

Cambridge Mosque

NEWSLETTER



The new mosque includes space for 1000 worshippers, an 80-space underground car park, a cafeteria, classrooms, two three-bedroom flats, and many other facilities.

PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED

A LONGSTANDING ASPIRATION took a step closer to becoming reality this August 22, when the Cambridge City Council Planning Committee unanimously voted to approve the exciting plans for the city's new Mosque.

Local Muslims had pointed out to the councillors that present mosque facilities in Cambridge have been overcrowded for years. In fact, the city is unusual in Britain for not having a single purpose-built mosque structure. (Oxford has four!)

At the centre of the new scheme is the former Robert Sayle warehouse site at 309-313 Mill Road. This has been empty for several years, and forms the heart of what some have called 'the bit of Cambridge which is most urgently crying out for tender loving care'.

At the meeting, Councillor John Hipkin said the new mosque 'would go a long way to revitalise this part of Mill Road'.

He added: 'This building is of the highest architectural quality. I don't think it's possible to overstate the aesthetic quality of this building'.

Councillor Hipkin added: 'It will be a major addition to the treasure house of architecture that is Cambridge.'

The planning committee concluded that 'it is a building of high-quality design which responds well to the local context,' while Tony Collins, the Chief Planning Officer, called it 'an exciting contemporary architectural proposal.'

Nigel Bell, of influential local campaigning group Cambridge Past Present and Future, also spoke in glowing terms about the project.

Sarah Elgazzar, a longstanding supporter of the scheme, said: 'This is a milestone not only for Cambridge's Muslims, but for the architectural history of our city. This design brilliantly combines elements of English Gothic with Islamic and contemporary themes, to provide a beautiful symbol of the aspirations of our community to belong and to be distinctive at the same time.'

The Council's decision was also welcomed by residents of Mawson Road, where the existing Abu Bakr mosque has long been overcrowded. 'This can only reduce the pressure on parking and circulation in our neighbourhood,' one local resident commented. 'We've waited for this moment for some time.' ❖



REMEMBER THE GARDEN

Responding to the wishes of local residents, and in keeping with Islam's rich heritage of garden design, the new scheme includes a significant garden area open to all.

The garden will be the work of leading British Muslim garden designer Emma Clark (emma-clark.com), who has worked on projects for the Prince of Wales and many other prestigious patrons, and whose book *Underneath Which Rivers Flow: The Symbolism of the Islamic Garden* has been hailed by experts around the world.

The Community Garden is adjacent to Mill Road, and will continue and extend the area currently managed by the Romsey Garden Club, preserving the three existing Kashmir Birches. The garden is south-facing and Emma plans to plant a range of aromatic Mediterranean herbs, including lavender, rosemary, thyme, fennel, mint, and hibiscus, as well as damask roses and hollyhocks.

The planting will be an informal mix of shrubs and herbaceous, evergreen and deciduous, providing all-year interest with perhaps a fruit tree in each area.

Each of the elements will have a central grassed and paved area opening onto the pavement, inviting passers-by to stop and enjoy the green. There will be seating for mosque users and weary shoppers, as well as bicycle racks.

Emma points out that gardens remind us of Paradise (Al-Janna), and bring something of its peace and beauty into our lives here on earth. ❖

**'Oh Allah, there is no true life apart from the life Hereafter.
So forgive the Ansar and the Muhajirin'**
SONG OF THE SAHABA WHO BUILT THE
HOLY PROPHET'S MOSQUE

CALLIGRAPHY UPDATE

To date 89 artworks with a total estimated value of over £100,000 have been pledged for the Trust's upcoming Charity Auction of Islamic Calligraphy. World-leading calligraphers who have donated works in support of the Cambridge Mosque include Hasan Çelebi (Turkey), Rashid Butt (Pakistan), Nuria Garcia (Spain), Fuad Honda (Japan), Adam Williamson (England), Haji Noor Din (China), Bahman Panahi (Iran), Ali Ermes (Libya), and Nabil Chami (Morocco).

