

# CAMBRIDGE MOSQUE

## NEWSLETTER

INCLUSIVITY, AUTHENTICITY, EXCELLENCE



## Message from Yusuf Islam

*“As the Trust’s patron-president I am delighted to say that Phase One of our historic project is now complete. My prayers and gratitude go to everyone, including the contractors and the valiant builders, who have worked so brilliantly at such a high standard - not stopping even during the testing cold winds and rain of the Cambridge winter. I hope that as this vital project continues to rise before our eyes that it will become a symbol of the love of God and of reconciliation and better understanding between communities, not only in Cambridge but around the world. Ours is a troubled time, and human beings of all persuasions should work together for peace, respect, and harmony.”* 🌸

## Phase One Complete

ON JULY 28, exactly on schedule, Phase One of our new mosque was completed after a busy ten months of effort. We marked the day with a visit by Yusuf Islam and a group of scholars, who offered prayers on the site of the mosque hall.

It has been an action-packed year! Over fifty lorries a day have been removing the soil, followed by 30 concrete lorries a day pumping concrete. We now have an underground car park for 80 vehicles, including several disabled spaces, plus room for the hearse for our funeral facility. Staircases and lift shafts are in place and a very high degree of concrete finish has been achieved. We have also moved the electricity substation to the front of the site for ease of access, and the beautiful brickwork pattern which surrounds it is already visible from Mill Road.

The car park is an unglamorous but essential feature of the new mosque. Prior to construction local residents had expressed concern about traffic and parking issues, which are a perennial point of conversation in our busy and growing city. So it’s good news for neighbours! We now have ample space in an underground facility that occupies all available space on the site. The car park is accessed via a ramp off Mill Road, which will be supervised by a parking manager.

It has been an expensive and complex job, much of it out of sight and out of mind, but as we move into Phase 2, we hope that future generations will be grateful for the large hole we have made in the Cambridge subsoil!





## Breaking New Ground

WITH PHASE ONE now complete, we look back to the blessed day of Ashura last year, when in a spirit of hope we gathered at the Mill Road site for prayers to celebrate the start of works. The event began with a Qur'anic recitation by Imam Isa Karadere, and ended

with a beautiful dua by London Diyanet director Mahmut Özdemir. As well as architects, diplomats, contractors, engineers and other consultants, the happy event was attended by representatives of the city's different masjid communities. 🌸

JUNE 15 SAW us reunited with our old friends at Channel S, the leading British Bangladeshi TV channel, for an all-night telethon on Sky 814. The Cambridge team were live on air from 5pm until after Suhur! Supporters phoned their donations in from all over the world and offered their prayers for Cambridge Muslims and our new mosque. Many were old supporters who are delighted that construction is now finally under way!

The evening was enlivened by a video message from world-famous singer Sami Yusuf, speaking from his Dubai studio, and by comments from leading scholars. Mawlana Shamsud Duha of Ebrahim College visited the studio after Tarawih prayers and made a stellar contribution.

A highlight of the evening was the live auction of several pieces of exquisite Islamic art which supporters around the world had donated to us. The star of the show was a rare copy of the Thirtieth Thirty (sipara) of the Holy Qur'an, with an English translation in the margin in a Celtic script, all designed by British artist Daud Sutton and lovingly produced by a craft printer in Germany. This treasure prompted an excited bidding war among our callers, and the final price reached was an amazing 5000 pounds!

Altogether the event raised £54,273, with more donations flowing in subsequently on our JustGiving pages. 🌸



## Channel S Ramadan Appeal



## Sami Yusuf's Ramadan Blessing

"I'm here to add my voice to those all over the world who are supporting the amazing project to build the new mosque in Cambridge. This is such an exciting development, with its green credentials and its superb contemporary design. I'm sure that once it's opened it will give so much pride to the Muslims not only in Cambridge but all over the world. Cambridge is a global symbol of education and knowledge; and to have such a beautiful mosque in the heart of the university city will symbolise Islam's pride in being a religion of knowledge and scientific enquiry. So in this blessed month of Ramadan I urge everyone all over the world to donate to this project and build the future of Islam in this very important intellectual hub." ❧

## CAMBRIDGE FIFA TOURNAMENT

On April 21 the local youth group AlAnsaar held a suspenseful evening of sports and competitions, including table-tennis and tugs-of-war, culminating in a live FIFA 17 'Copa Del AlAnsaar' Tournament. Over 1400 viewers watched this live on Facebook, presided over by Maulana Sayful Alam. The overall winner was Tayib Khan.

