

CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL MOSQUE

NEWSLETTER

SUSTAINABILITY, AUTHENTICITY, COMPASSION



MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

BY THE GRACE OF GOD we are emerging from the most challenging days of the Covid pandemic. It has been a complex time for our new institution, with the mosque closed entirely for several months, followed by months of careful restrictions on numbers and mandatory social distancing procedures. This included a cap of 400 attendees on Friday prayers, places for which had to be booked online. On July 19 most of these restrictions were lifted.

It has been heartening to see the congregation flowing back into its sacred space. We held three Eid prayers on each festival day, each one attracting a crowd which almost filled the mosque. Our popular guided tours have resumed and we are slowly dealing with the considerable backlog of people eager to join a tour!

Fatality rates in our community have been sadly high, and many congregants have reported the

death of loved ones overseas as well. We continue to encourage visitors to wear face masks, to avoid the mosque if they are showing Covid symptoms, and not to shake hands or embrace. In November 2021, with an infection rate of 464 cases per 100,000 people, East Cambridgeshire surpassed Peterborough to reach the highest rate in the county, and we are encouraging everyone to maintain sensible precautions, especially with the risk of a winter or spring surge in transmission.

It has been a time of quiet isolation for many. We have seen the great mental health benefits of faith, as our people quietly wait for the fulfilment of Allah's decree, calmly accepting His wisdom, and praying for the wellbeing of their families, their neighbours, and for all mankind. May this be a time which, for all its difficulties, brings spiritual and moral renewal, and greater human solidarity. ■



SUNNA TSUNAMI IN PAKISTAN!

Our Mosque is proud to support Pakistan's world-leading plan to plant ten billion trees! Following the successful 'One Billion Tree Tsunami' in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which achieved an 89% sapling survival rate, the country's Ministry of Climate Change began its hosting of the 2021 World Environment Day by announcing that

another billion trees of various species had been planted across the country to cut carbon emissions and to observe the Sunna duty of creation care.

Pakistan is rated the world's fifth country most affected by climate change. Sunna-conscious Pakistanis are urging wealthier countries to do much more to cut their carbon emissions, whose burden falls most heavily on poorer regions of the world. See cleangreen.gov.pk to learn about other inspirational initiatives!



BRITAIN TO RECEIVE BARAKA POWER

Morocco is now joint first with Sweden in the race to switch to renewable energy! Following massive support by Moroccan religious thinkers the country has initiated vast wind and solar power plants which now generate 42% of the African country's energy, with a target of 53% by the end of the decade. Over 1,200 of the country's imams have already received intensive training in methods of preaching on climate change and the need for zero-carbon mosques.

Energy-hungry Britain will benefit from the Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project, which plans to connect the energy-rich Guelmim Oued Noun region exclusively to Britain via a three thousand mile long HVDC undersea cable. When complete the system will power over seven million British homes with light and warmth from the Muslim south!

WINNER RIBA CLIENT OF THE YEAR 2021

Cambridge Mosque Trust

Project Name Cambridge Central Mosque
Practice Name Marks Barfield Architects
Contractor Gilbert Ash
Structural Engineer Price & Myers
Environmental / M&E Engineer Skelly & Couch
Project Management Bidwells
Quantity Surveyor / Cost Consultant
Faithful + Gould
Landscape Architect
Emma Clark with Urquhart & Hunt
Timber Engineer Blumer Lehmann
Geometric Artist Professor Keith Critchlow

Acoustic Engineer Ramboll
Fire Engineer Harris TPS
CDM Principal Designer Faithful + Gould
Planning Consultant Bidwells

Simon Allford

Simon Allford PRIBA
RIBA President

Sponsored by



RIBA

STIRLING PRIZE

With many awards already under its belt, including the 2021 RIBA East Award for Building of the Year, our mosque reached the final shortlist for the country's most prestigious architectural award! Many thanks to the Royal Institute of British Architects for arranging an online 'People's Vote', which we easily won, and for the award of the 2021 RIBA Client of the Year Award. The final ceremony was streamed live on BBC national television and was preceded by the release of a beautiful documentary film about the mosque by the Architects Journal. The excitement generated by our award-winning design was shared by TV announcers on many channels, including BBC Look East, Channel 5 and Al-Hurra TV.



