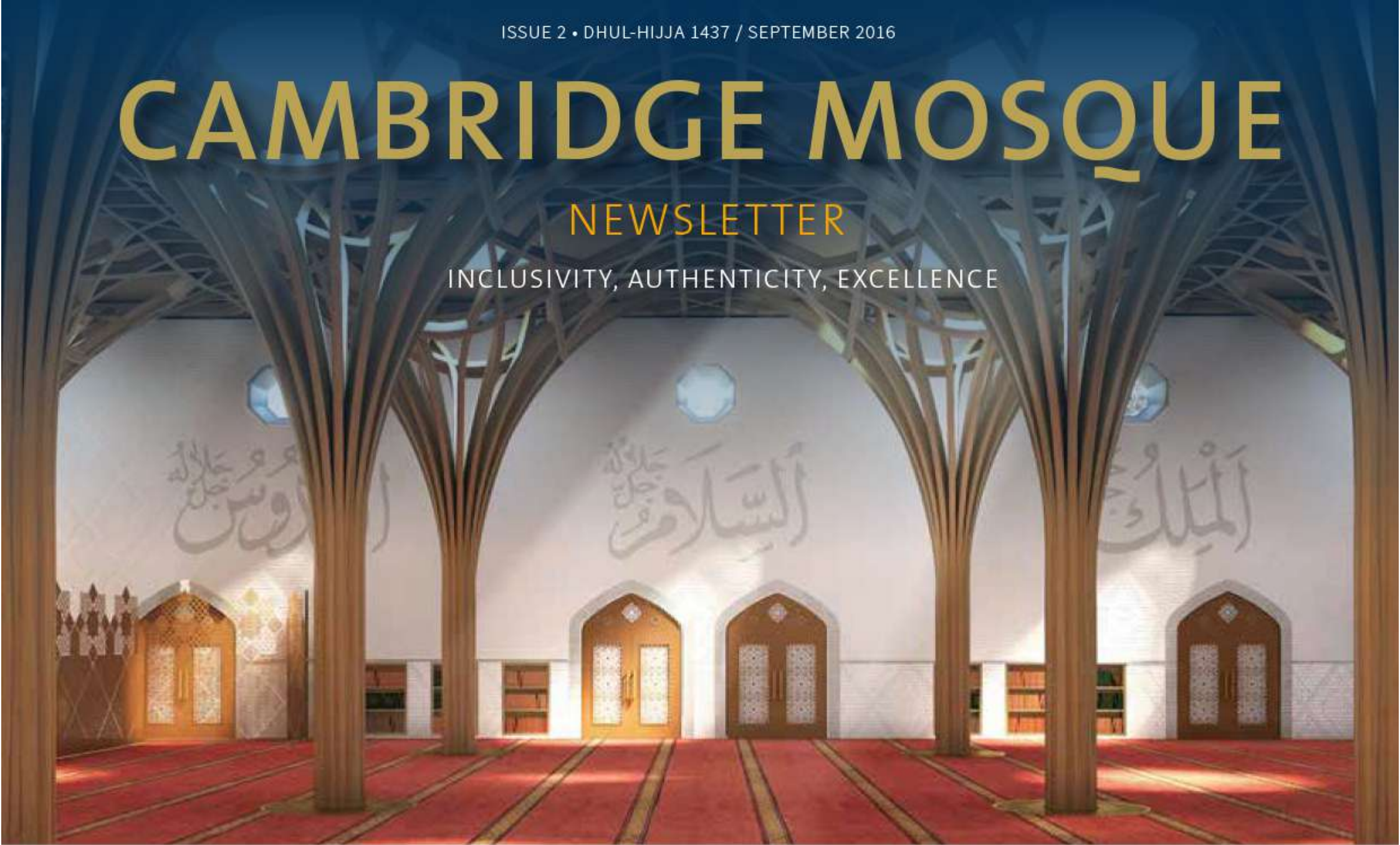


# CAMBRIDGE MOSQUE

## NEWSLETTER

INCLUSIVITY, AUTHENTICITY, EXCELLENCE



## And We're Off! The Build Begins

in september 2016 major works commenced on site, when according to an ancient tradition five litres of the Holy Water of Zamzam were mixed with the cement of the first pit to be excavated.

Our contractors smashed through the 600mm concrete slabs at the front of the site and began the historic process of creating the first purpose-built mosque for the global city of Cambridge.

This historic step marked the commencement of Phase One of the project, which involves the creation of our basement car park, together with much of the fundamental infrastructure required for our landmark addition to Cambridge's skyline. Once this stage is completed our team will get to work on Phase Two, involving the construction of the building shell and roof, inshaAllah. 🌸



## The Architect Reflects



“Currently under construction and opening in two years' time, Cambridge mosque is an inclusive and welcoming design which is intended to fit in and stand out, at the same time.