AlAnsaar also held a hugely popular 7-a-side football tournament on the Abbey Astro Pitch on May 21.



Supporting partners included the Darwin Drive Youth Association and Anglia Ruskin Islamic Society.

With other AlAnsaar events these young people have raised an amazing £2,725.20 towards the cost of the mosque carpet.

You can follow AlAnsaar on [facebook.com/alansaar.org](https://facebook.com/alansaar.org)



## CMT HAJJ CLASS ONLINE

Cambridge Muslim College fellow Dr Ramon Harvey has recorded two lectures, one on the correct performance of Hajj, and the other on the recitation and understanding of the Holy Qur'an. These are now available for streaming and download. Every penny goes to the Trust! ❧

## STUDENT DINNER PLEDGES SUPPORT

Our warm thanks go to the Cambridge University Islamic Society, which organised a magnificent black-tie dinner on January 21 in support of the new mosque. As well as individual donations and standing orders, £1,458 was pledged by the students. The guest of honour was Dr Sefer Hasanov, Deputy Dean of the Islamic College of Bulgaria.

Cambridge Muslim students have held dinners since the year 1907, and over the years have supported a huge range of charitable causes. ❧

## Message from our MP



'The Mill Road mosque is a powerful symbol for our city. With an estimated six thousand Muslim residents in Cambridge, the project to construct the city's first purpose-built mosque was

well overdue; it will provide much needed extra capacity as well as an architectural site of interest. We should also be proud to house Europe's first eco-mosque, the designs incorporating features to minimise carbon emissions. I welcome the project and, like many, I look forward to my first visit.'

DANIEL ZEICHNER,  
MP FOR CAMBRIDGE

## JORDANIAN TREASURE ARRIVES

Our thanks to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which has donated precious antique tilework from the Dome of the Rock, the most famous building in the Holy City of Jerusalem. This artefact will be embedded in the wall of our mosque just to the right of the Minbar. ❧

## FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

Cambridge's Department of Architecture convened a public panel discussion on the new mosque as part of the University's annual Festival of Ideas. Speaking to a packed auditorium were our architect David Marks, joined by Dr Wendy Pullan (Senior Lecturer in the History and Philosophy of Architecture), Dr Shahid Saleem (author of the new book *The British Mosque: a social and architectural history*), and Dr Linda Monckton (Historic Environment Intelligence Analyst for Social Impacts, Historic England). ❧

## Gilbert-Ash News

Our Contractors, Gilbert-Ash, have begun construction on the ambitious new London headquarters of the Royal College of Pathologists. The company is constructing a new £15 million eight storey building in Whitechapel. The new building is being built to BREE-AM Excellent standard.

The new College building will include office space, meeting and conference rooms, a library, and a 200-seat auditorium. The building will also allow for exhibition space, restaurant facilities, and study bedrooms. The facilities will enable the College to continue to represent its growing international membership, advance its research, and provide public education services and programming.

In June, Gilbert-Ash were awarded a Silver level CORE Responsible Business Award. 🌱



## Progress with Auditorium Design

As construction work moves steadily forward, the Trust has been developing its plans for the teaching spaces in the new building.

As well as the smaller classrooms designated for Cambridge's Qur'an and Hadith hub, and the multipurpose café/exhibition space, there is to be a flexible women's classroom. But the team have also been considering seating and presentation layouts for the main atrium, which can double as a major auditorium for public lectures, and also as a wedding venue.

The space has capacity for up to 274 seats and six wheelchair spaces and will be equipped with the latest audio technology.

These versatile and beautiful areas will be available to Muslim organisations and events, and will all be available for use by the wider Cambridge community, both 'town' and 'gown.' 🌱

## NEW TRUSTEE NOMINATED

A new member has been nominated to our Board of Trustees! Shahida Rahman was born in Cambridge where she still lives. She is the founder and director of the successful local business Perfect Publishers, and is the author of short stories, radio scripts and novels, including *Lascar* (Indigo Dreams, 2012). In 2015 Shahida won the Arts and Cultural Achievement Award at the British Muslim Awards. She contributes to Radio Cambridgeshire and Three Counties Radio, and writes for the Asian World and the Huffington Post. She is the presenter of the popular 'Book Reviews' show on LB24 TV.

Shahida was nominated to our board by the Cambridge Muslim Welfare Society. We look forward to working with her and benefiting from her expertise as our project moves forward.

