



19 March 2020

SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES UPDATE

Dear Friends,

This week, we mark Shabbat Hachodesh, when we add a special Torah portion to mark the beginning of the month of Nisan and herald the approach of Pesach.

This Nisan will be rather different from others, however, because our obligation to keep each other safe - as a strong communal response to the Coronavirus pandemic - means that **we have decided that our services (<http://www.optimait.com/wslive.html>) and indeed the Seder itself - together with our education provision will be conducted online for the time being.** This will come into effect from today (Thursday 19 March).

We will, of course, still be keeping the healing prayer and kaddish list, so if you would like to add the name of a loved one's, please email Micky at micky.nathanson@wls.org.uk or call 020 7535 0284.

Please ask Micky if you are not a confident viewer of online broadcasts, and he will arrange for someone to help.

If you have a bar or bat mitzvah or wedding planned - mazal tov! Please be assured that you are very much on our minds and we will be in touch with you directly.

Talmud Torah - Jewish learning - brings people together, so do look out for learning opportunities on the WLS website and social media platforms.

We have a team of dedicated volunteers who will be contacting some of our more vulnerable members to check if they need help with shopping, collecting medication or would just like a chat. If you'd like to help or if you know someone you think might need the team's support, email at wintercare@wls.org.uk or ring on 020 7535 0267.

Indeed, If you have any concerns whatsoever during this challenging time, do get in touch as above, and the rabbis and Social Care Team will call you back.

We know that countries abroad have already limited numbers at their funerals, and we have been asked by our cemeteries to do the same. There will be a maximum of 20 allowed to attend a service and we are asked to avoid having shivah prayers that bring people together in a small space. We have also been asked to postpone all stone settings, alternatively, ensuring that all consecration ceremonies take place at the graveside and not in the prayer hall.

As Shabbat approaches we pray for healing for all those who are in poor health and we pray that this season will see us keep strong and continuing to grow in these difficult times.

With all good wishes

President, Chairman, Board, Executive Director and Rabbis of West London Synagogue

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PRINCIPAL RABBI [Helen Freeman](#)
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