PUBLIC TALKS RESUME

As we emerge from Covid we have been inviting external speakers once again. A recent highlight took place on October 26 with Shaykh Yasir Al-Qadhi speaking on 'The Challenges of Our Time.' Other talks have included a lecture on 'Healthy Living in Islam', organised in collaboration with Open Cambridge. Shaykh Adeyinka Mendes also spoke on "The Inward & Outward Beauty of the Prophet Muhammad."



IMAM ALI TOS LEAVES CAMBRIDGE

In February we announced with heavy hearts that Imam Ali Tos will be leaving Cambridge Central Mosque and returning back to Turkey with his family due to unforeseen family health-related circumstances.

On behalf of all the Trustees, the Director, as well as the staff and volunteers, we wish Imam Ali and his family all the best for the future and extend our heartfelt gratitude for his wonderful service to Cambridge Central Mosque and to the local community.



WELCOME TO IMAM MUSTAFA ŞAHİN

On 10 November we were at Stansted Airport to celebrate the arrival of our new imam! Born in 1986, Imam Mustafa completed his Qur’anic memorisation in 2003. With a doctorate from Istanbul University and a distinguished career as Senior Muezzin of the historic Şehzadebaşı Mosque, he is already proving a key asset in the life of the mosque and of our Cambridge community.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Don’t miss these two new books by talented siblings Rabia and Hasan Spiker, both brought up in Cambridge!

Hasan Spiker, *Things As They Are* (Abu Dhabi, 2021).

Rabia Spiker and others, *A Kaleidoscope of Stories: Muslim Voices in Contemporary Poetry* (London, 2020).



- * Thanks to Cambridge United Football Club, who invited our youngsters to tour their stadium and to experience an exclusive training session. During Ramadan, the club sent special Ramadan gift packs to our mosque!
- * This year’s Macmillan Coffee Morning at the mosque raised a stunning £13,562 for the charity’s work supporting cancer victims.
- * On July 4 we observed National Thank You Day by inviting key workers for a free tour and lavish tea at our mosque. Many thanks to our volunteers and to all who donated such wonderful pastries!
- * Muslim Charity began their amazing 60 mile Cambridge to London sponsored cycle ride from our mosque!
- * The mosque now has no fewer than ten terminals for contactless card donations.
- * Thanks to our comms team our khutbas are now streamed live and available afterwards on YouTube. The Eid al-Fitr sermon this year attracted more than 180,000 views!
- * Thanks to local craftsman Peter Harrison for creating our unique donation boxes and prayer timetable clock!
- * We have opened a dedicated Janaza Fund to help families with the cost of funerals and burials.
- * The mosque took part in OpenCambridge, an online festival organised by the University of Cambridge.
- * Our thanks to BBC One Cambridgeshire for holding a live discussion at our mosque with Eithne George of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. The topic was ‘Going Green’.
- * Running parallel to the COP26 Climate Change Conference, our Mosque launched a campaign to encourage Cambridge Muslims to embrace creation-care awareness.



Lifesavers!

We held a unique training session with the British Islamic Medical Association to help teach essential life-saving skills in mosques worldwide covering CPR, Recovery, Choking & more. Thank you to Drs Osman Bhatti and Shahnaz Husain for facilitating this event as well as all the volunteers who took part. Keep an eye on the Events section on our website for similar events in the future!



Cambridge Islamic Art hosted its third exclusive art sale between 15th November and 30th December 2020 and triumphantly closed the online sale with all fifty-two works sold, raising £72,250 in aid of Europe's first eco-mosque. Artists hailed from the UK, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Japan, South Korea, China, Nigeria, Morocco, South Africa, Brazil, US, Italy, Spain, France and Saudi Arabia.

To date, Cambridge Islamic Art has raised over £150,000, enhancing awareness of the ongoing vitality of the sacred arts of the Islamic world and providing exposure to the hard-working artists who have donated their work.

