

Halakhic Bulletin: Erev Pesach on Shabbat

2008/5768

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Thursday 17 April

Normally **Ta'anit Bekhorot** (the fast of the firstborn) takes place on Erev Pesach.

Since this year Erev Pesach falls on Shabbat, we fast on the previous Thursday instead.

To avoid fasting one may participate in a **Siyum** (the celebratory conclusion of a Talmudic tractate) which will take place at the Shul following Shachrit at 6:50 am

Bedikat Chametz (the search for Chametz) takes place this evening. Search your entire house for any Chametz. Put aside your findings to be burnt the next morning.

The **Kol Chamirah** declaration is recited after the search.

By now your house should be ready for Pesach, although strictly speaking one may Kosher their kitchen until Shabbat begins tomorrow evening.

Friday 18 April

Normally **Mizmor Le-Todah** and **Lamnatze'akh** are omitted during Shachrit on Erev Pesach, today however, they are included.

Burning the Chametz

The Chametz from last night's search should be burned no later than 11:50am.

The **Kol Chamirah** recitation is omitted as it will be recited tomorrow.

The sale of Chametz should also be completed by 11:50am.

The evening Shabbat meal

Although we have already burned and sold our Chametz we must still keep enough Challah to recite **ha-Motzi** for the Friday night and Shabbat day meals. Since the house including the kitchen is already Kosher for Pesach one must be careful not to eat off Pesach dishes or to leave any crumbs around. It is therefore advisable to use small Challah rolls that can easily and completely be consumed. These should be eaten over a cloth or placemat. Any crumbs remaining should be carefully shaken out into the toilet and flushed. After the Challah is eaten and the cloth or placemat is removed one can resume with their Kosher for Pesach Shabbat meal. It is not advisable to have any other Chametz besides the Challah!

Shabbat 19 April

Shabbat morning services begin and end much earlier than usual to enable everyone to make **ha-Motzi and finish eating Chametz before 10:39am** when the prohibition comes into force. Therefore we will be holding Shabbat morning services at 7:00am!

In order to enable everyone to return home quickly after the service we will be holding services in Elstree and Southside in addition to Croxdale Road.

Upon returning home one should repeat the same procedure as last night with regard to the Challah. **This must be completed by 10:39 am after which all Chametz is strictly forbidden.** After clearing the last remaining Chametz one should recite the **Kol Chamirah** which was omitted yesterday at the Chametz burning.

Preparing for the Seder

On Shabbat it is forbidden to prepare anything for after Shabbat. This includes preparing for the Seder. Therefore as much as possible preparations should be completed before Shabbat commences. This may include setting the table and preparing various dishes. A simple solution would be to set up the Seder table in the dining room on Erev Shabbat and to eat the Shabbat meals in the kitchen.

Se'udah Shelishit

Since Chametz is forbidden by late morning onwards and Matzah may not be eaten before the Seder, the third Shabbat meal should consist of fish, meat or fruit.

Minchah & Ma'ariv

Because Shabbat goes out so late, Mincha & Ma'ariv services will be held at the same three locations in Elstree, Southside and Croxdale to enable everyone to get home shortly after Shabbat to begin the Seder.

After Mincha we read the ***Magid*** section of the Hagadah

Ma'ariv and Havdalah

The Seder must not commence before nightfall when Shabbat goes out. **This means the Seder cannot begin before 8:55pm.** At this time Ma'ariv will be recited at the services. For women at home it is sufficient to recite ***Barukh ha-mavdil bein Kodesh le-Chol*** (Blessed is He who distinguishes between the Holy and the profane) after which they can light the Yom Tov candles and begin preparing for the Seder.

It is important to remember that the second Seder may also not commence before nightfall at 8:56.