



NEW NORTH LONDON SYNAGOGUE
PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR
BAR and BAT MITZVAH
IN THE MINCHAH (SHABBAT AFTERNOON) SERVICE

Updated October 2018

INDEX

	Page
PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS:	
TWO YEARS TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS BEFOREHAND	3
TWELVE MONTHS BEFOREHAND	4
SIX TO NINE MONTHS BEFOREHAND	4
FOUR MONTHS BEFOREHAND	5
EIGHT WEEKS BEFOREHAND	5
SIX WEEKS BEFOREHAND	5
FOUR WEEKS BEFOREHAND	5
TWO WEEKS BEFOREHAND	6
THE WEEK OF THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH	6
SHABBAT OF THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH	6
POST-BAR AND BAT MITZVAH	6
SUPPORT FOR YOUR FAMILY	6
EXPLANATION OF THE MINCHAH SERVICE	7
ALIYOT, MITZVOT AND LEYNING	8
VENUE ALLOCATION	10
MINCHAH KIDDUSH	10
TREES	10
ETIQUETTE AND DECORUM	11
FAMILY LEARNING JOURNEYS	13
FAMILY SHIUR	13
TWINNING/TZEDAKAH AND TIKUN OLAM PROJECTS	14
OTHER MATTERS	17
APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTACTS	18
APPENDIX 2: MINCHAH KIDDUSH REQUEST FORM	19
APPENDIX 3: SWEET THROWING WAIVER	20
GLOSSARY	21

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH

This booklet aims to assist with the practical arrangements leading up to your Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration.

Each family is allocated a family liaison who will make contact and arrange to meet you approximately six months before your celebration date and who will provide support throughout the process. Your liaison will be your first port of call with any queries you may have concerning practical arrangements.

You will find a list of all the Synagogue personnel connected to B'nei Mitzvah in Appendix 1.

What will happen...

TWO YEARS TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS BEFOREHAND

- * Parents of Year 5 girls and Year 6 boys will be invited to an information meeting where the different B'nei Mitzvah services available in the Synagogue and what is expected of your child will be outlined.
- * You will be able to choose from one of our three minyanim:
Traditional service Hakol Olin (Traditional Egalitarian) Assif (Traditional Egalitarian)
- You will also have the choice between a Shabbat morning (Shacharit) or Shabbat afternoon (Minchah) service or a weekday Shacharit service.
- * At the meeting you will receive a letter with a deadline which will need to be returned to the Synagogue office with your family's preferred service option.
- * Between three and six months after the options meeting, you will receive a date within your chosen service. We are a large community with around 60-70 B'nei Mitzvah per year and we work hard to balance the needs of the community and the families. We have a B'nei Mitzvah policy to ensure that there is fair allocation process for every family. We allocate in age order after your child's Hebrew birthday.
- * Please contact us to discuss any special health or learning needs so we can give you the appropriate support you require.
- * We expect regular and frequent attendance by the family in the year leading up to Bar/Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat mornings and at Friday night services. This helps to familiarize you and your child with the service and what is expected of them. We recommend minimum attendance of once a month when you are two years before your simcha and twice a month in the year before. You will be invited to two Shabbat engagement pieces per term as part of the B'nei Mitzvah curriculum.
- * We encourage all families to continue their Jewish journey within the community, both in the run up to and post Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We provide a very supportive environment for further engagement and are happy to help family members with their personal learning path.
- * Your child will begin to attend HaDerech every Wednesday during term time approximately 6 terms before their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Entry is staggered according to their birthdays in September, January and April.
- * Families often wish to book a room in the Synagogue to hold a Friday night dinner/Shabbat lunch or even their party (<http://www.nnls-masorti.org.uk/page.php?ID=217>). If this is something that interests you please contact our hall hire coordinator **Susie Weisberger** (hallhire@nnls-masorti.org.uk), to discuss a booking.

TWELVE MONTHS BEFOREHAND

- * There are also numerous options for your family to volunteer as part of our wider community e.g. joining the security rota, being a challah baker and/or deliverer, being part of the regular welcoming rota. If you would like to become involved in volunteering with NNLS, please contact **Louise Froggett** (community@nnls-masorti.org.uk).
- * Boys and girls who are leyning (chanting from the Torah and/or reading Haftarah) need to engage a private bar/bat mitzvah tutor who will charge for their services (please discuss this with them direct). Here is our recommended list:
 - o Norman Bar - normanbar1@gmail.com
 - o Debbie Bloom - debeebee@hotmail.com
 - o Samantha Cohen - samcohen27@gmail.com
 - o Harold Elias - law@elias.myzen.co.uk
 - o Michael Gluckman - michael@gluckman.co.uk
 - o Rivka Gottlieb - events@nnls-masorti.org.uk
 - o Michael Mocatta - mmocatta@gmail.com (teaches Sefardi notes)
 - o Rabbi Lee Wax - leewaxlauner@gmail.com
 - o Atira Winchester - atiraw@gmail.com
 - o Anton Winston - antonjwinston@gmail.com
 - o Rina Wolfson - rinawolfson@gmail.com

Girls celebrating in the traditional service may need 2-3 lessons with **Hannah Simons** in the run up to their Bat Mitzvah and Hannah will be in contact with you to arrange this. If you would like any extra private (chargeable) lessons earlier on please contact Hannah directly Hannah_simons@hotmail.com to discuss this.

