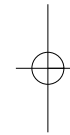
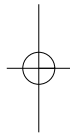




A POLICE OFFICER'S GUIDE TO JUDAISM



CONTENTS

WHAT IS JUDAISM? 3

THE SABBATH 4

JEWISH FESTIVALS 6

FOOD 10

JEWISH CLOTHING AND HOMES 12

SYNAGOGUE AND PRAYER 14

THE JEWISH LIFE CYCLE 16

WELFARE ISSUES 18

HELPFUL CONTACTS 20

DATES OF JEWISH FESTIVALS 27

WHAT IS JUDAISM?

Judaism is the religion of the Jewish people and, at over 3,500 years old, is one of the oldest religious traditions still practised today. Its values and history are a major part of the foundations of Christianity and Islam.

There are approximately 12 million Jewish people in the world, six million of whom live in Israel. There are around 320,000 Jews in the UK, who belong to a number of different denominations. These are:

Strictly Orthodox

Strictly Orthodox Jews regard the *Torah* (the primary document in Judaism containing the entire body of Jewish teachings) as being given directly by God on Mount Sinai, and hold it in the highest authority. Members of these communities are highly identifiable through their mode of dress and strict customs.

Modern Orthodox

Modern Orthodox Jews fully observe the sabbath, festivals, dietary laws and other aspects of the Jewish faith, but also integrate more fully into British society. They dress in a modern fashion and enjoy secular culture, science and entertainment.

Reform and Liberal

Members of these movements take a much more modern approach towards Judaism while still retaining its principles and morals. They do not observe the faith in the same way as Orthodox Jews would. For example, Orthodox Jews will usually wear a head covering which they believe shows respect for God. Liberal Jews do not believe this is necessary.

Reform and Liberal Jews may also not be as stringent when it comes to keeping sabbath observance or dietary laws. In addition, women can become Rabbis and men and women sit together in the synagogue.



There are also many people who are not affiliated to any denomination or keep any of the traditional laws, but who still identify as Jews.

Strictly Orthodox Jews in their traditional clothing



THE SABBATH

- Non-emergency crimes will not usually be reported until after the sabbath or the festival has ended
- Orthodox Jews will be unwilling to write statements or sign their names
- Orthodox Jews will not answer the telephone on the sabbath



SABBATH

The sabbath, or *shabbat*, as it is called in Hebrew, is one of the most important parts of the Jewish faith. Jews are required to refrain from various acts of "work" on the sabbath, in commemoration of God's cessation of work on the seventh day of creation. Instead, the day is traditionally spent engaged in religious study and prayer, as well as enjoying time with family members and friends

What is Considered as 'Work'?

Taken in a modern context, Orthodox Jews generally refrain from such activities as:

- driving a car
- using any electronic equipment
- switching lights on and off
- handling money
- writing
- carrying anything outside of the home
- using a telephone

It is difficult to stress adequately the centrality and binding nature of the sabbath laws for Orthodox Jews. There can be no compromise and there is no mechanism for granting dispensation, apart from in matters of life and death.

The Timing of the Sabbath

The sabbath starts on Friday about one hour before nightfall, or 15 minutes before dusk. Therefore Orthodox Jews need to leave work or school in sufficient time to arrive home before the onset of the sabbath.

At its earliest in mid-winter, the sabbath commences at approximately 3:30pm, but during the summer months will be much later. The sabbath lasts for approximately 25 hours until nightfall on Saturday evening.

The traditional sabbath table, as seen in Jewish homes across the world



Life-Threatening Emergencies

The only relaxation to these strict laws is where there is a potential threat to life. In this case one is obligated to ignore every sabbath requirement and immediately seek medical attention or call the police.



JEWISH FESTIVALS

Practical Policing Issues

- Festival laws are almost indistinguishable from sabbath laws, and exactly the same policing issues will apply
- Many people who do not usually attend services during the rest of the year will do so on the festivals. The synagogues will therefore be full and the nearby streets will often be very busy
- Each festival may have specific policing requirements. These are described in this section



For a guide to festival dates over the next five years, please see the inside back cover of this booklet

FESTIVALS

The Jewish calendar has a number of festivals and special days, either commemorating major events in Jewish history or celebrating certain times of year.

Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)

Rosh Hashanah takes place over two days in September or October, and is considered one of the most important periods in the Jewish calendar. It is an opportunity for reflection on our actions in the previous year.

Practical Policing Issues on Rosh Hashanah

- Many synagogues will have additional overflow services either on the premises or nearby
- Members of Reform communities will often drive to synagogue services, and there may be significant congestion and parking issues. Even in Orthodox communities there may be an increase in traffic
- On the afternoon of the first day (or the second day if the first falls on the sabbath), many Jewish people will walk to a river to symbolically 'cast away' their sins. This ceremony is called *tashlich*

The *Shofar* (ram's horn) is symbolically sounded on Rosh Hashanah



Yom Kippur (Day Of Atonement)

This festival is the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar and involves praying for forgiveness for sins committed in the past year and demonstrating repentance. Every Jewish person, except children and those who are ill, is required to abstain from food or drink for 25 hours from sundown on the previous evening until nightfall the next day.

Practical Policing Issues on Yom Kippur

- Synagogues are open all day and are extremely busy, especially for the evening services
- Many people will walk home during the day for a short break from prayers. There is likely to be a continuous flow of people on the streets throughout the day
- Since most Jewish families will be in synagogue for the opening and concluding services of Yom Kippur, their homes may be more vulnerable to burglars.



Succot (Tabernacles)

This festival begins five days after the end of Yom Kippur and commemorates the temporary booths which the Israelites constructed in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. During this eight-day festival, Jewish people are required to live and eat in a similar booth, known as a *succah*.

The intermediate days of this festival are regular working days.

Practical Policing Issues on Succot

- Many Jewish people will be carrying long boxes containing palm tree leaves to and from synagogue. This is a tradition of the holiday
- Synagogues will have a succah on their premises

Simchat Torah (Rejoicing Of The Law)

Immediately following Succot is Simchat Torah, which is one of the most joyous festivals in the Jewish calendar. Many synagogues hold parties after the service.

Practical Policing Issues on Simchat Torah

- Many families and children will attend synagogue services on this day, and there will often be outdoor parties
- Synagogue services will usually last a lot longer during the day, and many communities will also hold a communal luncheon. Therefore synagogues may not close until mid-afternoon

A family enjoying a festive Seder meal on Pesach



Pesach (Passover)

This eight day festival, which often coincides with the Easter weekend, recalls the freedom of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. To remember the haste with which they escaped, no leavened food such as bread, cereals or beer, may be consumed or owned on this festival.

Shavuot (Pentecost)

Shavuot takes place seven weeks after Pesach (usually around late May/early June) and celebrates the Jewish people receiving the Torah. The festival lasts for two days and it is traditional to eat dairy products.

Practical Policing Issues on Shavuot

- It is traditional to study all night on the first evening of this festival and there may be many people on the streets and in synagogues.

In addition to these festivals, there are two other minor festivals in which normal work and activities are permitted.

Chanukah (Festival of Lights)

This joyous festival is celebrated by lighting a candelabra (called a *menorah*) every night for eight nights. Other traditions include eating food cooked in oil such as doughnuts and potato pancakes, giving presents and holding parties.

Practical Policing Issues on Chanukah

- It is traditional for families to display the (often expensive) candelabra in their front windows. Therefore burglaries and fires can occur, and the community leaders should be given the appropriate advice

The menorah is usually displayed prominently in the front window of a Jewish home



- Some Jewish communities will hold Chanukah ceremonies in public places

Purim (Festival of Lots)

This one-day festival recalls the story of Esther, a Jewish queen in Persia who foiled a plot by one of the king's advisors to kill all the Jews. As well as the story being read in synagogue from a special scroll called a *megillah*, it is a day for parties and communal celebrations.

