

Preparations for Rosh Hashanah



In the home the festival begins at sunset. The table is laid, candles lit and a different shape bread (Challah) is served. It is always plaited for Sabbath but on this occasion it is round. This is to remind Jews of the round world God created, and that like any circle there is no beginning or end.



Other foods include pomegranates. These fruits have 613 pips, and it is said this helps the Jews to remember the 613 laws they must keep. Apples and honey are also served, as a symbol wishing a good sweet new year to all.



Everyone wishes friends and family 'Shanah Tovah' (meaning happy New Year), and cards and presents are exchanged.



In the Synagogue, the Shofar ram's horn is blown. The sound reminds the Jews of the sadness that sin causes to God. It is a time to say sorry and a time to remind the Jews that God is their judge. He opens the book of Life which is divided into 3 parts; Good, Bad and Not sure. During the 10 days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Jews must try to get into the Good book.



Other traditions include; Tashlich, which literally means 'to throw away'. Traditionally Jews go to a river to pray, and empty their pockets of dust. As they throw the dust away, the water carries all their rubbish (sins) away.