SIX TO NINE MONTHS BEFOREHAND

- * Your child will be appointed a mentor at HaDerech to help them with the prayers they will be saying during their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. All children will learn the following with their mentor:
 - o Chanting the first paragraph of the Shema
 - o Reciting Kiddush – both Friday night and Shabbat morning
- * Children who are leyning (and doing a Haftarah) will learn the brachot around the Torah and Haftarah.
- * Girls having a **Traditional** Minchah service will learn the following:
 - o Ashrei
 - o Essa Einai
 - o Anim Zmirot
 - o Shecheyanu
 - o Havdalah
- * Your child will receive an individualised black learning book with all their requirements including a homework diary. Please ensure that they are practising regularly. If you are unsure of the tunes please check out the sound files on the website (<http://www.nnls-masorti.org.uk/page.php?ID=204>).

- * If your child has finished all their learning requirements, we encourage them to learn more sections of the service, e.g. Mussaf, Kabbalat Shabbat.
- * Your liaison will contact you approximately six months before your simcha date to arrange a meeting. If you have not heard from anyone, please contact **Alison Sieff** (alison.sieff@btinternet.com).
- * Approximately six months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, your child should begin to prepare their Dvar Torah (450 words maximum) which they will read out at the Kabbalat Shabbat service (Friday night) and again at the Shabbat service (Saturday afternoon). Guidelines for this will be given to your child at HaDerech and are available from **Niki Jackson**.

You will be invited to attend a parents Dvar Torah workshop to help support your child.

FOUR MONTHS BEFOREHAND

- * We encourage as many family members as possible to participate in the service. One way is for family members or friends to leyn some or all of the sedra (Torah portion) that is not taken up by the Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Please discuss leyning with your liaison. **Your child's teacher should contact your liaison or the Synagogue to confirm exactly what your child (and family members/friends, if applicable) will be doing on the day. It is Synagogue policy that anyone who is going to leyn is listened to in advance. This will be arranged two to three weeks before the simcha.**
- * Please advise your liaison and/or the Synagogue office of your attendance numbers (adults and children) as with large numbers of visitors it may be necessary to revise the seating plan accordingly.

EIGHT WEEKS BEFOREHAND

- * You may be contacted to arrange a check-up rehearsal at the Synagogue during HaDerech with **Rabbi Roni Tabick**.
- * Families generally mark their celebration by providing a L'Chaim (Kiddush) for their family/friends after the service (please see Appendix 2 – the Minchah Kiddush Request Form which will be sent to you for completion by the Synagogue office).

SIX WEEKS BEFOREHAND

- * Your child should complete their Dvar Torah (450 words maximum) and email it to **Niki Jackson** (nikijackson@nls-masorti.org.uk). A representative of the Rabbinic team reads through the Dvar Torah to check for accuracy. If we have two B'nei Mitzvah on the same day we may ask people to amend their Dvar Torah to avoid repetition.
- * In Haderech girls having a Bat Mitzvah in the traditional service learn the prayers with the support of a mentor (a girl who has recently had her Bat Mitzvah) under the supervision of one of our teachers. However, we usually recommend that the girls need a small number of private tutorials in the run up to their Bat Mitzvah to ensure that they are word perfect, polished and confident. The number of lessons depends on the individual girl and your child's Haderech teacher will be in contact with you directly to arrange this. This is separate from the rehearsal which the girls will do, which will also be arranged with their teacher 1-2 weeks before. If you would like any extra private (chargeable) lessons earlier on please contact **Hannah Simons** directly Hannah_simons@hotmail.com to discuss this.
- * You will receive a letter from the Co-Chairs of the Synagogue regarding making a donation.

FOUR WEEKS BEFOREHAND

- * Around four weeks before the date of your simcha, you will receive an Aliyot letter (regarding who you would like to honour with a 'call up' to the Torah) from **David Sieff** (Traditional service), **Mark Collins** (Hakol Olin service). If you are having an Assif service, you will discuss this with your family liaison.

- * Please contact the Synagogue office (education@nnls-masorti.org.uk) to arrange a time for a personal talk with one of our Rabbinic team. This provides an opportunity for the Rabbi to meet your family and talk personally with your child. It also gives you a chance to ask any questions you may have.
- * A member of the services team will contact you to arrange a rehearsal with your child in the synagogue.
- * Voice projection coaching services are offered by **Brenda Bloch** and **Lizzy Marks** (see Appendix 1 for their contact details). Please discuss this with them directly; the first session (which is all that may be required for your child) is free of charge.

TWO WEEKS BEFOREHAND

- * If you would like to buy trees to mark the occasion in Israel or in the Heartwood Forest near St Albans, then please contact **Eric Weigert** (see Appendix 1). A certificate is presented in Synagogue to the child on their Bar/Bat Mitzvah day.
- * Please email the Synagogue office your list of guests who are not already Synagogue members (again, both adults and children). A copy will be given to the outside gate staff for security reasons. Your list should be arranged alphabetically by surname.

THE WEEK OF THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH

- * We very much encourage attendance at the midweek Shacharit service in the week immediately before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Your liaison will discuss this with you.

SHABBAT OF THE BAR/BAT MITZVAH

- * You will need to attend the Kabbalat Shabbat service on the Friday night which begins at 6.30pm. Your child will read their Dvar Torah to the congregation, lead the Shema and also recite Friday night Kiddush.