For more information on her work see [shahidarahman.co.uk](http://shahidarahman.co.uk)



## ANGLIA MUSLIMS GET-TOGETHER

On May 3 the Cambridgeshire charity Give Us A Lift brought together Muslim delegates from across the region to plan new fundraising initiatives for our mosque. Representatives came from mosques in Cambridge, St Ives, Huntingdon, Peterborough and Kings Lynn. Guests included Shamim Ahmad of the Cambridge Bangladesh Cultural Welfare Association, Ansar Ali from Peterborough City Council, Aminul Islam, Founder of Give Us A Lift, and Ibrahim Rahman of Cambridge's AlAnsaar youth group.

The event was televised by Channel S and by LB24 TV, whose Managing Director, Mizanur Rahman, was present in person. ❧

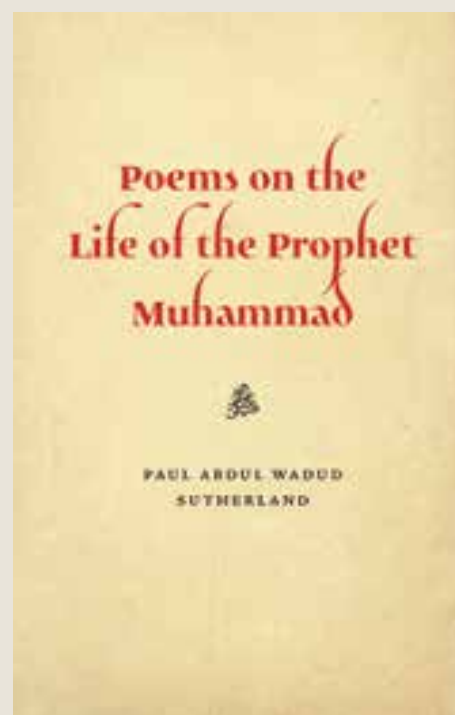


## BARAKA ROOM TAKES SHAPE

The Trust has named a room in honour of the memory of Baraka Khan, the gifted Cambridge student who raised more than two hundred thousand pounds for our project before tragically dying of cancer last year. This is

the high-level prayer and community room in the women's area, which will have a panoramic view of the mosque interior, and provide a quiet place for study and devotion.

For tributes and information on the ongoing work of her favourite charities see [www.barakakhan.com](http://www.barakakhan.com)



## POETRY JOINS THE CAUSE

A book of poetry has been published by our respected friend and supporter Paul Sutherland. These poems were written once a day during the fasting month of Ramadan, and for ten days thereafter. Born in 1947, Sutherland is a Canadian who has made his home in Lincolnshire. He has published many volumes of poetry, and is the founder of the international literary journal *Dream Catcher*. All profits from sales of this anthology are donated to the Cambridge Mosque Trust. The book can be purchased from the Trust and from [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

Sutherland now has another anthology, *New and Selected Poems* (Valley Press, 2017). His work has been described by Rowan Williams as 'a superb sequence of poems. They have wonderful economy and stillness.' ❧



## INTERFAITH CLASSIC ON SALE

A special edition of *A Common Word* has been published to raise funds for our charity! Widely hailed as the most important letter from Muslim leaders to Christians ever written, the text, first published in 2007, invites believers to celebrate their common heritage of love for God and for neighbour. Our sister organisation the Muslim Academic Trust, which has published this 'edition for mosques and parishes', has also commissioned translations into other languages. A Russian translation is currently underway with the collaboration of the Muftiat of the Russian Federation, and the St Andrews Theological Institute in Moscow. ❧



## A Garden of Paradise

By our garden designer Emma Clark.

Our principal aim for this garden – small though it is – is to offer the visitor a calm green space to walk through, or sit in for a moment, on the way to prayer. It is hoped that the garden will serve, not only as a quiet transition area between noisy, traffic-ridden Mill Road outside and the peace of the Mosque within, but also to give a tiny taste of *Jannat al-firdaws*, the Paradise Gardens described in the Qur'an.

To this end, the central feature will be a large octagonal stone and tiled fountain – running water being a vital element in the Paradise gardens. There are benches to sit on here so that visitors may enjoy the sound and movement of the water as well as the shade of the trees and the planting in the gardens on either side. To the left and to the right of the fountain area there is a small *chahar-bagh* (4-fold garden) with fruit trees and as much mixed planting as space will allow. There will be both evergreen shrubs (such as the box hedges) and seasonal bulbs and flowers in order to have both year-round green structure together with more colourful and scented perennials at different times of year. There is a small amount of seating in these areas in order that the visitor may absorb a little of the atmosphere of a quiet and contemplative space – an echo insha'Allah, albeit slight, of the peace promised to the faithful in the *jannat al-firdaws*.

