

21st August 2020



## EASY CARROT CAKE

### PREPARATION TIME:

35 Mins

### COOKING TIME:

30 Mins + Cooling

### MAKES:

Makes 1 Cake

(12 Servings)

Top this classic carrot cake with moreish icing and chopped walnuts or pecans. Serve as a sweet treat with a cup of tea any time of the day.

### METHOD

#### STEP 1

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Oil and line the base and sides of two 20cm cake tins with baking parchment. Whisk the oil, yogurt, eggs, vanilla and zest in a jug. Mix the flour, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg with a good pinch of salt in a bowl. Squeeze any lumps of sugar through your fingers, shaking the bowl a few times to bring the lumps to the surface.

#### STEP 2

Add the wet ingredients to the dry, along with the carrots, raisins and half the nuts, if using. Mix well to combine, then divide between the tins.

#### STEP 3

Bake for 25-30 mins or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. If any wet mixture clings to the skewer, return to the oven for 5 mins, then check again. Leave to cool in the tins.

#### STEP 4

To make the icing, beat the butter and sugar together until smooth. Add half the soft cheese and beat again, then add the rest (adding it bit by bit prevents the icing from splitting). Remove the cakes from the tins and sandwich together with half the icing. Top with the remaining icing and scatter with the remaining walnuts. Will keep in the fridge for up to five days. Best eaten at room temperature.

### INGREDIENTS

230ml vegetable oil, plus extra for the tin  
100g natural yogurt  
4 large eggs  
1½ tsp vanilla extract  
½ orange, zested  
265g self-raising flour  
335g light muscovado sugar  
2½ tsp ground cinnamon  
¼ fresh nutmeg, finely grated  
265g carrots (about 3), grated  
100g sultanas or raisins  
100g walnuts or pecans, roughly chopped (optional)

### FOR THE ICING

100g slightly salted butter, softened  
300g icing sugar  
100g soft cheese