POST-BAR AND BAT MITZVAH

When a boy or girl becomes Bar or Bat Mitzvah this is a significant achievement. However as a synagogue we hope that the journey encourages you all as a family to become more engaged with the community. The Synagogue provides a number of formal and informal learning opportunities for teenagers including HaDerech, Noam and monthly sessions of *Have I Got Jews for You* / leadership opportunities. We run a monthly youth service for post-Bnei Mitzvah teens on the first Shabbat of the month and you will be contacted by **Jude Williams** to ask if your child would like to play a part.

We encourage young people to learn further portions from the Torah and also learn new Haftarat to read in services. We also encourage attendance at Shacharit to support the early morning minyan and mourners saying Kaddish.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR FAMILY

We will try to offer whatever support we can to help you prepare for your simcha. Please contact your liaison with any questions, concerns or requests that you may have.

EXPLANATION OF THE MINCHAH SERVICE

The start time of your Minchah service will be fixed by the Synagogue office and you will be advised on your confirmation letter. The service usually starts approximately 1½ hours before the end of Shabbat in winter and varies in the summer.

The service begins with Psalm 145 and moves on to the reading of the Torah. The community stands, the Ark is opened and a scroll of the Torah is taken out and paraded round the Synagogue. The custom is to turn to face the Torah as it is carried round the Synagogue so as never to present one's back to its teachings.

On Shabbat afternoons, only a short portion is read from the Torah; the first section of the much longer reading for the following Shabbat morning. The Bar or Bat Mitzvah will give their D'var Torah at this point.

After the Torah reading, the Torah is held aloft so that the whole community can see the portion that has been read. The Torah is then paraded back around the Synagogue before being returned to the Ark, while the community recites in Hebrew: 'It is a tree of life to those who grasp it ... its ways are ways of pleasantness and all its paths are peace'.

The Rabbi gives a short address based on the Torah and Jewish ethical literature but usually also focusing on current concerns and will then address the Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

The service resumes with the Amidah prayer which is always recited standing and is said partly in silence and partly out loud, led by whoever is taking the service.

The service concludes with short prayers and hymns; key amongst these is Kaddish.

In the winter months, there is a Kiddush and Kiddush after Minchah and before Maariv and Havdalah. In the summer months, when there is no Maariv or Havdalah, the Kiddush is at the conclusion of the service. The office will discuss with you the level of Kiddush required and liaise with you regarding the costs involved.

ALIYOT, MITZVOT AND LEYNING

The Synagogue is delighted to be able to offer a number of Aliyot and Mitzvot on the Shabbat of your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah as it is our pleasure to honour family and friends at your simcha.

The Aliyot which are offered to your family by the various services: Traditional, Hakol Olin service and the Assif service are outlined below.

As there are only three Aliyot (Cohen, Levi and Yisrael) during a Minchah service we are always very happy to have family members leyning where this is not already allocated to the Bar Mitzvah (Traditional) or the Bar/Bat Mitzvah (Egalitarian). In our Traditional service only men leyn from the Torah whereas in Hakol Olin and Assif services both men and women can leyn. Any leyning by family members does not reduce the number of Aliyot or Mitzvot we may be able to offer the family. **It is important to inform your liaison and advise the relevant person in your chosen service (see Appendix 1 for contact name) as soon as possible if your child or a family member/friend plans to do any additional leyning.**

Aliyot are also governed by certain rules; for example a father/mother and son/daughter or two brothers/sisters cannot be called up one after the other. These rules apply to all services. They do not apply to leyning (e.g. a father/mother can be called up immediately after their son/daughter has leyned).

You will receive a letter regarding Aliyot and Mitzvot around a month before your simcha date and we would ask that you reply immediately in writing giving names/Hebrew names of the people you would like to receive Aliyot and Mitzvot. In Assif, you will be able to coordinate this with your family liaison.

BAR OR BAT MITZVAH IN THE TRADITIONAL MINCHAH SERVICE

There are only three Aliyot during the afternoon service: Cohen, Levi and Yisrael. The Yisrael is usually given to the Bar Mitzvah. If a family member or friend is a Cohen or Levi we usually offer one of these Aliyot to the family as well.

We offer the family the following Mitzvot in the Minchah service:

- * Hagbah (lifting the Torah) – **must** have previous experience!
- * Gelilah (dressing the Torah)
- * Petichah 1 (opening and closing the Ark during the Torah Service)
- * Petichah 2 (opening and closing the Ark for Anim Zmirot – girls only)

BAR OR BAT MITZVAH IN THE HAKOL OLIN OR ASSIF MINCHAH SERVICE

There are only three Aliyot at the afternoon service: Cohen, Levi and Yisrael. The Yisrael is usually given to the Bar or Bat Mitzvah. If a family member or friend is a Cohen or a Levi we may offer one of these Aliyot to the family as well.