May Allah reward brother Sharjil Siddique and his team for their brilliant work on this beautiful project!

LADIES URDU CIRCLE

Over the past four years the Ladies Urdu Circle and Quran School of Cambridge, guided by Zohra Malik and Khairunnisa Khwaja and others, has raised over £10,000 for our project. May Allah reward them all for this exceptional effort.

FROM YUSUF ISLAM

'As patron-president of the Muslim Academic Trust I am delighted to endorse the plan for a new mosque in Cambridge. This is a long-overdue initiative that will, inshaAllah, provide a beautiful and harmonious space for Muslim worshippers for many generations to come.'



WEB MATTERS

Many thanks to our Web Designer, Aiysha Malik, who maintains our stunning and popular website free of charge! Aiysha is always happy to receive news and features from supporters in and outside Cambridge.

SUMMER STROLLING AGAIN

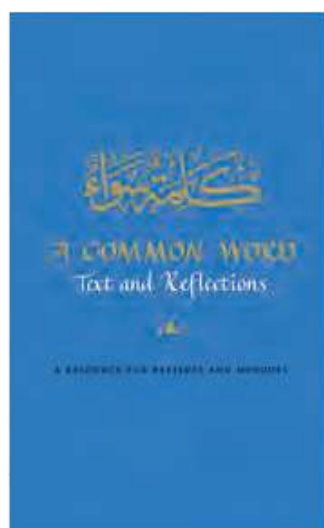
This year's sponsored Summer Stroll saw Cambridge and other walkers brave the wet and windy weather to raise £5,818.72 for the project. May Allah reward all those who walked, and those who helped, and those on the admin team who dipped into their own finances in order to make this annual event such a success this year.

NEW DONOR THANKED

The Trustees would like to thank a senior Saudi for his anonymous donation of £50,000.

MALAYSIAN LAUNCH OF 'A COMMON WORD'

The Cambridge New Mosque Project was launched in Malaysia at the Parliament Chamber, Selangor, in 2010, with support from Cambridge alumnus Dr Yunus Yasin and other Cambridge graduates in Kuala Lumpur. The Project was again promoted on April 7 2012 at a presentation at the auditorium of the Malaysian Islamic Arts Museum, when the Trust's edition of the interfaith statement by Muslim scholars, *A Common Word*, was launched as a Malaysian book published by local publishing house Fajr Symphony. Proceeds from sales go to support the Trust's project. At the launch a Malaysian businessman handed the Trust a very generous cheque for £20,000.



CHARITY TABLETOP SALE

Sisters Iqbal Warsi and Karin Muller-Tahir regularly organise this event at Arbury Community Centre. The most recent took place on September 2 and 22 – contact us through our website for further dates.

AROUND BRITAIN

The Mosque has active supporter groups in several UK cities. Some of the busiest are in Slough, Oxford, Peterborough, Woking, Hounslow and Birmingham. Contact our website to be put in touch with team leaders in your area!

IMAM SEJAD RECEIVES DOCTORATE

Imam Hafiz Sejad Mekic, who has served as Friday imam of the Mawson Road Mosque for almost ten years, has received his doctorate on the subject of fatwas in Bosnia, from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The Trust would like to congratulate Imam Sejad, to thank him for his longstanding support of the Project, and to wish him well in the future.



CAMBRIDGE CRAFT GROUP

This female students and residents group, led by Barbara Cottman, has knitted squares for a patchwork blanket, which they intend to auction at a future fundraising event. The group plans to continue to produce more fine craftwork in support of the Cambridge Mosque – all gifted sisters please get in touch!

CHANNEL 5 MAINTAINS SUPPORT

Following two hugely-successful all-night Ramadan Telethons on this UK Bangla channel, Channel 5 recently broadcast a long news report on the mosque project. The Trust would like to express its thanks to the very professional team at Channel 5 in Walthamstow for their dedicated support, and also to Potrika newspaper. Thanks go also to local Cambridge facilitator Aminul Islam who has made all this possible. May Allah reward them all.