Plans are already underway to host a major onsite Islamic art exhibition with works commissioned by three leading artists for August 2022, followed by a fourth online Islamic art sale from November 2022. Sign-up to be notified at www.cambridgeislamicart.com

The Cambridge Islamic Art team would like to express its sincere gratitude to all the artists, volunteers, buyers and supporters.



RAMADAN REDISCOVERED

Ramadan this year featured a range of new online educational features for those unable to attend the mosque in person.

- * Tafsir of the Day with Imam Sejad Mekic.
- * Juz' of the Day with Imam Ali Tos.
- * Iftar Inspirations
- * Friday Night Live, featuring special guest speakers.

The highlight of Ramadan this year was the mosque's very own online Ramadan TV station broadcasting around the clock during the sacred month! This featured unique documentaries, fascinating Islamic lectures, subtitled Qur'anic recitations from well-known mosques in Turkey, unique Islamic songs from around the world, and other amazing content available only on our channel! Many thanks to the Muslim Academic Trust, Mishkat Media, Quilliam Press, Ten Thousand Films, Matmedia, Cambridge Muslim College, Nadir Nahdi and others who generously contributed features.



VACCINATIONS ON-SITE!

With the help of publicity from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire we have held several all-day pop-in Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics in the Atrium area of the mosque. Any local resident aged 18 or above was welcome to attend for their first or second free doses of the AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccines. We also held an online Q&A session about the vaccine with NHS Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Council.

For further advice and to organise testing, visit: www.gov.uk/coronavirus



FOOD RELIEF CONTINUES

Many thanks to the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, PAK Foods, Karim Foundation, Cambridge City Council, Al-Amin Stores, Euro Quality Lamb and others for their generous support for our food parcel programme for needy Muslim and non-Muslim families in the Cambridge area. Food poverty has been massively exacerbated by the Covid crisis. During the pandemic over 25% of BAME women reported difficulties in managing to feed their children, compared to a national average of 18%.

In collaboration with Islamic Relief, the Mosque has also been able to support Cambridge Sustainable Food with a variety of dry food items. 100 large food packs were distributed on the occasion of Eid al-Adha.

We have also provided hot meals for key workers at Royal Papworth Hospital. Cooking was by the team at Cambridge Gourmet Grill.



LIFE MEMBERS BOOM!

On October 3 the mosque was busy with attendees at our Life Member Event, at which no fewer than fifty-five new Life Members received their certificates and were inscribed in our Register.

Our partner charity Give Us A Lift is organising a Gala Dinner scheduled for August 21 2022, with celebrities in attendance. If you would like to book a place or a table please contact the mosque or Brother Aminul Islam.

PROVIDE THE GUIDES

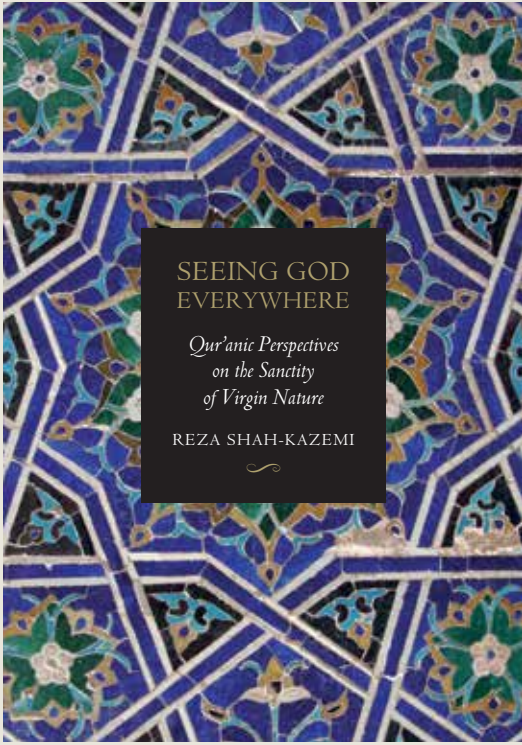
Do you enjoy telling stories? Are you passionate about great architecture? Do you love meeting new people?