We offer the family the following Mitzvot in the Minchah service:

- * Hagbah (lifting the Torah) – **must** have previous experience!
- * Gelilah (dressing the Torah)
- * Petichah 1 (opening and closing the Ark during the Torah Service)

Your family and friends may not have been called to the Torah for some time, so here is a guide:

- * When you are called up, the person leyning will point to the place in the Torah where your portion begins. Using a corner of your tallit, touch the words then kiss the tallit. In Hakol Olin where a woman is called to the Torah, she may use a siddur or a tallit to touch the words in the Torah then kiss the siddur/tallit.
- * Recite the bracha over the closed Sefer Torah before the portion is read – the bracha will be on a card next to you.
- * After saying the bracha, and during the whole leyning of this section, the Aliyah should hold the handle of the right-hand etz (Torah scroll).
- * At the end of the Torah reading, touch the Torah where the Parsha ends (the reader will point to this for you) with the edge of your siddur/tallit and then kiss the siddur/tallit; close the Torah and read the second bracha.
- * When the next person is called up, move around the bimah and stand where indicated, then wait until the next Parsha is complete before going back to your seat.

If you would like a quick rehearsal please ask your liaison to arrange an informal run-through after a Shabbat service a few weeks before the simcha date.

VENUE ALLOCATION

Due to the size of most Minchah congregations, services are generally held upstairs in the Beit Tefilah, however your liaison will ask whether you would prefer to be downstairs in the Beit Kneset.

MINCHAH KIDDUSH

A Kiddush at the end of the service is offered for which you will need to complete the Minchah Kiddush Request Form (see Appendix 2) which the Synagogue office will send you. They will discuss how many tables you need and what level of Kiddush you require and, in turn, the relevant cost of this.

Please note that the pricing structure will change from time to time as supplier costs change and the prices outlined in Appendix 2 may not be the prices you will pay when you arrange your Kiddush.

TREES

A number of families choose to mark the occasion of their child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah by donating trees. NNLS offers two choices for tree planting to enhance the environment:

✳ **Trees in Israel**

We are now currently working directly with Kibbutz Neot Semadar, a kibbutz in the Negev about 40km north of Eilat. They have developed creative thinking to challenge the difficulties of planting in an extremely arid region. They have a programme of tree planting that we are supporting.

Trees cost £5.00 each with a minimum purchase of 5 trees. An attractive certificate designed by artists on the kibbutz will be presented together with a frame. The wording of the certificate can be phrased as required.

✳ **Trees in the UK**

We have been working with the Woodland Trust who have a programme of tree planting across the UK. The latest project was to plant trees in the Heartwood Forest near St Albans. **The minimum purchase is £50.** A frame is provided with the certificate.

Contributions towards either forest make a worthwhile gift and the certificate to mark the donation will be presented at the end of the service.

Please contact **Eric Weigert** via e-mail (weigert@btinternet.com) or by phone (020 8445 0468) to arrange your purchase. Two weeks' notice is usually sufficient to make the arrangements.

ETIQUETTE AND DECORUM

We receive numerous questions about etiquette in the Synagogue and have therefore put together some guidance notes to assist you. We will provide whatever assistance we can and if you have any further questions please contact your liaison.

If you have any questions during your visit to the Synagogue please ask the greeters at the entrance to the service, or any of our members, and we sincerely hope you enjoy the service.

Getting to the Synagogue

We encourage our members and guests to walk to the Synagogue on Shabbat. If you or your guests are driving then we ask you to park with the utmost consideration for our neighbours. It is unfair to them and extremely embarrassing for us when people park illegally or across driveways. As we are in a busy residential neighbourhood, please expect to park a few streets away and walk the rest of the way to the Synagogue.

Security

Regrettably we have to be conscious of security which means you may be questioned at the entrance gate to our site and we will have to ensure that your guests' names are on the list you have sent us. It may also mean that we have to search any bags you bring. Please do not leave anything, even a handbag, unattended anywhere on the site.

Guests always add to the feeling of joy and occasion. However, we ask that your guests kindly do not bring presents into the Synagogue on Shabbat.

Mobile Phones and Cameras

Please also advise your guests not to bring mobile phones or cameras. We are a traditional community and do not permit their use in any service or in the grounds on Shabbat.

Smoking

No smoking is permitted **anywhere** in the grounds or in any of the buildings on the site.

Children

We welcome children to our community. If you and your guests do bring children please ensure they are supervised at all times, particularly during the Rabbi's address to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and at times of silent prayer. Many friends of the Bnei Mitzvah come to our synagogue unaccompanied these days and we would ask you to encourage your children's friends to act in an appropriate manner that honours our community and your family.

We share a large and beautiful site with extensive grounds and it is not safe to let small children run around, nor is it fair to others to allow older children to run around unsupervised. If you want your children to be outside then please enjoy the grounds with them. If your child becomes restless or noisy during the service we would appreciate you taking them out for a short break. In the Traditional service men and women sit separately, but children may sit on either side of the Synagogue. Families may sit together in the Hakol Olin and Assif services. Children's books are provided in all prayer rooms – please ask the shammas where these are located.

Dress Code

There is no formal dress code for Synagogue attendance but the custom is to dress modestly and respectfully. Men must cover their heads in the service. We have spare kippot (head coverings) available; please ask the greeter who will be positioned at the entrance to the service. Women may wear a hat or head scarf if they wish, but most do not.

