



קליהל קהלה



The weekly newsheet of Clayhall United Synagogue

Shabbos 12 December 2009/ 25 Kislev 5770

Service Times (Shabbos Chanukah & Shabbos Mevarachim)

Shacharis	9.00 am
Minchah followed by Seudah Shlishis	3.30 pm
Shabbos ends	4.45 pm
Shabbos next week	3.36 pm

This Shabbos is the first day of **Chanukah**. The darkness of Greek culture, dominated by the worship of the physical body, was expunged by the bright lights of the ragged, disparate Jewish Hasmonean army. The few defeated the many; the weak wiped out the strong. Have a joyful, meaningful & fantastic Chanukah. Tomorrow is our monthly smoked salmon and beigel breakfast followed by **Dads n'Lads football**. Davening begins at **8.00 am**, a little earlier because of the longer Chanukah service. Please make a diary note of 23rd January for our annual **Melava Malkah**. Details are about to be sent out and there is more information overleaf. It promises to be an entertaining evening.

Torah Reading

Leyning: Vayeshev

Hertz p 141 Soncino p 229

Maftir: Bamidbar 7:1-17 H 596, S 826

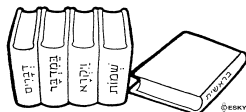
Haftorah:

Hertz p 987, Soncino p 857

Rabbi Nissan Wilson

Hermi Rothman

This morning at 10.30, Naomi Harris and Ian Grant will be leading the Children's Service. This afternoon, the second KidZone takes place from 3.00 pm until 5.00 pm. More details inside.



This week's Clayhall Kehilla has been kindly sponsored by Estele and Gordon Miller in loving memory of Cyril Barnett and Joel Benjamin Miller

Children's Service: 10.30am - 11.15am (today)
Youth Service: 10.30am - 11.15am (next, 19 December)

Weekday Services

Shacharis: Monday & Thursday, 6.50 am. Sunday @ 8.15 am.

Shacharis: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 7.00 am.

Shacharis Rosh Chodesh: 6.40 am Monday-Friday, Sundays 8.00 am.

Ma'ariv: 7.30 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Sunday breakfasts: 13 December (Chanukah) & 17 January

KidZone

Launched last month for all children from Reception to Year 6, ***KidZone*** is an exciting 90 minutes of fun, parachute games, drama, basketball, table tennis, Jewish experience and loads of nosh! It will run from 3.30 pm until 5.00 pm for once a month initially. Led by **Naomi Harris** and **Ian Grant**, your children will have a fantastic time. For more information, contact Deana in the Shul office or join the Clayhall Shul Facebook Group. The following two ***KidZone*** dates are Shabbos afternoons of **12 December** and **9 January 2010**. Further details will be sent out about future events nearer the time.

Dads & Lads Football

Young Clayhall presents the next two fixture dates for the popular Dads' n'Lads Football. Come and join us on Sunday mornings, **13 December** and **17 January** when the action kicks off with Shacharis at 8.15 am.

Chanukah Service Times

We will be davening Shacharis 15 minutes earlier at 6.45 am from Monday through to Friday next week. Please make every effort to support the Minyan especially during this week when we are leynung each day.

Volunteers Wanted!

Clayhall is searching for new volunteers to assist in a number of different activities. Where appropriate training will be provided by professionals at the United Synagogue.

- * Shopping for members who are not well
- * Taking people to hospital, dentist, and optician appointments
- * Befriending
- * Helping with Shul mailings.

If you can spare one or two hours a week, Colin Emden would love to hear from you. Please contact the Shul office.

Rosh Chodesh Group

The next ladies Rosh Chodesh meeting takes place on **Thursday 22 December 2009** at 8.30 pm at the home of Rebbetsen Wilson, 19 Lakeside Avenue. The guest speaker is **Rebbetsen Eva Chapper** who will be talking on "*The Ripple effect.*" All ladies are warmly welcomed and refreshments will, of course, be served.

Young Clayhall

In the recent Shul mailing, some very colourful posters were included to promote a range of different youth activities at Clayhall Synagogue. Among some of the suggested events and ideas for 2010 are:

- ⇒ *Bowling*
- ⇒ *Quasar*
- ⇒ *Ducktours*
- ⇒ *Sponsored bike ride*
- ⇒ *Paintballing*
- ⇒ *Skeet weekend*

If any of these ideas interest you, we want to hear it! Please contact Stuart Goldman on stuey45@hotmail.co.uk or the Shul office on 020 8551 6533, clayhallsynagogue@hotmail.com. We want you to join in and have fun.