This Islamic-inspired garden within the Mosque boundary is open to all, Muslims and non-Muslims alike – but importantly, there is also a small Community garden between Mill Road and the Mosque boundary which is open to the public all the time. This will be planted with Himalayan birch trees, shrubs and flowers providing much-needed green respite for locals and passers-by.

Around most of the perimeter fence of the whole site will be planted a mixture of evergreen and floral climbers; and on the fence near the underground car-park there will be the ever-popular trailing star jasmine, giving green all year round and beautifully-scented white flowers in the summer. 🌸

## ISLAMIC ART SALE

Leading Islamic artists from Turkey and around the world continue to donate dozens of works to our cause! The next online auction will take place very soon, offering over 40 unique pieces. We ship anywhere in the world. Sign up and follow developments at [www.cambridgeislamicart.com](http://www.cambridgeislamicart.com)

## MARRAKECH'S GREEN FRIDAY

The COP22 climate change negotiations have been underway in the Moroccan city of Marrakech, and a range of British and global Islamic organisations have been making their presence felt, under the umbrella of the Global Muslim Climate Network.

To celebrate the coming into effect of the Paris Agreement, the Network designated a 'Green Friday', and a sermon was given at the city's landmark Kutubiyya Mosque in support of the accords.

Morocco has announced that an additional 600 mosques will 'go green' by 2019, and other countries have launched similar initiatives. In Jordan, seven percent of mosques are now powered by photovoltaic arrays, a number which is set to increase drastically in the coming years. The Network, in the light of recent challenges to the Paris protocols by some national leaders, is urging every mosque in the world to 'go green', in compliance with Islamic teachings about respect for the environment. 🌿



## INDIAN WOMEN'S MOSQUE GOES 100% SOLAR

The first women's mosque in the Indian city of Lucknow has become the first mosque in India to be powered entirely by renewable energy.

The mosque's president, Shaista Ambar, emphasises that the initiative is in response to global warming, urban pollution, and the threat of climate change denial. 🌿

## UNIVERSITY PRIMARY SCHOOL OPENS

Our architects, Marks Barfield Associates, are busy elsewhere in Cambridge! The University's primary school on the North-West Cambridge site is now fully open.

With a capacity of 700 pupils, the innovative structure recalls the traditional British and Islamic idiom of a college built around a shared central space. Simple and robust building materials and high levels of natural light ensure high standards of sustainability. 🌿

## BECOME A LIFE MEMBER!

Those who donate a thousand pounds or more are eligible for Life Membership of the Cambridge New Mosque. They receive a beautiful certificate bearing their name, and their names are entered in our leather-bound Register of Life Members, which will be preserved in the mosque. Life Members will be able to attend an annual meeting at the mosque, at which they may vote on resolutions about the mosque's upkeep and activities, the results of which will be submitted to the AGM of the Board of Trustees.

Our sincere thanks go to Penny Price, the renowned Cambridge-based calligrapher, for creating the beautiful certificates without asking for a fee! We recommend that our supporters visit her website at [www.penstudio.co.uk](http://www.penstudio.co.uk)

## MESSAGE FROM FORMER IMAM

Dr Sejad Mekic, who served for ten years as Imam of the Abu Bakr Mosque in Cambridge, is currently working in



Sarajevo in his native Bosnia. Of our project he writes: 'I would like to use this opportunity to urge all people of good will and heart to donate generously to this truly noble cause. May the Most Giving and Loving reward and bless all those who contribute towards the building of the first purpose-built and, God-willing,

historic mosque in the city of Cambridge. May Allah the Almighty make this initiative a source of inspiration, guidance and peace.' 🌸

## CARPET DONATION

We thank Professor Akbar Ahmad, formerly Pakistan's High Commissioner in London, for the very generous gift of a beautiful Oriental carpet for our mosque. 🌸

## ABOUT YAPI MERKEZI

One of our leading supporters, both financially and in terms of technical consultancy, is the Turkish company Yapı Merkezi. Founded in 1965 by Ersin Arıoğlu and Koksall Anadol, YM has steadily developed into one of the largest construction companies in the Muslim world, specialising mainly in railway engineering. One of its showcases is the Eurasia Tunnel, a 5km two-deck road tunnel under the Bosphorus, which opened in 2016. Other projects include the Istanbul-Konya High Speed Railway, the Dubai Metro, the Casablanca Tramway, and the Awash-Weidia Railway in Ethiopia.

Yapı Merkezi is also a respected operator in the field of the restoration of historic buildings, having restored the Ottoman Imperial Mint complex, the Galata Tower, and various Islamic monuments in Algeria and the Sudan.