GOING FOR GOLD

The Trust thanks all the sisters who have donated gold for use in the new Mosque's beautiful Islamic dome. Further donations of gold items will be gratefully received, until our target of £61,900 for the gold dome cover has been reached.

SOLAR PANELS DONATED

The Trust is delighted to have received an offer to supply and install the photovoltaic cells for the new mosque's electricity generation array. The cells are the very generous gift of Cambridgeshire businessman Humayun Mughal, whose company Silicon CPV plc UK manufactures high-quality solar panels in Pakistan.



CARPET APPEAL BEGINS

We are delighted with the gift of a very large Persian Carpet for the mihrab area, the kind donation of Dr Amina Hoti, formerly of the Woolf Institute, Cambridge.



BARAKA BAKE-OFF

Our thanks to Mujadad Zaman and his team of culinary giants at Baraka Bakes for baking and selling cupcakes and other delicious pastries for sale after Juma Prayers at St Columba's Hall, the Mill Road Winter Fayre, Queens' College ISOC Juma, and the Abu Bakr Mosque. The total amount raised by Baraka Bakes until the end of August 2012 stood at an amazing £4,633.15.

DVDs BRING OUR MOSQUE TO THE WORLD

The Trust's Islamic DVD Series known as 'Travelling Light' currently runs to 18 episodes. All costs are generously borne by a lady donor, who has to date contributed over £100,000 to this project. The Travelling Light DVDs are replicated by Islamic digital companies in Abu Dhabi, Canada, Australia, and Malaysia, all of which donate their profits to the Cambridge New Mosque Project. The DVDs also include promotional footage about the Project as a special feature. The series has been endorsed by major Muslim scholars, including Bosnian Mufti Dr Mustafa Ceric, and former Cape Town Mufti Shaykh Seraj Hendricks.

The most recent episodes were filmed with fiqh expert Shaykh Walead Mosaad of Egypt and with Sheikh Idris Watts (Bradford), and should be released in November, inshaAllah. Travelling Light episodes are broadcast on Islamic TV channels in various countries.

ISOC FUNDRAISER

The University of Cambridge Islamic Society is again holding an Annual Dinner to raise money for the New Mosque Project. The dinner is to be held at the Guildhall on November 10, and all are welcome to buy tickets via the Cambridge Mosque is Moving website.

MUFTI TAQI IN CAMBRIDGE

On June 23 was a red-letter day for ulema in Cambridge, when leading scholar Mufti Taqi Usmani of Karachi visited, and was shown a presentation on the New Mosque Project. He expressed his support and offered a long and beautiful Du'a for the project's successful completion.

THE WISDOM COLUMN

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING THE SUNNA

The Mosque project is built and designed to facilitate following the pure Sunna of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ by the Muslims in Cambridge. It will include no controversial features which some of the Ulema have disagreed with. Its principle is simply Tawhid – the Unity of Allah ﷻ and the Unity of the Muslim Umma which comes to Cambridge from so many different backgrounds.

Allah says: 'He who obeys the Messenger has obeyed Allah' (4:80).

He has also said: 'No, by your Lord, they do not believe until they make you the arbiter in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions and accept them entirely' (4:65).

Abu Daud narrates from Irbad ibn Sariya ؓ, that Allah's Messenger ﷺ led us in prayer one day, then he turned and gave us a strong counsel, saying: 'Follow my Sunna, and the Sunna of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs after me, hold firmly to it always.'

A WORD FROM THE TRUSTEES

It's been a long, long road! Since Muslims first gathered in Cambridge to pray to Allah more than a hundred years ago, many have harboured the dream of a proper, custom-built mosque which would do justice to the honour and glory of Islam in Britain's leading university city – a city which boasts many dreaming spires, but which lacks a single proper mosque!

