

# Northampton Hebrew Congregation Education Pack

## *Additional resources for teachers*

### Answers to some of the questions raised in the 'Activities'

6. We face east as the original Temple in Jerusalem, containing the Holy of Holies, would have been due east of us in Northampton

8. Decorating the Torah scroll shows our respect for the One who gave the Law, as GOD IS KING. It also allows members of a Jewish community to donate the adornments in memory of loved ones who have passed away. Perpetuating the memory of loved ones is a strong tradition in Judaism. Amongst the decoration on the Torah mantle or covering can often be seen a crown (majesty) and the lion (king of beasts, symbolising courage and strength).

11. At the age of 13 a boy is deemed to be mature enough to take responsibility for his own actions, and as proof of this he takes the learning of his *Torah* portion as the first step to adulthood within the Jewish community. His journey in studying the *Torah* has only just begun - the *barmitzvah* is the start of his religious education, not the end of it

16. Wearing your *tallit* over your head is a way of wrapping your whole self in the solemnity of prayer and blocking out all distraction whilst talking to God

17. Please note *tefillin* are not worn on *Shabbat*, though wearing *tefillin* during prayer on other days of the week fulfils the commandment in the *Torah*.

18. As soon as three stars appear in the sky on the eve of a festival or *Shabbat*; we know that a festival or *Shabbat* have ended in the same way. Jewish festivals always start on 'the night before.'

19. Two candles symbolise the commandment to keep the Sabbath holy and to protect it. Two obligations: two candles.

When the Children of Israel left Egypt and journeyed through the desert the only food was *manna*, a form of heavenly food (or a desert fruit, depending on your point of view) and a fresh portion was gathered each day.

Since such work is forbidden on the Sabbath, on Friday two portions of *manna* were gathered. Hence we have two loaves of bread on the Sabbath table, as a reminder of this, and as a link to our ancestors.

26. Moses travelled to the top of Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, inscribed on two tablets of stone.