Practical Policing Issues on Purim

- This is a day of joy and fun, and fancy dress costumes are traditionally worn, even in public places
- It is traditional for young children to walk through the local neighbourhood collecting and distributing charity to friends and strangers alike
- This is one of the few occasions in the year in which the consumption of alcohol is encouraged. This can lead to isolated instances of antisocial behaviour

FOOD

Practical Policing Issues

- Kosher food should always be offered when inviting a Jewish guest to a meeting
- Pre-packaged meals can be made available if a detainee or a prisoner requires
- Do not bring any food into a Jewish home without permission
- On all matters of kashrut, it is important to consult a Rabbi or reliable authority



FOOD

The Jewish dietary laws, known as *kashrut* or *kosher*, cover the way in which meat is killed and prepared, as well as the types of food which can and cannot be eaten.

What Meat is Permitted?

Animals: According to Jewish law, a kosher animal is required to 'chew the cud' and have cloven hooves. Therefore products from cows or sheep are permitted, but those from pigs are prohibited.

Birds: Most poultry, including chicken, turkey, duck and goose is permitted but birds of prey are not.

Fish: A kosher fish must have fins and scales. Therefore those such as cod, haddock and plaice are kosher, but shellfish, octopus and oysters are not.

Jews are permitted to eat only food which is kosher. Meat, poultry and their products must be prepared by *shechita*, the Jewish religious and humane method of slaughtering animals and poultry for food. This method may only be carried out by a duly qualified and licensed individual, known as a *shochet*.

Separating Meat and Milk

Jewish people may not consume milk and meat together. It is therefore traditional to wait three hours after eating meat or poultry before consuming any dairy products, although some people may wait up to six hours. Separate utensils and cooking equipment are also required.

Kosher Shopping and Restaurants

To accommodate Jewish customers, manufacturers often produce ranges of products that are specially supervised. This is because, even if the product is marked as vegetarian, the food may still have been made on the same factory line as

something that is not kosher, and Orthodox Jews would refrain from eating it.

McDonald's in Israel - absolutely no cheeseburgers for sale



Special care and attention is also required when eating in restaurants. Many Orthodox Jews will only eat in a

restaurant which is supervised by a Jewish authority. However, others may be happy to eat in an unlicensed restaurant. It is therefore appropriate to ask your dining partner of their level of observance.



JEWISH CLOTHING AND HOMES

Practical Policing Issues

- Whilst you should always be conscious that you are in a Jewish home, there is no particular way that you need to behave or dress, and you are not required to follow Jewish practices
- Orthodox Jewish men and women may not shake hands with officers of the opposite sex, and any such gesture will be politely refused. However, no offence will be taken



JEWISH CLOTHING AND HOMES

Observant Jewish men cover their heads at all times, usually with a small skullcap known as a *yarmulke* or *kippah*. Some may also wear a tasselled garment, called *tzitzit*, as an undergarment and this may be visible below their waist.

Married Orthodox Jewish women cover their hair or wear a wig at all times as a sign of modesty. They will only wear modest clothing and many will not wear trousers, short skirts or short sleeves.

All traditional Jewish homes can be identified by looking for a *mezuzah*. This is a small box containing two biblical texts, which is affixed to the right-hand doorpost of most rooms in a Jewish home including the front door.



A mezuzah is an easy way to identify a Jewish home



SYNAGOGUE AND PRAYER

Practical Policing Issues

- It is not necessary for a male police officer to wear a skullcap when entering a synagogue. However, this gesture will be appreciated, especially when prayer services are taking place
- Discretion should be used if taking pictures, videos or using tape recorders in a synagogue during the sabbath and festival services



SYNAGOGUE AND PRAYER

All men and boys over the age of 13 are required to pray three times a day. While this can be performed individually, most men prefer to attend synagogue and pray with at least ten other men present. Such a prayer group, called a *minyan*, is particularly important when a person is in a period of mourning.

- Morning prayers - services take place between 6:00-9:00am, and last about 45 minutes. Phylacteries (small leather boxes containing biblical texts known as *tefillin*) and a prayer shawl are worn during prayer.
- Afternoon and evening prayers usually take around 15 minutes.

Women can also pray, but they are not required to wear shawls or phylacteries during morning prayers.

Synagogue etiquette varies depending on the denomination of Judaism to which a person belongs.

- In Orthodox synagogues men and women sit separately, either upstairs in the gallery or to the side of men. Men wear the traditional head covering. Married women cover their heads with hats or scarves and are expected to dress modestly.
- At Reform and Liberal synagogues men and women will usually sit together during the service.