Sweets

We understand that everyone wishes to enjoy their simcha and that throwing sweets may be part of the demonstration of that joy. Although the Synagogue permits sweet throwing, we do not actively encourage the same for various reasons including on the grounds of health and safety. Nevertheless, if you do wish to throw sweets at your simcha, the Synagogue does require you to provide a written confirmation to protect the Synagogue from any claims in the event of damage or injury to any person or object as a result of the throwing of sweets. We would request that a completed and signed waiver (Appendix 3) to the Synagogue office or complete online: <https://www.mynnls.org.uk/form/sweetwaiver> at least seven days in advance of your simcha. In the event that you do decide to throw sweets, but have not provided the waiver, the Synagogue will deem that you have accepted all of the terms of the waiver and they will be treated as binding on you. You should provide two bags of Kosher, soft and wrapped sweets before Kabbalat Shabbat on the Friday evening. The bags should be labelled with your child's name and the service you are attending (e.g. John Smith – Assif morning – 1st January 2018). The sweets will be distributed by your chosen representative at the appropriate time during the service ready for throwing, **which will generally be at the very end of the service immediately following Adon Olam.**

Service Decorum

We try to keep our services as informal as we can within the limits of attentiveness and reasonable decorum. Please try particularly to refrain from walking through the Synagogue when the congregation is standing or praying in silence, and from talking at any time during the whole reading of the Torah (and Haftarah, if this is being included in the service).

For your Bar or Bat Mitzvah, the front row of seats closest to the bimah and facing the Ark are always informally reserved for you and your close family members – the Shammas will assist you with this.

A booklet explaining the key points of the service is available at the entrance to each service. Our prayers are mainly in Hebrew so you or your guests may find the booklet helpful. Please ask the Synagogue office in advance of your simcha for your required number of copies to be available.

Many guests want to greet the host family and although we like to keep the atmosphere relaxed and informal, please be discreet about this. Frequent comings and goings, particularly around the front seats, creates a distraction and disrupts the atmosphere of the services. As the Minchah service is relatively short (approximately 1 hour 15 minutes), please keep hugs and kisses until after the service has ended!

Finally, we know that family and friends are often tempted to clap in appreciation of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child's efforts – whether that be after the deliver their Dvar Torah or after they leyn or lead any other part of the service. However, this is not our practice and, rather, we encourage the congregation to congratulate them by collectively calling out 'shekoyach' (loosely translated as 'all strength to you', or privately at the end of the service.

FAMILY LEARNING JOURNEYS

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah, for most families, is a milestone in our Jewish lifecycle. The anticipation, the preparation, the expectations and sometimes the inevitable stress are common factors associated with Bar or Bat Mitzvah preparation. The responsibility for learning can often land solely on the B'nei Mitzvah students.

Here at NNLS we want to challenge that limitation. We would like this important milestone to become even more significant, not just for the B'nei Mitzvah but for the whole family.

We invite you to consider participating in a family learning journey, the subject matter and contents of which would be chosen by you to suit your family. In this way the family would come together with a shared purpose, celebrating not only the day but engaging in joint learning and activity that will serve as a crucial part of the process of deepening our engagement with Judaism.

As a family you can choose the direction and we can work with you to consider what will be the most rewarding for you all in the long run.

- Is there an area of Judaism that you would like to study in more depth because it is pertinent to you and your family?
- Do you feel that you would like to gain greater confidence and familiarity in participating in synagogue services?
- Is there a learning project that you as a family would like to engage in e.g. finding out about history of family members or their lives in another country?
- Would you consider taking on a social action or charitable journey where as a family you can strengthen your connection to each other and to others?
- Is there a topic, such as the environment, for example, which you would like to study through Jewish texts and contemporary views?

The process will be defined by your family in consultation with Niki Jackson, our Director of Education, who will facilitate the journey together with others in our community.

There will be convivial opportunities for B'nei Mitzvah families to share their learning experiences with others who are following similar paths if you wish.

On the one hand the vision is to make the opportunities for learning and exploration as varied as possible to suit different needs and interests. On the other hand, we hope that it will deepen our engagement as a community with Jewish history, source texts, values and life.

FAMILY SHIUR

We are now able to pair up families with someone from the NNLS community who will give them a private shiur (a short informal lesson/discussion lasting approximately 45 minutes to an hour) to look at the themes of the sedra on the day of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

At least one parent or grandparent should attend with the Bar or Bat Mitzvah which will assist with background information when their child is ready to start writing their Dvar Torah.

TWINNING/TZEDAKAH AND TIKUN OLAM PROJECTS

Families often ask what they can do to mark the Bar/Bat Mitzvah in a memorable and meaningful way that supports others. In the fifth term of the Haderech programme the students meet with representatives from different organisations who share with them ideas of how they can support, either practically by volunteering or by twinning their Bar/Bat Mitzvah with someone else. Here is a small selection of ideas but this is by no means exhaustive and often the most meaningful projects emerge when families choose a project that is close to their heart.

Ethiopian Israeli Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Programme

Individuals raise money to sponsor a member of the Ethiopian Israeli community to celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The Ethiopian Israeli child and their parents are given a series of sessions to support them to mark to the event. The British child is encouraged to raise money for Tzedakah and attend sessions to learn more about the Ethiopian community. There is an opportunity to travel to Israel to be part of the final celebrations.

Melanie Kelly (UJIA) 020 7424 6400 extension 6422 | <http://www.ujia.org/event/ujia-ethiopian-barbat-mitzvah-programme-israel-visit/>

IDF Widows & Orphans Organisation

The charity takes care of the needs of over 8,000 widows and orphans of the IDF and Israel's security forces fallen heroes. This charity provides programmes designed to support widows and orphans through their grieving process, and throughout their lives, offering emotional support, financial aid and educational and social welfare programmes.

