

CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL MOSQUE

NEWSLETTER

FOR THE TEACHINGS OF QUR'AN AND SUNNA

cambridgecentralmosque.org/ramadan



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Assalamu alaykum wa-rahmatullahi wa-barakatuh!

IT HAS BEEN over two years since I moved to Cambridge and began my role at the Mosque, yet in many ways it still feels remarkably new. I have truly cherished every moment here and remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve this community from within the House of Allah.

Despite being open for more than six years, the Mosque continues to welcome increasing numbers of worshippers and visitors, from all backgrounds and faiths. At a time when our wider communities can often feel fragile and divided, it feels more important than ever that we build bridges and create spaces where people can connect and find common ground.

This spirit of openness has been reflected in many of our standout moments over the past year. Hosting the Woolf Institute, delivering inter-faith training and welcoming many

visitors during the Mill Road Winter Fair were particularly special.

This year's Ramadan theme, "Roots That Remain", centres on the importance of consistency and the lasting impact of the practices we nurture during this blessed month. Through a programme of in-person activities and online content, we aim to support our community in developing habits that extend well beyond Ramadan. This focus sits at the heart of our wider commitment to long-term environmental and social growth, helping to cultivate meaningful change that lasts.

Alongside environmental and social responsibility, we are equally committed to financial sustainability. We want to ensure that future generations inherit a Mosque that is free from financial strain, where every donation can go straight back into serving the community.

With this in mind, we are launching our Maintain Your Mosque campaign, inviting everyone to take part in sustaining the Mosque through regular giving at a level that feels right

for them. We are committed to greater transparency in how funds are used, and to ensuring that surplus donations help grow our endowment.

Alhamdulillah, our journey toward sustainable growth has recently begun. In 2025, we were proud to officially launch Cambridge's first Muslim Cemetery, with essential infrastructure now in place and the site operational. In addition, we have acquired a Mill Road commercial property currently undergoing planning, which we hope will offer an opportunity for local businesses while providing a long-term financial benefit as a waqf for the Mosque.

Whether you choose to join our regular giving campaign or support one of our ongoing projects, we invite you all to be part of this journey with us.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Fezaan Azam

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR





GREEN HAJJ AND UMRA

Maintain your Islamic respect for creation by upholding sustainability practices and avoiding waste during your visit to the holy places! Download the Green Hajj app and guide from ummah4earth.org and greenhajj.org

Islamic Environmentalism in Indonesia

IN 2025 PEW RESEARCH published the results of a survey showing that over the past ten years the global Muslim population increased by 347 million – more than the world's other religious groups combined. Muslims are now 25.6% of the world's population. Another Pew survey shows that levels of religious adherence are typically high in Muslim countries, with Indonesia, Pakistan and Senegal ranked as the world's most religious countries, based on a survey which asked interviewees whether they prayed daily.

Indonesia, where a remarkable 95% of the population prays every day, is a diverse country of ten thousand inhabited islands, encompassing very different cultures. However it is increasingly suffering the consequences of climate change, including rising sea levels, deteriorating fishery stocks, tornadoes, irregular rainfall and uncontrolled deforestation.

The country's Islamic leaders have taken the lead in urging congregations to join climate activism groups as part of their regular Islamic activities. Indonesian Islam is supported by tens of thousands of *pesantren*, religious boarding schools, which have issued a landmark book under the title *Global Warming in the Pesantren Perspective*. Recognising that no true Islamic scholar can neglect contemporary issues, they have delivered three main *fatwas*.

The first concerns the industrial development which is the major source of greenhouse gases. Using a range of Qur'anic and Hadith references the scholars insist that industries controlled by Muslims must maintain high standards of recycling and waste management, as well as using renewable energy sources wherever possible.

The second fatwa relates to the Sharia permissibility of carbon trading. The scholars' analysis shows that carbon transactions constitute a valid *ijara* contract for the ownership of benefits in exchange for a specified compensation (*iwad*).

The third fatwa declares that it is an obligation (*wajib*) for Muslim communities and countries to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Not to do so is a form of *zulm*, injustice and oppression.

Indonesia is a land of almost a million mosques, which recognizes Islamic Students Day (*hari santri*) as a national holiday. Based on Qur'anic teachings on the sanctity of nature and the human responsibility of custodianship (*khilafa*), the *pesantren* students are establishing Sustainability and Conservation Halaqas (teaching circles) throughout the country. The world's most prayerful nation is leading the way in championing the rights of nature and a sustainable and balanced approach to human needs and lifestyles!

Iftars At The Mosque!

This year we are offering free hot meals at Maghrib time for our worshippers and guests. We are hugely grateful to the following restaurants for providing these meals during this blessed time. May Allah bless their hands!