“Looking at mosques around the world we observed how almost all adopted the local vernacular, and asked ourselves ‘How should an English mosque be designed?’

“It is designed to embed itself easily into the local community, both physically and socially as place to meet with friends and family, enjoy a coffee or perhaps something to eat.

“It incorporates elements inspired by English timber framed buildings and fan vaulting, as seen for example in King's College, together with the centuries old Islamic design genius for geometric art.

“Visitors will be welcomed through a procession of designed spaces from a busy street through gardens, a loggia and atrium, gradually moving from the day-to-day to the reflective and spiritual.” 🌸

david marks mbe frsa riba

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

A Word from the Project Managers

by dan thomas

On 5 September 2016 the construction of the Cambridge Mosque commenced.

Prior to this date, the Contractor has been carrying out some works to set up their site (including the erection of site fences and delivery of cabins). The initial phase of works includes the construction of the basement car park beneath the Mosque. As such, the coming months involve the removal of the concrete slab from the site, the installation of new piled foundations and the excavation of the ground. The first phase of works is due to complete in June 2017.

The works will be completed in accordance with the Full Planning Permission, granted by Cambridge City Council. This includes specific conditions relating to working hours on site which have been included to limit disruption or disturbance caused by the works.

The working hours permitted are 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00-13:00 Saturday. No works will be carried out on Sundays or on Bank Holidays. The Main Contractor has planned all works to be completed well within these time parameters.

In addition to working hours, the Planning Permission is clear on the times when deliveries and collections can take place on the site. Deliveries and collections will only be carried out 07:00 to 19:00 Monday to Saturday. No deliveries or collections will take place on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

The Main Contractor has submitted details of work se-

quences and methodologies to the Local Planning Authority who have approved them. These include fixed levels for noise and vibration associated with the breaking-out of the concrete slab on the site and the installation of the piled foundations. Monitoring stations will be placed on site before works commence to ensure that works are carried out well within the agreed thresholds.

Part of the selection process for the Main Contractor was to ensure that they were experienced at working on sites adjacent to occupied buildings and in residential areas. Gilbert Ash were selected as they possess this experience and have demonstrated a competent and considered approach to the planning of the works to date.

We are delighted that we have satisfied the requirements of the Local Authority and appointed a suitable contractor. On this basis, we believe that any risk of disturbance to our neighbours during the construction phase has been reduced as much as possible. We are aware that construction is an inherently noisy process and as such there could be issues which do affect our neighbours. We want to make sure that these instances can be reported and addressed proactively. As such, the Main Contractor will be displaying contact details at the entrance to the site so that issues can be reported directly to those responsible for the site, even out of hours. If, for any reason, the Main Contractor cannot be reached the following project representatives should be contacted:

**PROJECT MANAGER** – Dan Thomas, Bidwells plc –  
01223 559 341 – [daniel.thomas@bidwells.co.uk](mailto:daniel.thomas@bidwells.co.uk)

**DAVINA LEVY** – Cambridge Mosque Trust Representative –



### OUR MAIN CONTRACTORS: GILBERT-ASH

We are proud to be working with leading builders Gilbert-Ash as the project's designated Main Contractor.

Gilbert-Ash is an award-winning British construction and fit-out company based in London and Belfast. They were shortlisted for the Stirling Prize for Architecture for several of their recent buildings: Belfast's Lyric Theatre, the Giant's Causeway Visitors' Centre, and the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool.