You can create your own fundraising campaign: <https://rootfunding.com/campaigns/idfwo-bat-mitzvah-project-serena> and research about the State of Israel and the IDF widows and orphans.

We can also twin a BM child with an orphan who we feel will get along well together. We then connect the parents who choose how to begin contact (via phone or Skype) and then the children begin to build a relationship.

Dana Peer 00 972 3 691 8403 | dana@idfwo.org <http://www.idfwo.org/eng>

Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind

The Israeli Guide Dog Association improves the quality of life for blind people by providing them with safe mobility, independence and self-confidence through the faithful assistance of guide dogs.

As part of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations you can sponsor a guide dog. The cost is £750 and includes all the costs of raising the pup during its first year. The funds could be raised by garage sales, babysitting, gifts from friends and relatives who may be invited to your Bar/Bat Mitzvah or other creative ways.

Martin Segal 020 8090 3455 | 07976 413883 | martin@bfigdcb.org | <http://www.israelguidedog.org.uk>

Jewish Child's Day

You can twin your Bar/Bat Mitzvah with children living in Belarus or children from disadvantaged backgrounds or with special educational needs in Israel. Through skype, email and phone calls you are able to get to know children in different contexts. There is even a chance to visit them.

Nicole Gordon | nicole.gordon@jcd.uk.com | <http://jcd.uk.com/support-us/bnei-mitzvah-twinning/>

Kisharon – Volunteering with children with Special Educational Needs

Kisharon works with people with learning difficulties and their mission is to support each person so that they can progress, achieve independence, enjoy life and be included in the communities in which we live through meaningful vocation and a fulfilling social life.

The i-connect programme is an exciting and meaningful way to mark your Bar/Bat Mitzvah year. The programme is designed to encourage mainstream students to think about their situation, meet others who are different to themselves and, despite these differences, to find ways of communicating.

Lara Domjan 020 3393 0159 | volunteer@kisharon.org.uk | www.kisharon.org.uk

Leket Israel Supporting

Leket is Israel's largest food bank and food rescue network actively working to alleviate the problem of nutritional insecurity among Israel's diverse population. You can support them in numerous ways by visiting Israel and volunteering in their warehouses or fields. You can also fundraise for them.

Paul Leiba 00 972 8 975 2115 | Mobile: 00 972 52 585 6497 | paul@leket.org

Make a Wish Foundation

Make a Wish Israel grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Wish children can dream “to be... to have... to meet... to go...” Among the wishes that have been granted are to meet lady Gaga, go to Disney World, to have a puppy, to be a princess for a day.

Keren Kalif | keren.makeawish@gmail.com | www.makeawish.org.il

Masorti Special Needs Project

The Masorti Movement's Bar and Bat Mitzvah Programme for Children with Disabilities is Israel's only national programme providing Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation and Jewish enrichment for children with disabilities. Sponsor one child for £700.

- Designate a portion of your own Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts to the programme or ask your own guests to make contributions in your honour.
- Raise money through Mitzvah Fairs and/or individual endeavours, such as babysitting or mowing lawns.
- Organise a group activity that requires sponsors, e.g. soccer ball “kick-a-thon”, lap swim, hoops contest, distance run or “read-a-thon”.

Shueli Fast | shueli.fast@gmail.com | <https://masorti.org/masorti-programs//masorti-youth-programs/youth-bar-bat-mitzvah-for-children-with-disabilities/>

Meketa

Meketa is a charity for Ethiopian Jews who have remained in Ethiopia. You can sponsor a family in Gondar with a child of a similar age or you can buy Kippot made in Gondar for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Sybil Sheridan | meketafunding@gmail.com

Myisrael

Myisrael supports 16 under-the-radar charities in Israel which are making an extraordinary difference to the lives of people in desperate need. They are making an extraordinary difference to the lives of people in desperate need. Your child can choose which charity to support and 100% of the funds they raise will go directly to those who need it most. From a therapeutic riding school... to a homeless shelter for teenagers... to a music school for gifted kids, there is something for everyone.

Helen Carmel (Community Outreach Coordinator) | 07971 164831 | helen.myisrael@gmail.com | www.myisraelcharity.org

NNLS Challah project

Every week we have a team of volunteers who make and deliver challot to members of the community who have experienced a bereavement, are unwell or have an upcoming yahrzeit. We also deliver to those who've recently had a baby, got engaged or are celebrating a simcha.

If you are interested in volunteering it involves making the dough on a Wednesday evening, baking the challot on a Thursday evening or delivering freshly baked challot on a Friday morning.

challahproject@nnls-masorti.org.uk

NNLS Drop In Centre for Asylum Seekers

The Drop In supports up to 400 destitute asylum seekers and their children and is held on the first Sunday of each month at premises near to the Synagogue. Our volunteers offer legal signposting, appointments with doctors and therapists, nutritious cooked food, nearly-new or new clothing and footwear and a welcoming, warm and friendly space. Every client also receives a supermarket voucher and travel expenses.

You can cook food, come and help sort clothes and, if you are 12-16 years old, you can come and help with a parent at the drop in on the first Sunday of the month at Martin School, Plane Tree Walk, East Finchley N2 9JP.

dropin@nnls-masorti.org.uk

World Jewish Relief

WJR is the UK's Jewish community's response to disasters affecting people around the world. They tackle Jewish poverty primarily in the former Soviet Union but also respond to international disasters such as floods and earthquakes.

Sam Schryer | 020 8736 1265 | sams@worldjewishrelief.org

Yad Vashem

As part of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah you have the opportunity to learn about the life of a young victim of the Holocaust who was unable to celebrate this milestone in Jewish life.

You will be able to:

- Research details of the family of your victim using the Yad Vashem Website.
- Research the community they came from via the website.
- Learn about their experiences during the Holocaust.
- Receive a special certificate from Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

office@yadvashem.org.uk | http://yadvashem.org.uk/?page_id=332

There are also numerous options for your family to volunteer as part of our wider community e.g. joining the security rota, being a challah baker and/or deliverer, being part of the regular welcoming rota. If you would like to become involved in volunteering with NNLS, please contact **Louise Froggett** (community@nnls-masorti.org.uk).

OTHER MATTERS

Catering and Kashrut at your party venue

The Masorti Bet Din has recently started offering kosher supervision of caterers. They work with a wide range of caterers, including those who do not usually work in the kosher market. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact **Rabbi Chaim Weiner** directly (email: weiner@masorti.org.uk or phone: 020 7870 7959).

The Omer and Tisha B'Av

The Omer: According to the Torah we are obligated to count the days from Passover to Shavuot. This period is known as the Counting of the Omer. The period falls in April or May and seven weeks are counted from the second day of Passover. Live music is inappropriate during the Omer prior to Lag B'Omer (the 33rd day), and you should consult the Rabbi for more information. If your simcha does fall during this period it will be mentioned in the letter you are sent with the confirmation of your date.

Tisha B'Av: This is a day of mourning to commemorate many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people, some of which coincidentally have occurred on 9th Av. This falls in July or August and is acknowledged for the three weeks prior to 9th Av. Live music is inappropriate during this three-week period so please consult the Rabbi for more information. Our correspondence confirming your dates will refer to this period should it apply to you.

Donations and Gifts

A Bar and Bat Mitzvah is a special occasion for your family and the whole community. We will do our best to give support to you in every way during the preparation and on the day. To do this we depend on the goodwill and generosity of many volunteers and members of the Synagogue. The Synagogue depends on such generosity in order to develop its services and a simcha is a special time to give a gift. You will receive a letter from the Joint Chairs of the Synagogue where it is suggested that about 5% of the total cost of your simcha is an appropriate donation to make, together with a form that sets out various areas of Shul activity that your donation might be put towards. Should you wish to discuss this in more detail, you can do so with your liaison, with one of the Joint Chairs or with our Executive Director (execdirector@npls-masorti.org.uk).

Sponsor a Day

As part of your donation, you could choose to sponsor the day of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah. To book your chosen day contact **Frances Bloom** (see Appendix 1) as soon as possible as the Synagogue only allows **one** sponsor for each day.

Disability

Our building has full facilities for disabled visitors to the Synagogue. There is a loop system in the Beit Kneset and the Beit Tefillah, a Shabbat lift and three disabled WCs within the building. Should you require any further assistance please contact the Synagogue office to discuss this.

Nappy Changing

Facilities are available in the disabled WC on the ground floor of the building in the Gan Alon/Beit Midrash corridor. Please ask one of the greeters to direct you to these facilities.

WE WISH YOU AND ALL YOUR FAMILY A HEARTY MAZEL TOV!

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF CONTACTS

New North London Synagogue	The Manor House 80 East End Road Finchley London N3 2SY	020 8346 8560
Synagogue Office	Ros Hart office@npls-masorti.org.uk	020 3182 0119
Aliyot – Traditional Service	David Sieff david.sieff@btinternet.com	020 8275 0832
Aliyot – Hakol Olin Service	Mark Collins markhenrycollins@gmail.com	
Assif (initial contact)	Nicki Tiefenbrun nicki.tiefenbrun@gmail.com	07834 698380
Chair B’nei Mitzvah Liaison	Alison Sieff alison.sieff@btinternet.com	020 8275 0832 07956 596421
Director of Education	Niki Jackson nikijackson@npls-masorti.org.uk	020 3182 0114
Education Administrator	Ruth Elias-Jones education@npls-masorti.org.uk	020 8346 8560
Hall Hire	Susie Weisberger hallhire@npls-masorti.org.uk	020 3182 0111
Director of Education	Niki Jackson nikijackson@npls-masorti.org.uk	020 3182 0114
Kiddush	Ros Hart office@npls-masorti.org.uk	020 3182 0119
Midweek Shacharit – Egalitarian	Andrew Jacobs andrew.jacobs@seddons.co.uk	020 8346 5894
Midweek Shacharit – Traditional	Alan Simons alansimons1@gmail.com	020 8343 3412 07771 998453
Practise in Synagogue	Ronnie Cohen rcohen9199@aol.com	020 8346 4914
Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg	rabbi@npls-masorti.org.uk	020 8343 3927
Sponsor a Day	Frances Bloom francesbloom2004@yahoo.com	020 8621 6768
Trees	Eric Weigert weigert@btinternet.com	020 8445 0468
Voice Projection Coaching	Brenda Bloch skillswithpeople@aol.com	020 8455 2338
Voice Projection Coaching	Lizzy Marks lizzy.marks@gmail.com	07932 146340
Volunteering at NNLS	Louise Froggett community@npls-masorti.org.uk	020 8346 8560

APPENDIX 2

MINCHAH KIDDUSH REQUEST FORM

Name of Family:	
Date of Kiddush:	
Expected number of guests:	

Families can choose one of the 3 Kiddush options by ticking one of A, B or C below, and whether to have fruit platters in addition; we decide the number of tables you require based on a combination of your guest numbers. The minimum likely number of tables will be **3**.

