

## **The rabbi**

The leader of a Jewish community is a rabbi. He is a teacher of Jewish law. The ordination of a rabbi does not give them any special status, rather it allows them to teach Jewish Law, and ordain other rabbis. In the synagogue, the rabbi is an important figure, and usually conducts the main services.

The main service of the week is held on the morning of Shabbat (Saturday morning). During this service, the Torah Scrolls are taken from the ark. When the doors or curtain of the ark are opened, everyone stands. The scrolls are taken in procession to the bimah (raised platform) and set down. Then the covers and decorations are removed.

Seven men in turn are given the honour of being called to the bimah to bless the Torah and read from the portion set for that week.

After the reading, a final blessing is said, the scroll is rolled up and its cover replaced.

The Haftarah is then read, a reading from the Nevi'im (Prophets).

This is followed by prayers and then the scrolls are replaced in the ark and the doors closed. The rabbi will then give a sermon, usually based on the Torah reading.