



Times of Services

Friday 25 November

Shabbat begins: 3.45 pm

Mincha/

Kabbalat Shabbat: 3.30 pm

Shabbat 26 November

Shacharit: 9.30 am

Haftarah: Ben Kosky

Shabbat ends: 4.51 pm

Sunday 27 November

Shacharit: 8.40 am

Thursday 1 December

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Shacharit 8.20am

Friday 2 December

Shabbat begins: 3.39 pm

Mincha/

Kabbalat Shabbat: 3.30 pm

Reading the Haftarah

If you would like to read



Haftarah to mark a special event or just to make your personal contribution to

the service, please contact Brian Robinson, who will be delighted to help with any preparation or revision.

Sponsoring an Event



If you are celebrating a Simcha or commemorating a family Yahrzeit, or if you are just feeling

generous, please consider sponsoring a Shabbat morning Kiddush, Seudah or Sunday morning breakfast. Contact Joan Michaels: 020 8579 4261.

AJR—Meets the 1st Tuesday in every month at 2.00 pm. Contact Leslie Sommer: 020 8993 7574.

Israeli Dancing!



Tuesday evenings, 8.00 pm at Ealing United Synagogue, Grange Road.

Sunday mornings, 10.30 am at Ealing Liberal Synagogue, Lynton Avenue. All welcome. Nominal charge of £1.00.

In the event of a bereavement, in the first instance please contact the

Burial Office : 020 8950 7767.

Rabbi Hershi Vogel: 07970 829758

Brian Robinson: 020 8567 6558

Ealing Synagogue

שבת שלום

Friday 25 November 2016/Shabbat 25 Cheshvan 5777

Sidra: Chaye Sarah



MAZAL TOV

To **Sybil and Peter Sabel** on the engagement of their granddaughter **Natasha**, daughter of Sara and Gerald Isaac, to Sam Freeman, son of Sharon and Howard Freeman of Pinner. The Ealing community extends a hearty Mazal Tov to all the family on this special occasion.

EALING SYNAGOGUE'S MITZVAH DAY TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

Ealing Synagogue hosted residents and carers of the St David's Home and Chestnut Lodge for tea on Tuesday 22 November. Thanks must go to Ella Marks and Leslie Sommer for organising the afternoon, to everyone who helped prepare and serve tea, and to Pat Weston and her backing singers for the entertainment. A very enjoyable and fun afternoon.



Ealing Synagogue is collecting food for the Ealing Food Bank and clothing for Emmaus House for the Homeless in Acton.

Tins of food, jars of peanut butter, bottled sauces such as tomato sauce, mayonnaise, Marmite and food spreads are particularly requested. Clothing should be in good condition. Socks and underwear are especially needed, as well as warm outer clothing.

Please bring any items to the synagogue by Sunday 27 November. Please do not leave them outside the synagogue premises.

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18th November 2016

Dear Marianne

Wow!

I have been overwhelmed by the success of the remarkable activities by communities across the UK for this year's ShabbatUK.

Our experience over the past two years has taught us that ordinary isn't good enough for our communities – we can achieve the extraordinary.

This is exactly what you have done over the past week and I cannot thank you and your teams of volunteers enough for what you have done to ensure ShabbatUK's success.

So many people selflessly invested talent, energy and time to deliver the largest ShabbatUK so far and I deeply appreciate everything you have done.

May you be blessed to enjoy the wonderful fruits of all of your endeavours and may we as a UK Jewish community only go from strength to strength.

With warm regards and very best wishes,

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

FOURTH EDITION / ISSUE 5

26th November 2016 **CHAYEI SARAH** **25th Cheshvan**
5775

Kohen - First Aliya:

Chapter 23, verses 1-16

- ✚ Sarah died at the age of hundred and twenty seven in Hebron.
- ✚ A mourning Avraham (Abraham) meets up with the children of Heth to get their permission to buy 'the cave of machpelah' from Ephron as a burial plot for Sarah.
- ✚ Ephron wanted to give the cave to Avraham for free, but Avraham insists on paying for it. They both agree on the price of 400 shekels.

Levi - Second Aliya:

Chapter 23, verse 17- Chapter 24, verse 9

- ✚ The sale of the cave was finalised in the presence of the children of Heth.
- ✚ Avraham buries Sarah in the cave which later became the burial place of all our patriarchs and matriarchs apart from Rachel.
- ✚ Eliezer, Avraham's most trusted servant is sent out to Avraham's birth place Charan to find a suitable wife for Yitzchak (Isaac). Eliezer is made to swear an oath that the prospective bride must be willing to come back with him because under no circumstances is Yitzchak allowed to leave his birth place, the land of Canaan.

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya:

Chapter 24, verses 10-26

- ✚ Upon arrival to Charan, Eliezer rests at a well and prays to Hashem, requesting that whichever girl who comes to the well and offers to draw water from the well for his camels, would become Yitzchak's future wife.
- ✚ Rivkah (Rebecca) the daughter of Bethuel arrives at the well and draws water to quench the thirst of Eliezer's camels.
- ✚ As a reward Eliezer gives Rivkah a gold ring and two bracelets. He reveals to Rivkah the purpose of his mission and how Hashem had answered his prayer by sending her to him.