Hebrew is the traditional language of Jewish prayer, and is used to varying degrees in the services and celebrations of each denomination.

A Torah scroll being carried by the worshippers who are wearing tefillin



THE JEWISH LIFE CYCLE

Practical Policing Issues on Burial and Mourning

- The body should never be left unaccompanied, and it is vital that there is as little interference with the body as possible
- Eyes and jaws should be closed and the body covered with a white sheet
- The funeral should take place as soon as possible following the death, often on the same day
- In Strictly Orthodox communities there may be large crowds in the streets to mourn the deceased



THE JEWISH LIFE CYCLE

Birth

Every Jewish boy is required to be circumcised in a ceremony called *brit milah*. This takes place when the baby is eight days old, or as soon as possible thereafter if there are medical reasons for a delay. The circumcision is performed by a *mohel*, a trained Jewish practitioner who may also be a registered medical doctor. The boy's name is frequently not announced until the circumcision.

Girls are usually named in the synagogue, often on the sabbath following the birth.

Barmitzvah / Batmitzvah

Boys are recognised as full adult members of the community at age 13, when they celebrate their *barmitzvah* (literally 'son of the commandments'). Girls reach this stage at 12 when they celebrate their *batmitzvah*. Both boys and girls have a period of intense study leading up to the occasion.

Weddings

Jewish weddings can occur any day of the week except the sabbath, Jewish festivals, and particular mourning periods in the Jewish calendar.



The bride and groom are married under a four-poster canopy called a *Chuppah*.

A Jewish wedding may take place in any location, but is commonly held in a synagogue. It is traditional for the couple's friends and family to organise celebratory meals during the week after the wedding.

Death and Mourning

When a Jewish person dies it is crucial that the body is treated with care and extreme reverence at all times. There are special rules for the preparation of the body for burial, and the body should not be left unattended at any time.

Post-mortems are not permitted in Jewish law except where required under civil law. Cremation is also not permitted according to Orthodox Jewish law, although it is allowed in Reform and Liberal communities.

After the funeral the immediate family of the deceased mourn at home for seven days. This is known as the *shiva* period.



WELFARE ISSUES

WELFARE ISSUES

Medical Treatment

There are religious guidelines governing abortion, organ transplantation and donation, fertility treatment and contraception. Apart from these, all treatments necessary to save a life, particularly in an emergency, should be carried out without question or delay.

According to Jewish law, blood transfusions are permitted. Indeed, they are mandatory if required to ensure a person's good health.

In case of queries contact the *London Beth Din* (a religious advisory body) if no local source is available.

Domestic and Child Abuse

Sadly such matters are not absent from the Jewish community. As in other communities they are often hidden and not spoken about within families, so it is often helpful to resolve such issues with the help of special communal agencies who have trained counsellors able to provide aid and reassurance. If this is not possible, however, any concerns should be reported to social services and/or the police.



HELPFUL CONTACTS

1. Representative Organisations
2. Social Services, Adoption and Fostering
3. Religious Organisations
4. Regional Contacts
5. Kosher Caterers



HELPFUL CONTACTS

1 REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS

CST

CST is the British Jewish community's defence organisation and exists to protect the community from antisemitism and terrorist threats. It provides trained security volunteers for Jewish synagogues, schools and events. It also has a strong relationship with the Government and Police, and represents the community on Gold Strategy Groups and IAGs.

0141 577 8205 (Glasgow)

020 8457 9999 (London)

0161 792 6666 (Manchester)

www.thecst.org.uk

Board of Deputies of British Jews

The elected representative body of the British Jewish community. It provides information and collects social and demographic data on, and for, the community.

020 7543 5400

www.bod.org.uk.

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

The democratic representative body of all of the Jewish communities in Scotland. It represents the Jewish community in Scotland to government and other statutory and official bodies, and provides services and support to the Scottish Jewish Community.

0141 638 6411

scojec@scojec.org

www.scojec.org

Jewish Police Association

Established in order to provide a network for support and advice to Jewish personnel within the police service, and to promote understanding of the Jewish faith within the police service.

