



My BMitzvah at Temple Israel

Name	
Hebrew name	
BM Date	
Hebrew Date	
BMitzvah Mitzvah Project	

The teachers and rabbis are looking forward to working with you as you prepare for your special day. By the time your BMitzvah arrives you will:

- ◆ **have completed a BMitzvah Mitzvah Project**
- ◆ **be able to lead candles, Kiddush and ha'motzi on Erev Shabbat**
- ◆ **be able to lead parts of the Shabbat morning service**
- ◆ **chant your Maffir and Haftarah portions**
- ◆ **deliver a Dvar Torah**
- ◆ **be able to put on a tallit and recite the blessing**

PREPARING FOR YOUR BMITZVAH

◆ Enrol in the Hebrew School

Your BMitzvah date can only be set once you are enrolled in the Hebrew School and can read Hebrew. Contact melbeswick@mweb.co.za or register here.



◆ Shabbat and Festival service attendance

To properly prepare for your BMitzvah, you and your family need to feel comfortable with the service as well as get to know the other families and congregants who attend shul. As such, we require that families attend the Shabbat morning and festival services throughout the year preceding your BMitzvah. You can attend in person or online, but we encourage in person where possible.

◆ Hebrew School attendance (a min of 18 months before BM date)

Hebrew School classes, which include Hebrew and Progressive Jewish Studies, are on **Saturday mornings** from **9.30 – 11.30am** followed by a brocha with the community. These lessons alternate between Green Point and Wynberg. Scan here to join the Cheder WhatsApp group.



◆ Weekday lessons for *Siddur* reading and Torah Leyning (± a year before BM date)

Once your cheder Hebrew teacher is happy with your Hebrew reading you will start weekday lessons. These are individual lessons with a tutor on Zoom. At these lessons you will continue learning parts of the *siddur* as well as learn to chant your *Torah* and *Haftarah* blessings and your *Maffir* and *Haftarah* portions. It is important to also make time in your schedule to practice between lessons. This is also the time to make contact with your assigned rabbi.

◆ Setting your BMitzvah date

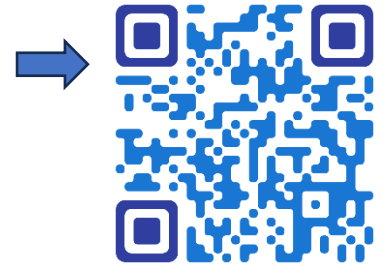
A provisional date can be put on the Shul calendar with Mel Beswick. A rabbi will be assigned to you based on the date you have chosen.

◆ **Meeting with the Rabbi** (± 6 months before BM date)

You and your parents will have six sessions with the Rabbi to prepare your *Dvar Torah* and to work out your final preparations for the day. The week before your BMitzvah the Rabbi will invite you and your family to a rehearsal in the shul.

◆ **BMitzvah Mitzvah Project** (this should happen during the year of your BM preparation)

Having a BMitzvah is not just about the day in shul, but about taking responsibility as a Jewish adult for all the *mitzvot* of Jewish life and for *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world that we live in. You will choose a Mitzvah Project that you would like to do in the wider community, something that will make Cape Town a better place for all. It could be volunteering, collecting money or goods, sharing time, energy or skills in any project that helps to fix our community. A poster about your Mitzvah Project needs to be completed and presented on your BMitzvah. You also need to write a paragraph and send it to Mel to put on the BM Blog which you can look at here or at <https://www.templeisrael.co.za/blog>.



◆ **Wearing a Tallit**

Progressive Judaism believes that men and women are regarded equally in the synagogue and as such we expect all BMitzvah candidates to wear a tallit.

'God said to Moses as follows: Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make for themselves fringes on the corners of their garments throughout the ages; let them attach a cord of blue to the fringe at each corner. That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of God and observe them.' Numbers 15:37 – 39

There will be opportunities to learn about the *tallit* during the year to give you a deeper understanding of its symbolism. Should you wish to buy or make a tallit in honour of the occasion you may contact Mel, Vanessa, or any of the rabbis to guide you.

◆ **The Brocha**

Our BMitzvah are cause for celebration in our congregation, it is therefore customary for the BMitzvah family to sponsor the brocha after the Shabbat morning service for everyone. There are a range of options for caterers and budgets. Please contact Mel for details should you need. If you choose to use a private caterer, they need to liaise with the office regarding our kashrut policy and the hiring of crockery and cutlery.

◆ The BMitzvah fee

An invoice will be sent when you book your BMitzvah date. This will give you time to budget or work out a payment plan. For any financial queries contact Eric Beswick.

The price includes:

- All Hebrew School classes
- All Siddur and Torah tuition
- Sessions with the rabbi
- A bookplate that is placed in a *Mishkan Tefilah siddur* to commemorate the event

◆ Family Involvement

There are a variety of ways for families to get involved in the community and we encourage you to tick at least three of the options below each month.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Erev Shabbat services | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Shabbat morning services | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with preparing the brocha |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend festival services | <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a family session with the rabbi |

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Siddur – prayer book

Leyning – to chant Torah

Parsha – Torah portion of the week

Maffir – the concluding section of the *parsha*

Haffarah – a portion from the Prophets read after the Torah reading

Mitzvah – literal translation is 'commandment' but has been taken to mean 'good deed'

Dvar Torah – literal translation 'words of Torah'. It is speech where you teach the community about your *parsha*.

CONTACT NUMBER

Mel Beswick - 084 529 8003

melbeswick@mweb.co.za

Hebrew School Co-ordinator

Rachael Bootcov – 072 601 3853

rachsarabootcov@gmail.com

Vanessa Bourne - 083 284 9815

vanessa@mrpr.co.za

Rabbi Greg - 082 902 5702

ravgreg@templeisrael.co.za

Rabbi Malcolm – 082 339 8771

rabbimalcolm@templeisrael.co.za

Rabbi Emma - 066 293 1660

rabbiemma@templeisrael.co.za

Eric Beswick Executive Director - 021 762 1745

executive-director@templeisrael.co.za

