בס״ד

Mevarechin

KISLEV · 6 NOVEMBER 2026 · ש״ק פ׳ חיי שרה



A DVAR TORAH FROM

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As the days get shorter and the weather gets colder, the consolation in the back of all our minds is that Chanukah must be coming soon!

It is a story we have become so used to that sometimes we forget how astonishing it is. Aside from the miracles done by Hashem, the dedication of the Maccabim to the Beit HaMikdash and its upkeep is remarkable. They returned to the Temple to find it plundered and desecrated but rather than despair, they swung into action. They cleared what they could, found a single jar of oil, and lit the menorah. The Beit HaMikdash stood at the centre of Jewish life and nothing less than their best would do for it.

> *we honour what is precious to us by going above and beyond*

It is made all the more surprising when we realise that technically impure oil would have sufficed – the halachic principle of *tum'ah hutra betzibbur* (see *Pesachim* 66b) means that although purity is usually required for the Temple, when most of the nation is impure, as was the case at the time of the Chanuka story, impure service is acceptable.

The lesson they taught us is one we observe on Chanuka to this today – we honour what is precious to us by going above and beyond. We could technically get by lighting one candle for each household on each night of Chanuka but we have all adopted the practice of *mehadrin min hamehadrin* and light many candles, corresponding to the number of nights and people in our homes.

Although we don't have a Temple nowadays, we do have a *Mikdash Me'at* – our special Shul where some of that holiness still dwells. It is a place that is dear to all of us so we would like to use the rededication spirit of Kislev to begin a special project to maximise how we look after our *makom tefillah* – prayer space. It needs nothing so dramatic as the Beit HaMikdash needed in those days – just a few simple changes to make beautify our Shul community even more. It can begin with small things like clearing away rubbish when we see it, putting siddurim/chumashim back on the shelves and being conscious of when it is appropriate to have conversations in Shul.

Kislev is the month of rededication. Let's make it ours. Chodesh Tov u'Mevorach!