

What happens at the Havdallah Ceremony?

At the end of Shabbat the family gathers round for the Havdallah ceremony. This happens when the 3 stars appear in the sky. This short service distinguishes Shabbat from the rest of the working week. It is a final opportunity to remember the sights, tastes and smells of the Sabbath.



Wine – is poured to overflow the goblet, into a saucer as a sign of God's abundant goodness. A blessing is said over it and it is shared with those present.



A blessing is said over the spices in a special spice box. The box is passed round for everyone to smell. In this way, the sweet fragrance of the Sabbath lingers with them into the following week. The boxes are usually intricate, made of wood or precious metal. The spices commonly used are cloves, cinnamon or bay leaves