

Dear all,

לְיִהוּדִים, הַיְתָה אוֹרָה וְשִׂמְחָה, וְשָׁלוֹם, וִיקָר.

To the Jewish People was light, happiness, joy and honour.

At this time of Purim, as we celebrate the miracles of our redemption from the darkness of persecution, we turn to Hashem with the Tefilla that we may experience a similar revelation of light, happiness, joy and honour. May Peace be restored to our Land, and safety and security to all of Am Yisrael.

Below I offer some Halachic guidance, as well as a summary of arrangements at shul. Please also see below, and the shul emails, for details of our special Purim events and our Matanot LeEvyonim arrangements. Further details will be updated [HERE](#).

The dedicated Matanot LeEvyonim Purim and Pre-Yom Tov collection page for the Gemach is [HERE](#).

My wife and I would also like to personally invite you to pop into us over Purim at our home, 38 Western Avenue, NW11 9HJ (near Brent Cross tube station). We will be home from 1 - 3pm and would love to see you!

As always, please feel free to contact my wife or me for further support, guidance or conversation. Please also let us know if we can help in any other way, whether personally or communally.

With warmest wishes for a Purim Sameach,

Dayan Zobin

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TA'ANIT ESTHER AND MACHATZIT HASHEKEL – Thursday, 21ST MARCH

This year Ta'anit Esther is observed on the Thursday before Purim. If you have any Shailot re fasting, please be in contact with me ASAP.

After Mincha on Ta'anit Esther, our minhag is to give 3 "half coins" (here in the UK, 50 pence coins) to Tsedaka, as a memory of the Machatzit Hashekel. This donation should not be from regular Ma'aser funds, but as an additional donation. Everyone should give for themselves, and also on behalf of family members, including children who are still minors.

There will be a "3 coin pack" on the Bima at shul for those without coins or who wish to use charity vouchers. You should "purchase" this pack by giving a donation of more than £1.50, in exchange for which the "3 coin pack" becomes yours, which can then be used for your Machatzit Hashekel. This can then be repurchased and reused as many times as needed.

If you were unable to give on Ta'anit Esther, you should give on Purim, before the reading of the Megillah.

PARSHAT ZACHOR – SHABBAT, 23RD MARCH

The ideal time and way to fulfil this Mitzvah is through listening to the Parshat Zachor from a Sefer Torah on the Shabbat before Purim. We will offer several readings of Zachor at shul in addition to those in the regular Minyanim. For further details please see our emails and online calendar [HERE](#).

For those unable to hear Zachor at shul on Shabbat, as per shul practice in previous years, we will also read Zachor on Purim evening (Motzei Shabbat).

PURIM – MOTZEI SHABBAT & SUNDAY, 23RD & 24TH MARCH

MAARIV MOTZEI SHABBAT

Shabbat ends at 7.06pm. Maariv followed by Megilla with be at 7.30pm.

All Purim preparations, including children dressing up etc., should only take place after the conclusion of Shabbat.

SEUDAH

The Purim Seudah should start no later than 5.15pm, so that a significant part of the meal is eaten before sunset.

MATANOT LE'EVYONIM

The Rambam states "It is better to give more Matanot LeEvyonim, than spending on one's Purim Seudah... for there is no greater joy than gladdening the hearts of those in need...".

As a minimum Matanot LeEvyonim should be a significant donation given to at least two recipients.

As in previous years the Gemach and I will be collecting money for this Mitzvah. Please see [HERE](#) for details of how to arrange online Matanot LeEvyonim, via the Gemach. Please also give generously to the general Gemach appeal which helps families for Pesach and throughout the year.

Please speak to me (rabbizobin@gmail.com / 07929 630813) if you have any enquiries about the above.

Purim Sameach!