Please note that the pricing structure will change from time to time as supplier costs change and the prices outlined below may not be the prices you will pay when you arrange your Kiddush.

- Kiddush Option A: voluntary donation £40 per table**
To include cakes, biscuits, crisps, pickles, soft drinks, wine, whisky
- Kiddush Option B: voluntary donation £60 per table**
To include fish balls, herring, dips with crackers, sliced cake and biscuits, grapes, pickles, crisps, soft drinks, wine, whisky
- Kiddush Option C: voluntary donation £80 per table**
To include pastries, grapes, pickles and crisps, larger quantity of fish balls, herring, dips with crackers, soft drinks, wine, whisky
- Optional fruit platters (one per table) are available at an additional donation of £15 per table

Please tick your preferred option and return this form to the Synagogue office:

NNLS, 80 East End Road, London N3 2SY
Tel: 020 8346 8560
Email: office@nls-masorti.org.uk

I/we confirm our intention to make a voluntary donation for the above at least one week prior to the simcha.

Signed:

APPENDIX 3

SWEET THROWING WAIVER

To: New North London Synagogue

Child's Name:

(Insert name of Bar/Bat Mitzvah)

Date of Bar/Bat Mitzvah:

(Insert date of simcha)

I/We have decided to throw sweets at our celebration in the Synagogue.

I/We understand that the Synagogue does not encourage the throwing of sweets on the grounds of, amongst other matters, health and safety. Nevertheless we accept and shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Synagogue and its officers from and against any loss or liability incurred by the Synagogue or its officers in respect of any and all damage caused by the throwing of sweets at our celebration, whether to an individual or the property itself.

I/We acknowledge that the indemnity above is in addition to any other rights of indemnity or otherwise to which the Synagogue or its officers are entitled by law or otherwise.

I/We understand the above and have had the opportunity to discuss its terms.

Parent(s) signature(s)

Print name

Parent(s) signature(s)

Print name

Date

This form can be completed online: <https://www.mynnls.org.uk/form/sweetwaiver>

GLOSSARY

1. **Acharon** – Calling up of an extra person to the Reading of the Torah, near the end of the Sedra.
2. **Aliyot** – From Hebrew Aliyah, meaning ‘ascent’, going up to the Torah to read the blessings for one of the call-ups.
3. **Assembly of Masorti Synagogues (AMS)** – The umbrella body which promotes the principles of Masorti Judaism and acts as an information and coordination centre for all our communities.
4. **Assif** – We are an egalitarian Masorti minyan, following a traditional service using the Singers Siddur. Our service aims to be traditional, egalitarian, participative, educational and spiritual.
5. **Bimah** – The raised platform or table from which the service is conducted.
6. **Davening** – Leading the prayers within the service.
7. **Dvar Torah** – A short discourse on the Torah portion. The Bar or Bat Mitzvah prepares a commentary of about 450 words linked to their particular Torah portion or Haftarah, to read out in Synagogue both on the Friday night and Shabbat morning.
8. **Gabbai** – The organiser of the service including aliyot, mitzvot, etc
9. **Gelilah** – Literally ‘rolling’, this means closing the Torah scroll and covering it with the mantle and silverware after it has been read.
10. **HaDerech** – Our integrated four-year programme for B’nei Mitzvah and beyond. Aimed at children in Year 5/Year 6 (10/11 year olds) to Year 9 (13/14 year olds). Held on Wednesday evenings during term time.
11. **Haftarah** – A reading from the Prophets, read just after the Torah portion on Shabbat.
12. **Hagbah** – Lifting and displaying the Torah after it has been read.
13. **Hakol Olin** – Our Traditional Egalitarian service held every Shabbat morning.
14. **Kabbalat Shabbat** – The Friday night service.
15. **Kiddush** – The blessing over wine, sanctifying the Shabbat or a holiday.
16. **Kaddish** – The prayers said by mourners.
17. **Leyning** – Reading/chanting from the Torah.
18. **Minchah** – The afternoon service.
19. **Noam** – Youth Movement of the Assembly of Masorti Synagogues, for 9-18 year olds.
20. **Omer** – Counting of the seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot.
21. **Parsha** – A section of the Torah read on any particular day.
22. **Shacharit** – The morning service held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings.
23. **Sedra** – The whole Torah portion to be read on a particular date.
24. **Shammas** – The organiser of the service including aliyot, mitzvot, etc.
25. **Shiur** – A discussion about a particular Torah reading (sedra).
26. **Simcha** – Meaning ‘happiness’ or ‘joy’. Refers to the whole B’nei Mitzvah celebration.
27. **Tisha B’Av** – The ‘9th of Av’ is a day of mourning commemorating many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people starting with the destruction of the First Temple which happened on this day. The 9th of Av usually falls in July/August.