Well, you are in luck! Cambridge Central Mosque is looking for dynamic and articulate volunteers to join our elite team of dedicated tour guides to show visitors from around the world our award-winning iconic building and its gardens.

If you are outgoing, confident and engaging, and can commit from just one hour per week, why not enhance your CV with this unique volunteering opportunity? Training will be provided to get you up to speed.

To apply, please complete the form on our website.





WEBSITE UPGRADE

During the lockdown our IT team added rich new resources to our website, including Islamic articles, poems, and sheet music. The website now includes the text of the Amman Message, a statement of brotherhood and unity among Muslim denominations signed by the world's most prominent Islamic scholars, underlining our ambition to be a space inclusive of all branches of the Muslim family.

Thanks to our supporter **Dr Reza Shah-Kazemi** for allowing us to publish his beautiful and timely book *Seeing God Everywhere: Qur'anic Perspectives on the Sanctity of Virgin Nature* (Cambridge, 2020) on our website. Hard copies are also available from the Mosque.

We are also grateful to our American supporter **Dr Palmer Estes** for permitting us to include his sonnet cycle *For the Chosen One: A Heroic Crown of Praise* on our website.

Two more Americans, **Kori Majeed** and **Saarah Yasmin Latif**, have kindly allowed us to present their wonderful collection *Forty Green Hadith: Sayings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ on Environmental Justice and Sustainability* on our website.

HEROINE OF THE YEAR

Farzana Faruk Jhumu is a climate activist who co-founded the Bangladeshi non-profit organisation Kathpencil. She has recently been featured in *The Guardian* and *Teen Vogue* talking about the huge internal migration taking place in Bangladesh because of the climate crisis, a phenomenon which worsens pollution and makes dealing with floods and cyclones



even harder. She is a dynamic member of youth climate activist group Fridays for Future: Most Affected People and Areas.

Established in 2018, her NGO focuses on underprivileged children, ensuring their rights, and also on climate change, providing humanitarian assistance to those affected in a particularly vulnerable part of the world.

Their current projects include:

- ★ holding a climate crisis campaign across 24 districts in Bangladesh;
- ★ running a school in Mirpur, Dhaka;
- ★ organising a easy-to-access blood donation platform.

Please support Farzana and Kathpencil on kathpencil.net as they continue their important work across different parts of Bangladesh and expand, day by day.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

For all the latest updates on our amazing facility don't forget to subscribe:

 <https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeCentralMosque>

 <https://twitter.com/camCtrlMosque>

 <https://www.instagram.com/cambridgecentralmosque>

 <https://www.youtube.com/CambridgeCentralMosque>

 <https://soundcloud.com/cambridgecentralmosque>

HYMN BY YUNUS EMRE (D.1321)

Heedless one, hear what I say! Before the dawn stand up and pray.
Holy God commands us thus: Before the dawn stand up and pray.

Listen to the rooster's cry: 'Your daily needs are met at dawn.'
Turn to face the loved one's court. Before the dawn stand up and pray.

Deaf one, harken to my words! Your balance will be full of works.
Call on God, invoke His name; before the dawn stand up and pray.

One who lies in bed is lost, achieving nothing in his life.
Mercy rides the wind at dawn; before the dawn stand up and pray.

Rise and sing among the birds, then pray behind the mosque imam,
Beg for mercy for your sins. Before the dawn stand up and pray.

When you listen and pay heed unto Yasin and the Koran
Sins like mountains wash away. Before the dawn stand up and pray.

Hear true doctrine and hadith, both say 'We bless the Prophet's name.'
Prove to me your loving heart. Before the dawn stand up and pray.

Helpless Yunus, use your eyes and rouse yourself from slumbering.
In this way you'll know yourself. Before the dawn stand up and pray.

If you love Turkish hymns, why not buy the book Turkish Sacred Songs, available on Amazon and your local Islamic bookshop? Ideal for your mosque or madrasa choir. All profits go to support our 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: GB68HBUK40160854298209

Branch Identifier: HBUKGB4103J

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