Chicken Cottage
83A Mill Rd, Cambridge, CB1 2AW



Golpo
36-38 Hills Rd, Cambridge, CB2 1LA



Hassan Catering
130 Legrave Rd, Luton, LU4 8HX



Namaste Cambridge
43 Clifton Rd, Cambridge, CB1 7ED



Noshe Afghan Restaurant
18 Mill Road, Cambridge, CB1 2AD



Samaan
74 Mill Rd, Cambridge, CB1 2AS



The Grill Peri Peri
52 Mill Rd, Cambridge, CB1 2AS



Zidan's Piri Piri
214 Mill Rd, Cambridge CB1 3NF



Zi's Piri Piri
36A Mill Rd, Cambridge, CB1 2AD



Al Casbah
62 Mill Rd, Cambridge CB1 2AS



Bedouin
98 Mill Road, Cambridge CB1 2BD

Remembering a Forerunner



SHAYKH ABDUL WADOD SHALABI (1925-2008) was born in Egypt where he memorized the Holy Qur'an as a child, after which he took his BA in the Usul al-Din Faculty of al-Azhar in 1952. His Cambridge doctoral studies were on 19th century Sudanese history and religious

thought. Later in life he became Director of the Islamic Centre of Australia, deputy President of the Islamic Research Academy, and Secretary-General of the Higher Committee for Islamic Call at al-Azhar. He wrote over twenty books, including his *Islam Religion of Life*, which was the first book in English to be published by Al-Azhar. During his time in Cambridge he was active in Muslim student affairs, often leading the Friday prayers, and held lively debates with the Islamic Studies experts at the Faculty of Oriental Studies.



On 19 July we held a highly-successful Open Day to celebrate the opening of the mosque's Cemetery, located at Brinkley, which is about fifteen minutes by road from the Mosque.

The Cemetery is now open and burials are taking place. The first burial was of David Iles, a longstanding Muslim convert from Bury St Edmunds.

As part of Brinkley Woodland Cemetery, Gardens of Rest follows a natural burial ethos, ensuring that burials are conducted with minimal impact on the environment. Our vision is to create a landscape of meadows and woodland, where the graves blend seamlessly into the natural beauty of the land.

- All graves face Qiblah, following the Sunnah.
- Shroud-only burials (Kafan) wherever possible, ensuring a pure return to the earth.
- Immediate burials facilitated, in line with Islamic customs.
- No embalming or non-Islamic burial practices.

By planning ahead, families can preserve the tradition of remaining close in both life and death, while also easing the burden on loved ones during difficult times.

Options available include:

- Family plots, allowing loved ones to be buried side by side.
- Pre-purchased graves, ensuring peace of mind and securing a resting place in advance.

In keeping with the principles of Islamic humility, the cemetery does not feature traditional large headstones or raised mounds. Instead graves are marked with a simple tablet, ensuring an uncluttered, natural setting. This approach mirrors historic Islamic burial grounds, where the focus remains on dua, remembrance, and reflection rather than material displays.

To apply or for further information please visit gardensofrest.com or telephone 01638 600693. Email admin@countrysideburials.com

We are grateful to the anonymous local resident who has generously gifted this property to the mosque as a Waqf.



Our 24-hour a day online TV station is live again! Viewed by thousands last year, this popular fixture of our fasting lineup now incorporates unique special features new to 2026! Spiritually uplifting, informative and fasting-appropriate, our service offers documentaries, features on Islamic art and design, reports on issues of concern to the global Umma, children's programmes, Qur'anic recitations by well-known voice masters, and dozens of uplifting Islamic songs! This service is still absolutely FREE. Please visit <https://cambridgecentralmosque.org/ramadan-tv/>

WINTER FAIR

On December 6 the mosque was busy with hundreds of visitors to the annual Mill Road Winter Fair. Stalls in our atrium introduced aspects of Islam and the Cambridge Muslims, with books, poetry and art displays. A series of informal talks was also on offer, including Miniature Painting (Fatima Hasan), Islam and the Natural World (Davide Pettinato, and Mary: A Story which Touched a King (Junayd Ul-Islam).



The health of our community was highlighted during a recent Mindsavers Workshop presented by the British Islamic Medical Association.

New also was a SiSU Health Station in the Atrium, which provided automatic free analysis of blood pressure, weight and BMI, body composition, heart age, and diabetes risk.

Our Women's Holistic Health Seminar (in Turkish) has also been a great success.

In 2025 we welcomed 135 men and women into the religion of Islam in our mosque. The Cambridge Crescent is a local support group designed to support them. Welcoming newcomers from every walk of life and age group is a constant challenge for our dedicated team of unpaid volunteers! To enhance the Crescent's activities we are inviting donations this Ramadan from all who care about the strength and spiritual growth of these new brothers and sisters. At cambridgecrescent.org you can donate specifically for the Crescent's major activities:

- Gift Shahada Packs
- Facilitating Islamic Retreats
- New Muslim Classes
- Reconcile a Heart
- Help make Eid special
- Help train support buddies
- Ramadan Coffee-less Mornings
- Monday New Muslim Iftar Gatherings.

These services are Zakat-eligible. As Allah guides us to whom to give, as illustrated in the verse below, the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, was also famous for giving and reconciling hearts.

'The charitable offerings are only for the poor, and the destitute and those who collect (the zakat) and those whose hearts are (to be) reconciled and for (liberating) slaves and debtors and in God's path, and the wayfarer, as an obligation from God and God is Knowing, Wise.'

(Holy Qur'an 9:60)

We are also reminding all Muslim families in Cambridge to keep a look-out for new Muslims in the mosque, as they often have no-one to break the fast or celebrate Eid with. Welcome them into your homes, and show them the proverbial hospitality of this blessed month!

Talks

Our mosque was busy with visiting speakers.

Highlights have included:

- Shaykh Haroon Sidat, 'The Twenty-First Century Scholar'
- Shaykh Walead Mosaad, 'Sanctity and Stewardship'
- Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, 'Guard your Heart'
- Shaykh Jubril Alao, Sayful Alam, Asim Khan: Sira Series
- Dr Zakariya Goga, 'A Healthier Ramadan'
- Shaykh Abdur Rahman Mangera, 'