

SHABBATUK

13 - 14 MAY 2022

Exciting Ideas for
Your Community

BACK TO SHUL

ShabbatUK 2022 is going to be a fantastic boost as we **encourage people back to Shul** and look to get them involved in community life once again.

Remember to be mindful that Covid 19 remains a very real danger to many people

- Consider organising multiple, smaller scale events rather than single, large events
- Find local spaces that might more safely accommodate larger numbers
- Organise special events with additional covid precautions to put members' minds at ease
- Hold hybrid events where possible

Whilst it is a special Shabbat, it is also a great way to **showcase what a 'normal Shabbat'** is like in your community

- If there is a popular activity, shiur or event which the community runs from time to time? – why not showcase it on ShabbatUK?
- Involve as many people as you can on the organising committee – from regulars to those who rarely visit Shul. This way you'll have a better chance of reaching different people from across your community!

PRE-SHABBAT

Challah Makes

During the time it takes for the challah dough to rise, there is a perfect opportunity to organise an additional activity.

- Arts & crafts (decorate and laminate the Shabbat Bracha Card/ Design your own tablecloths/challah covers, etc)
- Challah Design workshop
- Wine tasting for your Shabbat Table
- Shabbat related shiurim or other educational presentations
- Shabbat themed cookie making for the younger members for your ShabbatUK kiddush
- Partnerships with other organisations in the area

INCORPORATE A CHESED ASPECT INTO YOUR CHALLAH MAKE

Giving the challahs to a charity
(but make sure to warn them so they can plan for it)

Encourage participants to make and sell extra challah to raise money for tzedakah

Lots more information and guidance available in the challah make guide [here](#)

THE SHABBAT EXPERIENCE

It can seem as though every waking second is emails, Facebook, Zoom, videos, meetings.. screens, screens, screens.

For many of us, Shabbat is our special weekly opportunity to break the cycle and learn to breathe again. With this in mind, why not **encourage those in your community who may not already be Shabbat observant to sign up to experience it for the first time?**

Instead of spending their Saturdays tapping and swiping like any other day of the week, encourage them to sign up for **The Shabbat Experience**. This could involve:

Running events exclusively for Shabbat Experience participants.

Asking participants to sign a pledge, committing to the experience.

Have a 'Phone Box' for people to put their phones in over the period of time.

Ensure that there is a full schedule of activities to keep them occupied, which apart from Shabbat services and meals, could incorporate time to read a book, or play a board game with the family.

There are plenty of ways to show what an exhilarating experience Shabbat observance can be!

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Seven speakers at seven different homes (a great way to reach people who wouldn't usually attend an educational programme like this).

Encourage young members to create Shabbat guide/resource pack with Divrei Torah, stories, games, etc. to be distributed in time for ShabbatUK.

Create a ShabbatUK challenge in the weeks or months prior to the big weekend that covers the key elements of enjoying and keeping Shabbat: A Challah Make, a communal Havdalah, a Friday night experience, Shabbat cooking workshops etc.

Organise a series of special 'enhanced' Kiddushim that feature traditional foods like kugel and chicken soup, along with a short shiur from the Rabbi or a community member.

Start up Shabbat service classes for those who don't feel confident navigating around a Siddur on Friday night or Shabbat day. Guide them through the services, teaching them prayers and niggunim (tunes), while providing further background on their origins and meaning.

Arrange a series of ShabbatUK chaburot (group learning sessions) that promote further study of commentary on this year's ShabbatUK parasha, Pekudei.

Arts & crafts day for young children.

OTHER IDEAS

- Raise money for local families to meet the cost of Shabbat meals
- Train women to take part in and run a women's only Kabbalat Shabbat
- A 'ShabbatUK Shuk' with stalls at which you can prepare elements of your Shabbat e.g. Havdalah candle making, recipe swap, buy Judaica, wine tasting, design a container for besamim and select spices to go inside it, paint a Kiddush cup/ challah plate, etc.
- Create communal campaigns around the setting and breaking of community 'records' e.g. the largest number of boys reciting Anim Zmirot at one time or the most kneidelach eaten in one sitting!