At last, in April 2008, the Muslim Academic Trust bought a major site at 309-313 Mill Road. Formerly the Magnet Bowling Alley, and then the Robert Sayle warehouse, the site occupies more than an acre of land, and represents one of the last major development opportunities within the boundaries of historic Cambridge.

The Trust bought the land for a price of £4 million, with the help of a Sharia-compliant loan which was paid back in full in 2010.

After a series of public meetings with the Muslim community and local residents' associations, the Trust announced a competition to identify the most suitable design. The jury selected a scheme by the London-based architects Marks Barfield, famous for designing innovative structures such as the London Eye and the Kew Treetop Walkway.

The Trustees asked Marks Barfield to emphasise green and sustainability issues in their design. As a result, the proposed structure includes advanced features for recycling, power generation, heat conservation, natural ventilation, a sedum roof, heat pumps, and other state-of-the-art features that comply with

Islamic concerns about the environment, and ensure low energy bills in years to come.

In November 2011, after months of hard work, the Trust submitted a detailed Planning Application. The submission included designs and surveys from Marks Barfield and a range of engineering, environmental, and highways consultants, all coordinated by a team of expert consultants at Bidwells Ltd in Trumpington. The cost of preparing the application came to £360,775 plus VAT. As reported above, the Planners unanimously approved the application on 22 August. The news instantly made the front page of the Cambridge News, and featured on local television and radio - and the Muslim community was delighted.

So what happens next? Our Cost Consultants estimate the total build cost of the new Mosque at £13,516,000. We are delighted that the Muslims of Cambridge are aware of the need to create a top-quality building which will represent Islam honourably in a city of great architecture, and will serve as Europe's first true eco-mosque. But such buildings do not come cheap!

Think of it this way: if every Muslim in the UK donated only four pounds, we would have our mosque! It is all a matter of effort and sincerity, supported by Allah's will.

Once we have raised the funds, construction should take around eighteen months.

The community plans to build the mosque in stages: when the first £3 million is raised, the underground car park will be built. Stage Two is the shell, which will require approximately four million. The final stage covers art, landscaping, and utilities. The budget includes 15% for contingencies.❖

MESSAGE FROM THE IMAM OF AL-MASJID AL-AQSA

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Allah has said: 'The masajid of Allah are populated only by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day and establish the Prayer and give the Zakat, and fear Allah Alone. Perhaps it is they who shall be among the well-guided.' (al-Tawba, 18)

Oh you who love Allah and His Messenger (may Allah bless him and give him peace)! ... Oh Muslims in every place! ... Oh you who hope for Allah's approval and work for the Day in which neither money or children will be of help, except him who comes to Allah with a sound heart. You who act for the sake of an eternal joy!

This call and this summons have never ceased to reach you from the First Qibla of the Muslims ... from the mihrab of al-Masjid al-Aqsa al-Mubarak, and Allah's Nearest Throne ... from the Second of the Two Mosques, and the Third of the Mosques to which alone visits must be made.

We urge you, and we urge every Muslim who is passionate about the Din of Islam, to share in building an Islamic mosque, a scholarly citadel, and a minaret of goodness, guidance and mercy for humanity, in the City of Cambridge, Britain's city of history, culture, academic research, and the sciences of humankind, a city in which the number of Muslims is now more than six thousand, including more than a thousand Muslim students and lecturers.