R'VI'I - Fourth Aliya:

Chapter 24, verses 27 - 52

- ✚ Rivkah leads Eliezer to the house of her father and is greeted also by her brother Laban.
- ✚ Upon showering both Bethuel and Laban with more jewellery and gems, Eliezer asks permission and receives their consent for Rivkah's hand in marriage to Yitzchak.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya:

Chapter 24, verses 53 - 67

- ✚ Eliezer returns back to Hebron with Rivkah and introduces her to Yitzchak who escorts her back to his late mother, Sarah's, tent.
- ✚ Rivkah's presence comforts Yitzchak and his mourning for his beloved mother comes to an end.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya:

Chapter 25, verses 1-11

- ✚ Avraham marries another wife, Keturah (Various Midrashim believe this was Hagar, Sarah's former maidservant and mother of Ishmael), and bores him six more children whom later become the descendants of many of the Arab nations we know today.
- ✚ Avraham dies at the age of 175 and is buried alongside Sarah in the cave of Machpelah'
- ✚ Yitzchak becomes sole beneficiary of Avraham's acquired land, property and possessions.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya:

Chapter 25, verses 12 -18

- ✚ The generations of Ishmael who died at the age of 137 is recorded here.
- ✚
- ✚

Haftarah – 1st BOOK OF KINGS Chapter 1 verses 1 to Chapter 31

OVERVIEW:

- ✦ Dovid Hamelech (King David) was nearing the end of his life and despite his expressed wishes that his son Shlomo (Solomon) will succeed him as king. Dovid's son Adoniahu recruits two influential men to help prepare his own ascension to the throne instead.
- ✦ The prophet Nathan encourages Bat Sheva, the mother of Shlomo, to approach Dovid Ha'melech and plead with him to reaffirm his choice of Shlomo as his successor.
- ✦ Mentioning Adoniahu recent actions of which the king had been unaware. Dovid acceded to Bat Sheva's request and swore an oath that Shlomo will indeed reign the land of Israel on his passing and will sit on his throne in his stead.

SNAPSHOT GUIDE TO THE SIDDUR: Birchos HaShachar part 4

- ✦ The next two blessings: 'Releases the bound' and 'Straightens the bent' literally relates to restoring our strength back to our bodies giving us the ability to move and perform our physical functions throughout the day.
- ✦ The whole world is floating on a bed of water that is covered with molten metal and hence constantly moving. The ninth beracha reflects this and is thanking Hashem for making the land secure, making it safe for us to walk upon.
- ✦ The intention of the tenth beracha 'Providing us with my needs' is thanking Hashem for giving us all the basic tools, enabling us to go out into the world and fulfil our own personal mission in life both physically by performing mitzvot and spiritually by learning and absorbing Torah.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION:

One of the things that really stood out throughout the whole torah is its primary and central themes of love, loyalty and faith. This week's sedra is no exception. Avraham's chief servant Eliezer of Damascus, allegiance and faith towards his master is nothing short of remarkable. Think about it, if Yitzchak hadn't been born, Eliezer would have become Avraham's heir. Any lesser man would have resented Yitzchak as someone who had gotten in the way of his future prosperity; and having been charged with the mission of finding Yitzchak a wife, could have easily out of spite or revenge really messed things up and fail to suit his own gains. Yet to his credit, there is no hint of any schemes or wrong attitude of this nature. Eliezer is totally loyal to both Avraham and to Yitzchak. More than that, Eliezer demonstrated wholeheartedly his full committal to his task at hand and his legitimate concerns of what would happen if the girl he chose refused to return back to Canaan with him as stipulated.

By instructing Eliezer that under no circumstance was Yitzchak to go back to the land from which Hashem first revealed himself. Avraham was also validating his belief and faith in Hashem. There were two parts to Avraham's adamant stance on this criterion. Firstly, Avraham had complete trust in Hashem and secondly, since the land had been promised to his descendants, it was obvious to Avraham that a wife would be provided for Yitzchak to continue the lineage and if an appropriate spouse could not be found in the old country, Hashem would provide one for him from somewhere else.

This inspired Eliezer to strengthen his own faith and trust in Hashem even more. All too, often the choice of finding a soulmate is made more on the basis of emotion or hormones, rather than a serious consideration of what Hashem wants. While his judgment was obviously involved in choosing the appropriate future wife for Yitzhak, Eliezer did not want to rely solely on his own wisdom or intuition to pick the right one. Yes, he devised a test, but he prayed and asked Hashem for direction first and Hashem reciprocated this gratitude, by not only agreeing with Eliezer's method but presenting Eliezer straight away with Rivka who complied to all of Eliezer's requirements in order not to delay his search any longer than necessary.

There is an important principle we can all learn here. Nobody should not try to second-guess Hashem when making important decisions which could impose and effect what happens in the future dramatically. Good or Bad: we have a responsibility to obey and place our complete trust in Hashem. The results are up to Him. Sometimes people tend to instinctively disobey because we do not see how Hashem can possibly work things out and take us out from the predicament we may find ourselves in; but we need to remember that no matter what we decide and direction we end up taking, Hashem will ultimately fulfil His divine plan. The question is not whether Hashem will do what He has promised, but whether we will ourselves play our part in what He has planned for us. If there is one thing my own personal faith has taught me is that being obedient and subservient to Hashem will always be rewarded, often in ways that we could never have imagined or thought possible before-hand. Due to the merits of Eliezer's complete unselfish faith, emunah, loyalty and integrity, we are still benefiting thousands of years later from his actions. Eliezer became great because he learned to serve, dedicating his life to his divine master. May Hashem give us the same entire attitude and faith that Eliezer possessed as 'Faithful Servitude' will always lead the way to true greatness.



Compiled, Designed & Written by Jeremy Symons