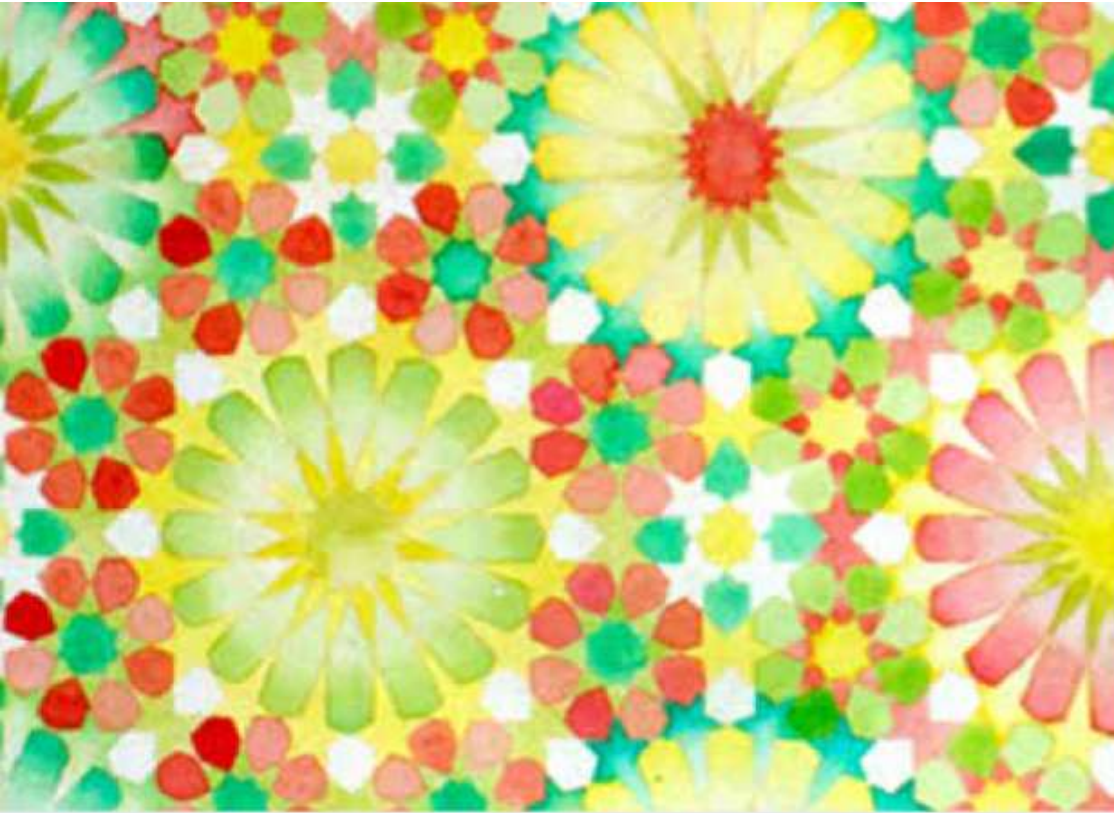
Gilbert-Ash are members of the Considerate Contractors Scheme, and have implemented the Business in the Community CORE Standard across their company. They seek to source local and British goods, materials and services wherever possible. They have an enviable track record in liaising with local residents and addressing any concerns they may have during the construction process. 🌿



### i360 Open For First Flights!

Brighton's new visitor attraction, known as the British Airways i360, was officially opened on 4 August. Designed by Cambridge Mosque architects Marks Barfield Associates, this innovative structure is a 'vertical pier' which takes up to 200 visitors a breathtaking 138 metres into the sky, offering a stunning panorama of England's premier seaside city.

The hi-tech project benefits from the extensive use of sustainable technology. Only green energy is used to power the structure's operations. Energy generated from the pod's descent helps to power the next ascent. Thermal insulation, low energy lighting and natural ventilation are all features



## CAMBRIDGE ISLAMIC ART SALE 'A TRIUMPH'

cambridge islamic art is a small, volunteer-driven initiative which proudly launched its first online Islamic art sale in December 2015 in aid of the Cambridge Mosque Project. World-renowned Muslim artists, many of whom are masters of the rich Islamic art and craft traditions, donated some of their most precious original pieces in order to help to raise funds for Cambridge Mosque Project.

The sale featured 24 pieces of exquisite artwork in a variety of mediums, including ceramics, glasswork, stone, and a variety of techniques on paper. These included calligraphy by master Turkish calligraphers Efdaluddin Kılıç and Hasan Çelebi, Chinese calligrapher Haji Noor Deen, illumination by Ayesha Gamiet, ceramic work by Parveen Zuberi, painting by Cambridge artist Anam Khan, a work by Japanese calligrapher Fuad Honda, a piece by award-winning Pakistani calligrapher Rasheed Butt, modern art by Nasser Azam, carving by sculptor Adam Williamson (stonemason of the Queen Mother Memorial) and much more.

This was the first time that such a unique and diverse collection of Islamic art had been showcased together for such

a cause. The collection was a blessed reminder of the beauty and on-going vitality of the sacred arts of the Islamic world and featured every major style and region of a diverse and luminous heritage.

The art sale quickly went viral on social media and through email signups to the dedicated website [www.cambridgeislamicart.com](http://www.cambridgeislamicart.com). Local Cambridge TV interviewed one of the volunteers involved who introduced the sale and the Cambridge Mosque Project to local viewers.

During the sale week the website received views and purchases from all around the world, including Singapore, Australia, the Middle East, Canada, USA and all over the UK. Over 80% of the artwork was sold during the week and £25,000 was raised, every penny of which went to the Cambridge Mosque Project.

