder and director of the 'Jewish Learning Exchange' is Clayhall's outstanding guest speaker at our annual Shabbaton on **12 July 2008**. Including a hot cholent and buffet Kiddush, a Community Shabbos lunch and finishing with ice creams all round, this is a not-to-be-missed event. **'Mission Impossible: A History of the Outreach Movement'** is Rabbi Kirsch's keynote address before lunch. His second talk is called **"What we 'owe' our children."** There will also be special programmes for young people.

### ***Shavuos Greenery***

We decorate the Shul on Shavuos with flowers because Har Sinai was surrounded by foliage during Matan Torah. This custom also is a reminder that Shavuos, when fruits of the trees begin to ripen, is a time of Heavenly judgement regarding the coming fruit harvest; a time of judgement demands a heightened level of prayer.

## ***Kohanim Priests by Rabbi Yehudah Appel***

A prominent member of a Shul said to his rabbi, "I would like to become a Kohen." The rabbi, careful to avoid offending the congregant, respectfully declined. "Rabbi," said the man, "if you make me a Kohen, I'll contribute \$25,000 to the synagogue." Still, the Rabbi refused. "Alright -- I'll make it \$50,000!" Uncomfortably, the rabbi still had to decline. "Final offer: \$100,000. Take the money and make me a Kohen, or else I'll quit the synagogue! Stalling for time, the rabbi asked the man why he wanted to become a Kohen. "It's simple," the man said, "my father was a Kohen, my grandfather was a Kohen ... I want to be a Kohen, too."

In the times of the Holy Temple, the hereditary status was something that was proudly preserved by the Kohanim, the priestly families. The Kohanim had the responsibility of conducting the service in G-d's Temple, and acting as spiritual leaders of the people. Since the Temple's destruction, the opportunities available for Kohanim to serve the nation have diminished considerably. Nowadays, the only time a Kohen really fulfills this role is in performing a Pidyon HaBen, and reciting the priestly blessing, which is found in this week's Torah portion, Naso:

*"May G-d bless you and keep you.*

*May G-d shine his countenance upon you and be gracious to you.*

*May G-d raise his countenance upon you and give you peace."*

The Ohr HaChaim explains the first verse to mean that the quantity of success bestowed upon you should be so great that it needs special guarding. The second verse is a blessing that we should be very close to G-d, and be infused with the drive to do good. The final verse affirms the hope that all impediments we have caused in our relationship with G-d should be put aside, and that we should attain true peace through our wholeness with G-d. Today, it has become the custom for parents to use these beautiful words to bless their children every Friday night at the Shabbos table.

It is perhaps not coincidental that the oldest archaeological discovery of a biblical verse were the words of the priestly blessing found on an amulet, dating back 2,500 years. Today, this blessing is recited by the Kohanim at the daily morning service in Israel, and on Chagim in the Diaspora. The actual procedure of the priestly blessing, however, involves more than the simple utterance of words. Indeed, in Jewish mystical tradition, the positioning of the Kohen's hands during the blessing is as important as the words themselves. The fingers of the Kohen are actually aligned in such a way as to represent G-d's ineffable name. Moreover, the right hand (which represents kindness) is to be slightly elevated above the left hand (representing judgment). All this is designed to draw G-d's presence down upon the congregation. The priestly blessing contains sixty letters, which represents the 60 myriads (600,000 people) who stood at Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah. These correspond to the 600,000 prototype souls that were said to exist in creation. When the Kohanim recite the blessing -- with 60 letters -- then blessing is brought upon every Jew.

***Clayhall United Synagogue***

*Sinclair House, Woodford Bridge Road,*

*Redbridge, Essex, IG4 5LN*

*Tel: 020 8551 6533 e-mail: clayhallsynagogue@hotmail.com*

*www.clayhallsynagogue.org.uk*