CMT is proud to be collaborating with YM, which is creating state-of-the-art high speed rail networks in Turkey and elsewhere of a kind which the UK is only beginning to emulate.



## YOUR JANAZA FACILITY AWAITS

Our design team has completed its plans for the mortuary of the mosque, in consultation with experienced operators in the sector in London and Turkey. There will be a cold store for bodies, a dedicated lift for gurneys, and complete washing (ghusl) facilities. The mortuary has its own door to the mosque to facilitate Janaza ceremonies.

## ACCESSIBILITY INSPIRED BY TURKISH MOSQUES

Our new mosque is designed to maximise accessibility for disabled people, with wheelchair access, hearing loops, and other facilities throughout the major parts of the building.

We are inspired in this Islamic effort by Diyanet's new campaign to enhance mosque accessibility. Eight major Turkish mosques, including Istanbul's Blue Mosque and the Hacı Bayram Mosque in Ankara, now have full disabled access, including electric scooter charging points. The upgraded mosques also offer digital screens with Islamic content in sign language and in acoustic form.

## CAMBRIDGE IN WOKING

Hosted by Dr Avaes Mohammad of British Futures and the Baroness Warsi Foundation, a large public event in Woking presented our project to the community and civic leaders of the town which boasts the UK's oldest Muslim building, the Shah Jahan mosque opened in 1889. The day began with a garden party in a marquee at the Woking Peace Garden, which commemorates Muslim servicemen who died fighting for Britain during the First World War. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi began the event with a panel conversation with former cabinet minister John Denham and BBC Head of Religion and Ethics Aaqil Ahmad, a longstanding supporter of our project. Entertainment was provided by the choir of Woking High School, who sang a set of nasheeds composed by Imam Abdullah Quilliam before the First World War. Our thanks go to the pupils and to Neil Turner, the school's Head of Music, for all the work they put into this amazing performance.

A second panel later convened at the HG Wells Conference Centre to discuss the Cambridge Mosque. Chaired by Baroness Warsi, panellists included author Shahed Saleem, Ray Morgan (Chief Executive of Woking Borough Council), Abdal Hakim Murad, and a range of faith leaders and chaplains. 🌸



## Poem by Sultan Murad III

'Uyan Ey Gözlerim Gafletten Uyan'

Wake from your heedlessness, O my eyes awake.  
Long have you slumbered so now my eyes awake,  
Azrail's intention is your soul to take.  
Wake from your heedlessness, O my eyes awake;  
Long have you slumbered so now my eyes awake.

Dawn hears the birds when early they stir and wake.  
Hear from their tongues all the sweet praises they make,  
Mountains and trees and the stones their worship make.  
Wake from your heedlessness, O my eyes awake;  
Long have you slumbered so now my eyes awake.

See how they open God's heaven's gates so wide,  
Raining His mercy as the faithful abide,  
Robing with high honour those who sleep denied.  
Wake from your heedlessness, O my eyes awake;  
Long have you slumbered so now my eyes awake.

This world is not your home, soon it melts away,  
Even were all seven climes under your sway.  
Throne and dominion and glory pass away.  
Wake from your heedlessness, O my eyes awake;  
Long have you slumbered so now my eyes awake.

Here is Murad, your slave; all his sins erase!  
Forgive my errors and all my burden raise.  
Raise me in the shade of Ahmad's flag of praise.  
Wake from your heedlessness, O my eyes awake;  
Long have you slumbered so now my eyes awake.



### NEW MOSQUE IN PHILIPPINES

During Ramadan 2017 a new mosque was opened by Diyanet's Head of Mosque Services, Selahettin Çelebi, in the Filipino city of Tacloban. At the opening ceremony, Deputy Governor Sambo Yaokasin reminded the audience that Turkish charities had been among the first to help following the devastating 2013 typhoon.

As well as its centuries-old indigenous Muslim communities, the Philippines is home to the Balik Islam movement, which includes several hundred thousand recent converts. 🌸

### TURKISH COMMITTEE

A special meeting was held for members of Cambridge's Turkish community, who expressed their enthusiasm for the new facility and offered a range of valuable suggestions for the operation and administration of the facility. 🌸

### VISIT FROM IRELAND

We were honoured to receive a delegation from the Islamic Centre of Ireland, led by its Director, Dr Nooh Al Kaddo. The delegation visited the site, and then offered some invaluable advice based on their twenty years of administrative activity at the helm of Ireland's leading mosque. 🌸

## 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