Our thanks go to the artists and our dedicated Cambridge volunteers who made this achievement possible!

If you missed the sale, have no worries – the interest and success generated by this first sale has encouraged the Cambridge Islamic Art team to hold another sale in a few months' time!

To register your interest and follow this project sign up for emails at [www.cambridgeislamicart.com](http://www.cambridgeislamicart.com) and follow Cambridge Mosque Project on Facebook and Twitter. 🌸



## OUR IMAN IN HAVANA

The Turkish Diyanet Foundation (TDV) has opened the first prayer room for Cuban Muslims following relaxation of anti-religion laws in the Communist state. Ismail Palakoğlu, TDV director, stated that a larger mosque for Havana's centuries-old Muslim community was being planned. The design is to be based on Istanbul's baroque Ortaköy Mosque. 🌸




## GREEN ENERGY AT KENSINGTON MOSQUE

A unique event was held at Al-Manaar Mosque in Kensington on 18 September. Volunteers explained to mosquegoers a range of Muslim campaigns for dealing with fuel poverty, and reported on successful campaigns to help dozens of London Muslim homes to retrofit materials and technologies to reduce their buildings' CO2 footprint. Thanks to community awareness programmes London mosques are now increasingly aware of the benefits of sustainable technologies. 🌸

## OUR MASTER-GEOMETER: PROFESSOR KEITH CRITCHLOW

Cambridge's new mosque will feature a unique combination of Western and Islamic sacred geometry. This will appear in the form of patterned brick, stained glass, and door and floor designs, including a spectacular multicoloured stone floor to the atrium area.

Critchlow is Emeritus Professor at the Prince's School of Traditional Arts in London and a former professor of Islamic art at the Royal College of Art. His books include *Islamic Patterns: an Analytical and Cosmological Approach*, *Earth Mysteries: A Study in Patterns*, and most recently, *The Hidden Geometry of Flowers*.

Critchlow's vision for the Cambridge Mosque is to showcase the universalism of the language of geometry, which transcends while transforming all cultures. Historically, English design has been enriched by influences from the Islamic world, particularly in the medieval and Victorian periods, and Cambridge is full of examples of this creative collaboration between cultures. Sacred geometry, while supremely decorative and restful to the eye, uplifts us by reminding us of the miracle of order which underlies the outward forms of the material world. 



## MEDINA PROJECT COMPLETES

We congratulate Yapı Merkezi, an Istanbul-based design and build firm which is one of our largest Turkish donors, on their successful and on-time completion of the high-speed railway terminal in the holy city of Madina.





Pure-hearted one, on you I call, rise early for the morning prayer.  
Unless you should be wholly dead, rise early for the morning prayer.

Give ear to the muezzin's call, he calls to you the name of God,  
Demolish not religion's base – rise early for the morning prayer.

The birds sing in the heights above; the trees their litanies recite;  
Brothers, sisters, take God's grace – rise early for the morning prayer.

Prostrate yourself, His praise recite, lift up your hands in thankfulness;  
In knowledge of your certain death rise early for the morning prayer.

Perform the prayer that is a prop, a pillar of the world to be;  
May heavenly light shine on your grave; rise early for the morning prayer.

Prostrate yourself with the imam; doubt never as you rest in sleep  
That you will yet depart in faith; rise early for the morning prayer.

yunus emre (14th century)

## BARAKA'S BLESSINGS 'ONGOING'



The Trust is sorry to report the death on 17 February, of Baraka Khan, a student at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Following her diagnosis with incurable lung cancer at the age of 22, she decided to launch a worldwide appeal for our mosque project in the city which she loved. Two years later, members of our team were honoured to be invited to her wedding in January of this year, which turned out to be only a few short weeks before her death. Although she set herself a target of £100,000, her tireless campaigning from her hospital bed, and the generosity of friends and family after her departure from this life, have resulted in a total of £213,230 – and counting!

Our prayers are with her family, husband and friends.

Donations are still being accepted at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BarakaIKhan3>

## SURAT AL-ZUMAR

We are grateful to world-renowned vocalist Sami Yusuf for lending us his state-of-the-art Dubai recording studio for our exciting new Qur'an initiative.

The new Cambridge Mosque will, inshaAllah, be a hub for learning the Holy Qur'an. In anticipation of this we have launched a campaign to encourage Muslims around the world to memorise some much-loved Suras!