Project Chesed

This Chanukah, Project Chesed is collecting toys and baby goods primarily for the **Tikva Children's homes in Odessa, Ukraine**. Tikva cares for local homeless, abused and abandoned Jewish children who otherwise would lack love, care and a home to call their own. A toy from you may well be their first experience of a gift.

Please have a search through your house for any good quality toys that no one now plays with. Alternatively, please buy an extra pack of nappies or some wipes when you are next out shopping to donate. **Clayhall Synagogue** is your local collection point. Just drop off items to the Shul office and Project Chesed will do the rest. Speak to Deana for more details. Project Chesed is a United Synagogue/LSJS initiative.

Chanukah Fun

Clayhall Synagogue together with Redbridge JCC have pleasure in inviting our children and youth to celebrate Chanukah on two fun filled nights. Better still this event is entirely FREE sponsored by CLASS (Clayhall Ladies Association). They take place on **Wednesday 16th** for 8-11 year olds from 5.00 to 7.30pm and on **Thursday 17th** for 4-7 years from 4pm to 5.45 pm, & then Year 7 plus from 7pm to 9pm.

Melava Malka

Clayhall's Melava Malka takes place on Saturday evening, **23 January 2010**. We are honoured that **Dayan Abraham** will be our guest speaker while the excellent **Gedalya Alexander** will provide the musical entertainment. Put the date in your diary. More details to follow very shortly in the mailing.

Three Targets (adapted from the Artscroll Mesorah Series)

The Syrian-Greek bearers of Yapheth's blessing imposed their culture on Israel and attempted to destroy its allegiance to G-d. They defiled the Temple and chose three mitzvos as their prime targets: Shabbos, Rosh Chodesh (blessing of the New Moon) and Bris Mila (Circumcision).

Shabbos is the eternal witness that in 6 days G-d Created "*Yesh May'ayin*" existence from absolute nothingness, and He rested on the seventh. If G-d is the eternal Creator and continuous Resuscitator of the universe, and if His Torah formed the blueprint and formula for the existence and purpose of Creation, then Greek culture would have to stand aside and bow humbly. This, they could not countenance.

Rosh Chodesh is the symbol of man's obligation to instill holiness into time, for when the Sanhedrin proclaims Rosh Chodesh, it makes possible the time-related festivals like Rosh Hashanah and Pesach that cannot exist without a calendar. Man's power to announce the New Moon proves that time, the symbol of nature's tyranny over man, can be subjugated. Antiochus had to fight this concept, for it meant that culture had value only as a means toward a higher purpose.

Bris Mila demonstrates that the physical and the spiritual must be intertwined. The body must bear the mark of allegiance to G-d's covenant, the restraining mark that says, "You are a servant, not a master; you are host to a soul and you must elevate yourself to its exalted level. Beauty and pleasure are not the independent virtues Antiochus says they are. They are regulated by the Torah or they are nothing."

A world without a Creator, a calendar without holiness, a body without restraint - these were the goals of a culture that had accepted the gifts but not the goals of Noach's blessing to Yapheth, a culture of grace and splendour covering a corrosive emptiness. To this had the potential of Yapheth's beauty been pulled down.

Small wonder that the Midrash comments that the primeval darkness signifies "*Yavan, Greece.*" A tragic miscarriage of purpose! Greece should have placed its culture at the service of Shem, used it to help provide a glorious dwelling place for the Divine Presence. Except, its splendour became darkness. Of all the periods described as exiles, only that of Greece took place while Israel was in its land and the Temple stood. Thus, in a sense it was the most damaging kind of exile for it happened when Israel's potential for greatness was highest, when it could have illuminated the world, especially since the vaults of the Oral Law had been opened wide. Over this splendour, Antiochus cast his impure pall. This was darkness.

And this was why the victory of the Hasmoneans was symbolised both at the time and in our annual celebration by the flames of the Menorah, the glow of Torah, the spiritual presence that lit up the tents of Shem - whether they are on the Temple Mount or in the humblest Jewish home that holds the Torah sacred.

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