020 7161 0718

07770 492 782

www.jewishpoliceassociation.org.uk



2 SOCIAL AND WELFARE SERVICES

Emergency Response Team

Provides help and support in cases of sudden death.
07818002172

Drugline

An independent drugs crisis information and support charity, providing free and confidential advice for people with drugs and alcohol related problems.
0808 1606 606
www.drugline.org

Hospital Kosher Meals Service

A kosher meal service is available to patients in hospitals throughout Scotland. For information contact the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council
0141 577 8200
jrepcouncil@aol.com

Jewish Bereavement Counselling

A bereavement counselling service is offered by Jewish Care Scotland. Professionally trained volunteer counsellors work with people of all ages.
0141 620 1800
www.jcarescot.org.uk

Jewish Care (Scotland)

Jewish Care Scotland provides social care services for the Jewish Community in Scotland, supporting around 600 families and individuals every year.
0141 620 1800
www.jcarescot.org.uk

Cosgrove Care (Scotland)

Provides support to those with learning disabilities and their families within the Jewish Community in Scotland. Cosgrove Care currently supports around 120 children and adults, offering Registered Care Home Services, Housing Support Services along with a range of Augmented Services, Outreach Services and Children's Services.
0141 620 2500
www.cosgrove.co.uk

Jewish Women's Aid

JWA assists Jewish women and their children who have been subjected to domestic violence. It operates a confidential freephone helpline.
0800 591 203
info@jwa.org.uk

Association of Jewish Refugees

The AJR provides an extensive range of social and welfare services, and grants financial assistance to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution living in Great Britain.
Regional Social Worker for Scotland 0191 273 9681
Regional Coordinator for Scotland 0151 291 5734
London Head Office 020 8385 3070
www.ajr.org.uk

3 RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS

(Orthodox)

Glasgow Beth Din

The Beth Din fulfils the following functions for the Orthodox Jewish Community. a) supervision of marriages, divorces, adoptions and conversions; b) certification of religious status.
0141 577 8251
rabbimrubin@talk21.com

Glasgow and West of Scotland Kashrut Authority

Oversees the supervision of kashrut within Glasgow and West of Scotland
07976728350

London Beth Din

The Beth Din fulfils the following functions for the Orthodox Jewish Community. a) supervision of marriages, divorces, adoptions and conversions; b) certification of religious status; c) supervision of shechita and kashrut.
020 8343 6313
info@bethdin.org.uk

United Synagogue

020 8343 8989
www.unitedsynagogue.org.uk



(Reform and Liberal)

Glasgow Reform Synagogue

0141 639 4083
www.grs.org.uk

Movement for Reform Judaism

020 8349 5640
www.reformjudaism.org.uk

Liberal Judaism

020 7580 1663
www.liberaljudaism.org

4 REGIONAL CONTACTS

Almost all major regional Jewish communities have a Representative Council, who will be pleased to assist you in your work.

Birmingham	0121 236 1801	Leeds	0113 269 7520
Bournemouth	01202 396139	Liverpool	0151 733 2292
Cardiff	029 2048 8198	Manchester	0161 720 8721
Dublin	353 1492 3751	Newcastle	0191 284 8885
Glasgow	0141 638 6411	Southend	0170 247 1934

5 KOSHER CATERERS

Simcha Catering

Provides a wide range of kosher catering services.
0141 620 0070

Hermolis & Co Ltd

Hermolis provides a pre-packaged kosher meal service throughout the UK
020 8810 4321
www.hermolis.com

PERSONAL NOTES

Lined area for personal notes on page 25.



This booklet has been produced by CST to provide information to the Police and others concerning the requirements of practising Jews in the United Kingdom.

It has been designed to further your knowledge and understanding of the Jewish community, and also to provide you with some practical assistance within the context of operational policing.

This is not a definitive guide, but offers an introductory insight into some of the customs, laws and traditions of the Jewish community.



London (Head Office)

020 8457 9999

Emergency 24 hr pager

07659 101 668

Manchester

(Northern Regional Office)

0161 792 6666

Emergency 24 hr number

0800 980 0668

www.thecst.org.uk

Registered charity number 1042391