



new london
synagogue



Pesach Food Matters

We are just week and change away from Pesach, with its commands; *Tashbitu Se'or* - put away leaven from your homes, *Lo Yimatzei* – leaven shall not be found in your homes and *Kol Mechametzet Lo Tocheilu* – you shall not eat any Chametz.

The Torah sets out both reasoning; for God brought you out of the Land of Egypt (Exodus 12:17) and a warning; anyone who eats Chametz shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel (Exodus 12:19). In these two verses Judaism combines not only a theology, but a sense of both national history and a peoplehood. The preparation of our kitchens is an expression of what we believe, who we understand ourselves to be and who we wish to sit alongside.

As is so often the case in this extraordinary religion and way of life we are provided answers to address the deepest questions of identity and values choice and these answers are intensely practical and 'small.' Belief is not expressed by silent pontificating but rather by making cleaning cupboards. Values are not expressed by the force of our slogans, but they welcome we provide at our Seder tables – let all who are hungry come and eat (food again).

These rhythms of action are the glue that holds our less tangible aspirations together, across time and space. I commend them. (Language for using me as an agent to sell your Chametz and a link to my guide to Pesach Kashrut are shared below).

After services this Shabbat, I'll be sharing some Pesach preparatory Halachah and taking questions (back in the sanctuary after a briefer Kiddush). Next week, Yoav will be sharing songs to prepare us for Seder.

On Monday morning 22nd April (Monday week) we will be marking the Fast of the Firstborn with a Siyum, I'll be teaching on completing the tractate Baba Metzia after Shacharit, starting at 8:30am in the Zoom room.

Through Pesach we will have a full run of Maariv and Shacharit Yom Tov services – do join us. We would be particularly grateful for your company for weekday Yom Tov services on Tues 23rd and 24th and 29th and 30th April; particularly if you are free of weekday professional obligations.

Our Cheder will be in for a Model Seder this Sunday and Rabbi Natasha has mailed with a full list of Youth activities – if you have children and missed that email or are looking to inspire grandchildren, please mail youth@newlondon.org.uk for more. In particular there are still a few seats at the [Goldhurst Seder](#) for those aged 4-7 (families welcome) from 4-5:30pm on 23rd April.

I'm excited for this journey into freedom, may it come in peace and freedom for all.

Shabbat Shalom

Rabbi Jeremy