In that city the Muslims are in urgent need of a building which can accommodate their numbers. The old mosque has become too crowded with worshippers. A plot of land has been purchased and legally registered in the name of a charity called the Muslim Academic Trust, in order to build

the mosque and the associated facilities. This will include a lecture hall, a cultural library, and a hall for the memorisation of the Holy Qur'an, and a room for washing and preparing the dead. The costs of the project are calculated at approximately nine million pounds. It is possible to follow the project and to donate via its website:

www.cambridgemosqueismoving.org

From this noble sanctuary, and this holy land, which Allah has blessed with goodness and benediction, we urge all the Muslims to show their support, and to donate to this excellent and comprehensive project which has been launched by your brothers in Islam. May Allah reward you well on behalf of Islam and the Muslims ... and bestow upon you immense reward and goodness ... May Allah reward you, and guide us and you to walking on the Straight Path and the Righteous Way brought by the Master of the Messengers, who has said: 'Whoever builds a masjid for Allah, seeking thereby Allah's approval, Allah will build a house for him in Paradise.' (Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim)

From your brother, the imam, teacher, and khatib of al-Masjid al-Aqsa al-Mubarak

SHAYKH YOUSEF ABU SNEINEH

10 Shawwal 1433
28 August 2012

VOX POPS FROM OUR BUSY JUSTGIVING WEB PAGES

SELECTED COMMENTS FROM MUSLIM DONORS

Salaam. May Allah make it a fruitful project. Sadaqah Jariyah for H family. May Allah bless the project abundantly. May Allah make this dream come true. Onwards and upwards inshaAllah! God bless all who are working on making this happen. Together – we are on our way towards reaching the target inshAllah. Lets all work together brothers and sisters May Allah swt bless this incredible project, ameen! Inshallah we will achieve this great aim of building this fantastic mosque. Cant wait to pray in it. For the mosque ... from ANON 12 years old from Ilford. Lovely Project ... well done! May Allah grant this project success. May Allah bless the Muslim community in Cambridge. Very pleased with this project, may Allah bless this Ummah. Ameen. Salaam. Alhamdulillah I am very happy to know that my city is building a mosque. Insha Allah my family shall try to be regular attenders. Doing a good job. Keep up the good work. Inshallah Hoping to move to Cambridge next year. Please make dua Allah makes it easy for me and my family. Can't wait to see the new masjid. We pray that this project will be a light for the Muslims in the UK. A wonderful project which we must all support. I sincerely hope for the success of this mosque, it is great to see such a eco-friendly beautiful design. Asalamu alaikum, please make dua for my family and the ummah. May Allah bless you all for the excellent work you are doing. Assalamu alakum. I pray Allah make this a beautiful mosque full of light and love for Muslims and their neighbours. Thanks everyone for your efforts. Carry on the good work. You have our support even though we are thousands of miles apart. We will also be setting up a direct debit for the project inshallah. May Allah grant you success. This is a wonderful inspiring project! Start of something beautiful inshAllah. A good intention opens 70 doors of divine success. May Allah prolong you in his service. Inshallah Allah accept our efforts and hope to see a Mosque next time I am in Cambridge. Love the look of the garden. Such a beautiful project ... Sorry it's a small donation. Light in the darkness. May Allah make the building of the mosque easy, fill your efforts with barakah and make the mosque a centre of peace once it's completed! thank you for letting us be part of the opportunity this vision represents. W'Allahu mu'waffiqu lima yu'hibbu wa yarrda Keep up the good work. With prayers for speedy construction inshallah. Have donated some money, from Newcastle. May Allah make easy this endeavour. May Allah give tawfiq to this cause. May Allah (SWT) accept all of our donations and make it easy for us to donate even more in the way of Allah (SWT). Please make dua for the Ummah. May Allah make this mosque a source of inspiration, peace and guidance. This donation is from my kids. Wishing the best for this beautiful project. MashaAllah, truly historic moment for the Muslims. Fantastic mosque in a very needy area in UK. I am urging everyone to come forward and be part of the project. Please pray for me and my family. Salam Brothers, mashallah you're all doing a wonderful job. May God make this masjid a light for Britain. mashaAllah this is a well needed initiative in Cambridge. May Allah accept the efforts and charity of all those involved. Ameen! Hope all goes to plan inshaAllah so we can all reap the benefits of this landmark masjid!

