

THE DRUM

KEEPING YOU IN STEP WITH THE BEAT OF OUR COMMUNITY



14-15 JAN | 13 SHEVAT 5782

פ' בשלה

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FROM THE RABBINIC TEAM: WATER



Beshalach should be triumphant. The Jewish people escape from the Egyptians, cross the Yam Suf and sing God's praises. Unexpectedly it ends on a bit of a downer. After traveling three days without finding a water source, they finally discover

water in Mara, but "they could not drink the waters of Mara, because they were bitter" (15:23). In response to the people's complaints, God instructed Moshe to cast a certain tree into the water which miraculously sweetened it (15:25). Why is this incident a necessary part of this momentous parasha? The Midrash (Shemot Rabba 50:3; Tanchuma Yashan – Vayakhel, 9) proposes a different reading of this episode, claiming that the phrase "they were bitter" refers to Benei Yisrael, and not to the waters of Mara. The Midrash appears to be saying that the people could have drunk the water, but they refused to do so because it did not taste fresh. The people's disgust for the water stemmed from the "bitterness" inside them. It was their immaturity and intolerance for adversity that led them to complain and with a "sweeter" attitude the waters may have been palatable even without God's intervention. Perhaps this is a core message of understanding freedom. Often we come upon "bitter waters," difficult situations, and we have the choice as to how to react. The Midrash here teaches that rather than demanding outside intervention to "sweeten" the situation, we should try to approach the matter with resilience and be grateful for the "waters" even if they are not quite as fresh as we would like.

RABBI SAM FROMSON

שבת שלום

Candles: 3.27pm - 4.04pm
Minchah & Kabbalat Shabbat: 4.10pm

Shabbat morning: 9.15am

Minchah: 4.00pm, followed by shiur with Rabbanit Ramie to coincide with US Women's Shabbat (details overleaf); Ma'ariv when Shabbat ends: 5.13pm

WEEKDAY SERVICES

שחרית

Sun @ 8.30am; Mon & Thu @ 7.15am;
Tue, Wed & Fri @ 7.25am

מנחה & מעריב

Sun - Thu @ 4.00pm

Mazal Tov!

MATT AND SOPHIE SOMERS
ON THE BIRTH OF A BOY
DR SIMON COHEN ON A SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday!

· ABIGAIL BENSOR · MAX COHEN · ILAI GORDON

LEARN WITH US

FRIDAY NIGHT 14TH JANUARY - AFTER MA'ARIV

Donald's Gemara Sanhedrin Chavurah

SHABBAT 15TH JANUARY - AFTER MINCHAH

Shiur with Rabbanit Ramie to coincide with US Women's Shabbat: Enduring Evil: Amalek and the Dangers of Self Deception

MONDAY 17TH JANUARY - 8.00PM [ZOOM]

Adrian Jacobs Shiur Gemara Shiur on Tractate Shabbat

WEDNESDAY 19TH JANUARY - 8.00PM [ZOOM]

Rabbi Yedidya Sinclair on Shmita today (2)
Can the ideas of Shmita help inform or reform 21st century economic life?

Coming soon

Rabbanit Ramie on the Parashah
Rabbi Belovski In Conversation 2
(Starts 1st February with Lord Rowan
Williams, former Archbishop of
Canterbury)

Youth and Children

OUR YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES RUN EVERY SHABBAT MORNING:

- **YOUTH** (Y7 plus), upstairs in the nursery, **10:30am**
- **PRE-YOUTH** (Y5 & Y6), outside under the Rimon shelter
- **CHILDREN** (Reception-Y4), Rimon hall
- **TODDLERS** (Pre-school), Rimon reception playground

All starting at 10.45am

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUTH
ACTIVITIES, PLEASE CONTACT OUR YOUTH
DIRECTORS, TOVA AND SHIRA:
YOUTH@GGSHUL.ORG.UK

AWFUL KIDS' JOKES

- If there's one place I can't stand... It's an ice rink...
- If you cut a minute steak into 60 pieces can everyone can have seconds.
- So what if I don't know what apocalypse means? Its not the end of the world.

USEFUL CONTACTS

OFFICE: 020 8455 2460; office@ggshul.org.uk

TWITTER: @ggshul

RABBI: 020 8458 8824 · rabbi@ggshul.org.uk ·
www.rabbibelovski.co.uk

RABBI SAM FROMSON:

07432 505051 · rabbifromson@ggshul.org.uk

HADASSAH FROMSON:

07415 219079 · hadassah@ggshul.org.uk

CARE LINE: 07415 006072

GEMACH FUND: gemach@ggshul.org.uk

Shul office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
9.30am - 3.00pm; Tuesday 9.30am - 1pm

GGSh Executive

Our community is run by volunteers – do get in touch and get involved. Our Women's Officers are available for support on saying kaddish and observing yahrzeits and our Gabbaim can answer any questions on services.

Chair: Joel Clark, chair@ggshul.org.uk

Financial Representative: Adam Berlin, adam@ggshul.org.uk

Women's Officers: Victoria White, victoria@ggshul.org.uk;
Caroline Levey, caroline@ggshul.org.uk

Gabbaim: Moishe Engel, moishe@ggshul.org.uk;
Gabriel Vaisbrot, gabriel@ggshul.org.uk

Check out our brand new website

WWW.GOLDERSGREENSHUL.ORG.UK

MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND ALL OF OUR ONLINE EVENTS,
REGARDLESS OF LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE