

GLOSSARY

I have omitted some liturgical terms.

Ashkenazi(m). Jews descended from German/Polish families or adhering to their liturgy.

ba'alei batim. Heads of families.

barmitzvah. Ceremony of calling 13-year-old boy to the Reading of the Law.

batmitzvah. Ceremony of various forms to mark religious majority of a girl.

besamim. Spices used in service for conclusion of the Sabbath.

bima. Raised central area in a synagogue.

haftarah. Reading from the Prophets after the Reading of the Law.

Haham. The religious head of the Sephardi community of London.

Hatikvah. Song reflecting aspirations of Zionist Movement, later Israeli National Anthem.

hazan. Cantor, reader.

High Holidays. The autumn sequence of festivals including New Year and the Day of Atonement.

ketubah. Marriage-contract.

mikveh, mikvah. Ritual bath-house.

minyan. The quorum of ten adult males required for many liturgical purposes, particularly the Reading of the Law.

mitzvot (in context). The privileges of being called to the Reading of the Law.

Rosh Hashanah. The Festival of the New Year.

Seder. Formal service and meal for first two nights of Passover.

Sephardi(m). Jews descended from Spanish/Portuguese families or adhering to their liturgy.

shechita. Slaughter and preparation of kosher meat.

shekalim. 'Shekels' (contribution to Zionist Movement).

shiurim. Lectures/discussions, normally on the Talmud.

shochet(im). Slaughterer(s).

sukkah. Booth (temporary structure erected during Festival of Tabernacles).

taharah. Washing of the dead preparatory to burial.

yeshivah. Rabbinical academy.

Yom Kippur. Day of Atonement.

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