I hope every brick is donated soon, inshaAllah!
Please give as much as you can to this wonderful cause.
Really pleased you are building an eco friendly masjid
May Allah subhanahu wata'ala make completion of the project easy, reward those involved abundantly, make it a means of benefitting the Ummah. Ameen.
May Allah accept my donation, and accept my dua to study at University. This is for a mosque in an elite academic city. Ameen.
Our duas are with this beautiful, ambitious and ground-breaking project. May all your efforts be blessed. (Norway)
Please pray for the success of Cambridge quranic classes
May Allah bless the beautiful people in Cambridge – From Australia.
Look forward to being inshallah open when the doors open!
A vital project for the establishment of the community in this historic city, may Allah bless this effort.
May God bless every project like this one, that makes this world more beautiful!
In the name of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan who visited Cambridge to found Aligarh.
Do yourself a favour – invest in something that will help you when you need it
The New Mosque will not only be a vital source of spiritual blessing for the City of Cambridge – but also, an inspirational European/Islamic landmark.
Assalamoalakum may ALLAH bless us all in Cambridge and all the world. Sadaqa in the name of my husband and I. May Allah bless our marriage and give us righteous children.
A BIT OF SOLIDARITY BETWEEN US OXFORD STUDENTS, WITH OUR FELLOW MUSLIM STUDENTS IN CAMBRIDGE THIS RAMADAN FOR A NOBLE CAUSE
I pray that the mosque stays standing till the end of time ... ameen ...
For the future generations of a university and city which has given me so much. I look forward to seeing the mosque iA!
InshaAllah we will be able to pray in the mosque soon.
May it be a source of solace and inspiration for many inshaAllah Ameen. mA, hope to see it built as soon as possible.
May Allah make this new masjid a place of light and knowledge for the ummah.
May Allah bestow generously on those who build this mosque, worship in it, and those to whom this mosque is their neighbour.
May Allah (swt) accept this donation on behalf of me and my family, and forgive us for our sins and bless the muslim ummah. All praise to Allah (swt).
Thanks a lot for this great project. May Allah bless all your efforts. I'm from Egypt and I am so happy that Islam is spreading everywhere.
InshaAllah a Mosque built on Taqwa, a beacon of Allah's light. May Allah accept & join us with its worshipers & bless Cambridge with faith
I hope that this mosque can bring out good muslims who will strive to serve its community and also to the rest of the world.
Keep up the good work brothers and sisters!

COMMENTS FROM NON-MUSLIM DONORS

With my good wishes for this fine addition to the Cambridge community.
Vicked
All who have faith in God are most greatly blessed.
Good fortune with the rest of your fundraising!
May the new Mosque benefit all.
Best of luck with the fund raising. I think the building looks lovely and this will be a valuable addition to the area.
Building looks excellent – good luck with the fundraising!
Just to show some support for the Islamic community in Cambridge (and for good architecture)
I'm a resolute atheist, but support community infrastructure. This Mosque will be a beacon of love and positivity within Cambridge.
The Mosque will be a testament to the tolerance and inclusiveness of Cambridge and its residents. Good luck with your endeavour!
We are not religious, but my husband and I would like to show our solidarity with the local Muslim community.

'The Mosques belong to Allah, so call upon none other than He.' (72:18)



DONATION INFORMATION

Bank Transfer

HSBC

Address:

63-64 St Andrews Street,
Cambridge CB2 3BZ,
United Kingdom

Account Name: The Cambridge Mosque Trust

Account No.: 54298209

Sort code: 40-16-08

IBAN: GB31 MIDL 4016 0854 2982 09

Branch Identifier: MIDLGB2103J

Post one-off cash/cheques made payable to:

"THE CAMBRIDGE MOSQUE TRUST"

14 St Paul's Road
Cambridge, CB1 2EZ
United Kingdom

*Or automate a regular donation by downloading,
completing and posting a standing order form to your bank.
Information on our website.*

www.cambridgecentralmosque.org

Registered charity: 1164931