We began 2016 with Surat al-Zumar. Thanks to the unpaid work of our volunteer videographers we've created a beautiful video of Scottish winter landscapes to accompany our recording of this Sura. The voice belongs to our very own Ali Keeler, who received his ijaza in Tajwid here in Cambridge with Shaykh Abdul Razzaq Balhawan. The video is an ideal way of reflecting on the beauty of Allah's creation and 'de-stressing', as well as providing an invaluable aid to the hifz process!

Thanks also go to Nabil Turner for the still photography which adds further beauty and subtlety to this splendid Qur'anic promotion. 🌸

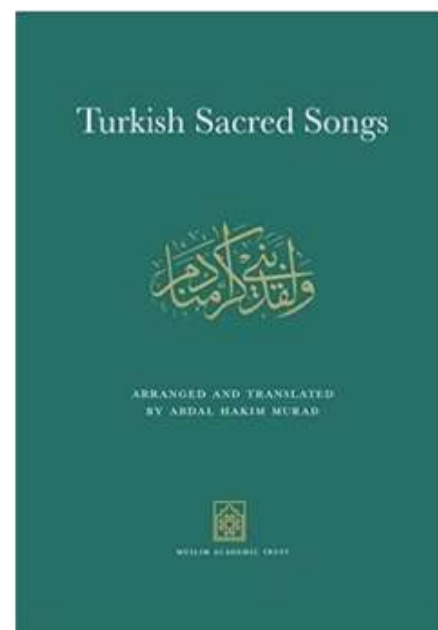
## ARABIC MINI-DOCUMENTARIES GO LIVE



We are proud to announce the launch of a professionally-produced mini-documentary in Arabic! This was scripted and produced entirely free of charge by Acamedia Inc, a leading production company based in Dubai. Acamedia's CEO, Moez Masoud, a leading broadcaster and commenta-

tor who is studying for a PhD in the philosophy of science here in Cambridge, is one of the Arab world's leading TV personalities, and features in the new documentaries! We are grateful to Moez and to Acamedia for this very important gift to our project. Acamedia have released long and short versions of the film, which can be viewed on our website. 🌸

## NEW NASHEED BOOK LAUNCHED



Cambridge's new mosque is filled with features from the magnificent Turkish cultural legacy, including carpets, stained glass, calligraphy, and ceramics. To celebrate these gifts and our proud partnership with Diyanet, the publisher Muslim Academic Trust, is donating all revenues from its new religious

song collection to the Cambridge Mosque Project!

Turkish Sacred Songs presents the first-ever English translations of many of Turkey's best-loved spiritual songs. Here you will find special anthems for Rajab and Ramadan, the longing of the soul for Allah, and the beauties of Paradise. Highlights include:

'Before the Dawn Stand Up and Pray'

'The Yellow Crocuses'

'Wake from your Heedlessness'

'The Silver Streams of Paradise'

Order your copy via your local Islamic outlet, Wordery or Amazon, price £6.95.

## CMT Endorses Islamic Declaration On Global Climate Change

As Europe's premier sustainable mosque, the Cambridge New Mosque aims to be at the forefront of campaigns for ethical investment, local and sustainable material procurement, energy and material recycling, and green energy use. As such we are happy to support the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change, adopted in 2015 in Istanbul. For more details see:

[www.ifees.org.uk/declaration](http://www.ifees.org.uk/declaration)



## SISTER MOSQUE OPENS IN WASHINGTON

Representatives from the Cambridge Mosque Trust attended the official opening on April 2, 2016 of the Diyanet Centre of America. Said to be the largest Muslim complex in the Western world, the \$110m facility includes a magnificent Ottoman-style mosque, and a range of academic and cultural facilities, together with a Turkish bath and a swimming pool.

The guest of honour was the Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who commended the centre as a beacon of interfaith tolerance and community cohesion which will do much to counteract common misapprehensions about Islam in America. For more images and information visit [diyanetamerica.org](http://diyanetamerica.org).



## MEET OUR PR OFFICER

Our project has appointed an official spokesperson to deal with the considerable media and community interest in our world-leading initiative. Davina Levy is a Cambridge graduate who has worked in the development office of St Catherine's College and the Cambridge Muslim College. Her email is: [dl@cambridgemosque-trust.org](mailto:dl@cambridgemosque-trust.org)

## Women's Survey Results Out

We aim to be the UK's leading women-friendly mosque. Our active Women's Committee has fed its input into the design and utilisation planning processes ever since the project's inception. This year a wide-ranging survey of female mosque-users in the Cambridge area sought feedback on the mosque's inclusivity features. 61% of those polled expressed a wish for a partition between male and female areas on the mosque floor. Results were also obtained on the preferred height of the partition. For the detailed results see our website.

## 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](http://www.cambridgecentralmosque.org)

Registered charity: 1164931