- Cooking demos and cook-along events
Run a themed Shabbat cooking workshop that introduces participants to traditional dishes from different Jewish communities around the world
'Cooking Shabbat dinner in under an hour' or 'Shabbat on a budget'
These are great as hybrid events!
- **Explanatory workshops** teaching the practical aspects of keeping Shabbat, such as using hot plates and urns
- A **wine tasting event** – a great way to choose a wine for Shabbat!

KEY TIP

asking around to get a **community consensus** on an event will both give you an idea of what people will want and spread the word about the event

IDEAS FOR ...

Friday night dinner

— Communal dinners

Perhaps with an unusual theme, entertainment or speaker.

Remember – the more measures you take to reassure more Covid-cautious members of your community, the more likely they are to come!

— Special Kiddush

A Chicken Soup Kiddush after Kabbalat Shabbat is a great opportunity for everyone to come together, but much cheaper to organise than a communal Shabbat meal

— Travelling Minyanim

Visiting those who wouldn't otherwise make it to Shul

— Community Oneg

— Partner with another local Shul, charity or communal organisation

— Encourage children to learn and 'perform' a part of the davening

Shabbat Day

— Communal Lunch with an unusual theme, entertainment or speaker

For example, you could have a choir, Shabbat compliant magicians or a community member giving a talk

— Bring in Madrichim to run an afternoon programme for the youth

Leading into Havdalah where the families will come and join them

— Bring Chesed into the centre of your Shabbat! You could:

Walk to your local hospital to visit Jewish patients to try to make them feel part of ShabbatUK

Visit local Jewish residents on Shabbat afternoon who live alone

In communities with an eruv, take Shabbat lunch around to the elderly/infirm

Offer a 'Shabbat Buddy' system – so that people who might not know anyone, have a specific person to go to Shul with

IDEAS FOR ...

Shabbat day

- Specially-themed children's services

- Ideas for speakers

Invite Covid 'heroes' (key workers) from your community to share their experiences

Are there local politicians, influential journalists or other dignitaries with an interesting story to share?

Invite members of the community who have a story to tell about keeping Shabbat under trying/fascinating/inspirational circumstances.

Feel free to contact us if you need some guidance!



Seuda Shlishit

- Encourage your members to invite people into their homes who don't usually experience Shabbat to be involved with Seuda leading into a beautiful Havdalah

- Shabbat crawl

Go to different houses/ different Shabbat experiences

Havdalah

- Make sure to check out our Havdalah guide on the website!

- Community Kumzits with performers from your local community

- Lively Melava Malka with BBQ style food/ fish & chips

- Musical Havdalah



INCLUSIVITY

We would like to make ShabbatUK as inclusive as possible, to make this a special Shabbat for all members of the community. Consider what additional provision you can make for members with disabilities.

There may be something which you couldn't provide all year round but as a one-off, would be worth trying. Think how you can encourage members back into Shul, who have been absent in recent months, in a way that makes them feel safe.

SCHOOL AND SHULS

Schools are very active in ShabbatUK – **incorporating a local Jewish school into your ShabbatUK planning** can really help your community be a space for younger members to enjoy the magic of Shabbat. Consider inviting a member of staff from the local school to join your ShabbatUK Committee

In schools, children have been taught a **special version of Dror Yikra**. We're encouraging Shuls to find a time when they can perform it for the community, perhaps after Kabbalat Shabbat or during kiddush

As part of the **ShabbatART project**, for which children have been making Shabbat-themed art in schools, we're hoping that Shul will provide the space for children to display their art on Shabbat. Encouraging parents in to Shul to see their children's work will be sure to bring in those who would not necessarily come to Shul otherwise!

Kids are Key! Kids are the **most likely people** to convince parents to make the pilgrimage to Shul on ShabbatUK!