

Elstree & Borehamwood Masorti Community

Life Cycle Events

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USEFUL LINKS

<http://www.europeanmasortibetdin.org> - The European Masorti Bet Din provides advanced Rabbinic services to Masorti communities in Europe. We oversee conversions and divorce procedures, supervise the catering of Kosher food, and rule on complex issues of Jewish Law.

http://judaism.about.com/od/lifecycleevents/Lifecycle_Events.htm - Articles about Jewish Lifecycle Events, including information about Hebrew names, Jewish naming customs, Simchat bat and Brit Milah (Bris) ceremonies, Jewish weddings, and mourning practices.

<http://www.jewfaq.org/tocevents.htm> - Pages discussing major life cycle events in Judaism, from birth to death

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Death/index.htm> UK Government produced information on what to do when someone dies.

<http://www.jvisit.org.uk/jbcs/index.htm> - Jewish Bereavement Counselling Service

WHAT IS MASORTI?

Masorti is the Hebrew word for tradition and Masorti Judaism has been defined as "enlightened committed Judaism for today's person in today's world". Masorti is traditional Judaism practised in a spirit of open-minded enquiry and tolerance.

EBMC a friendly growing community. Our services are traditional using standard Prayer Books and Machzorim. We have mixed seating, both men and women are counted in the Minyan.

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L I F E C Y C L E E V E N T S

From the joyous arrival of a baby, through to the difficult times during bereavement, as a member of Elstree & Borehamwood Masorti Community, we will provide all the necessary support you need.

Whether it is finding a Mohel, advice on Bar /Bat Mitzvahs, Halachah of getting married, or help with saying Kaddish, we are here to help you.



LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

BIRTH

The arrival of a new baby is a cause for rejoicing, not only by the immediate and extended family, but also by the Congregation and the community at large. A new child represents a world of possibilities and promise,

At EBMC we hold special naming ceremony during the reading of the Torah in a shul to celebrate your occasion. EBMC is a young community and we have been blessed with many new arrivals.

A baby boy is circumcised at the age of 8 days by a Mohel even on Shabbat and Yom Kippur, (delayed only with medical advice). Parents enter their sons into the covenant between the Jewish people and God through the ritual of brit milah, a religious circumcision. This practice began with Abraham who first made his covenant with God at the age of 99.

To find a Mohel please see <http://www.initiationsociety.org.uk/mohel.htm> or contact enquiries@masorti.org.uk for a current list of the Association of Reform and Liberal Mohelim.

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH

The most important life passage of Jewish childhood and adolescence is Bar Mitzvah for a boy and Bat Mitzvah for a girl. It is about ritual maturity and about growing up as a Jew. It is about becoming a fuller member of

the Jewish community and we hope, at EBMC. It is also about moral responsibility, about connecting to Torah, community and God.

In Masorti Judaism, Bar and Bat mitzvah are treated with equal importance and both girls and boys have the opportunity to read from the Torah, Haftorah, and to take as much part in the service as they feel able.

We have access to a number of Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutors who will guide boys and girls of all levels of Hebrew. As a small community you can have the flexibility to tailor the Bat / Bar Mitzvah to make it a very special day for your family.

If your ceremony will have a large attendance please let us know in advance and we will be able to book a larger venue.

WEDDINGS

There are many beautiful customs and age old traditions that form part of a Jewish Wedding ceremony which are so symbolic and meaningful. The ceremony takes place under a Chupah which is often decorated with flowers and is a symbol of the hope to be built and shared by the couple. It is open on four sides, as was Sarah and Abraham's tent, in order to welcome friends and relatives in unconditional hospitality.

We do not yet have our own Rabbi, but we have close links with other Masorti communities and we will work with you to make your wedding a very special occasion.

DEATH/BEREAVEMENT

Losing someone we love presents us with possibly the most difficult set of emotions we ever have to deal with. The Jewish way of mourning is both spiritual and comforting. Traditionally we "sit shiva" for seven days giving us a purpose each day and the support and love of family and friends whilst we slowly emerge from our deepest sorrow.

EBMC will provide all the necessary support you need at this difficult time in your life.

If a member of the Shul dies, next of kin need to contact the Joint Jewish Burial Society (JJBS) on **020 8989 5252** to make funeral arrangements.

If you are a member of EBMC and you need to make arrangements for a Shiva please call Tony de Swarte on **07749 719 928**.

Yahrzeit

This is the annual commemoration of the death of a Jew by a mourner, i.e. the spouse, parent, child or sibling of the deceased. The date of the Yahrzeit is the anniversary of the death calculated according to the Hebrew calendar. The mourner recites the mourners Kaddish and lights a special memorial candle which burns for 24 hours. We invite members commemorating a Yahrzeit to be called up in Shul and include the names of their loved ones in the Shabbat service.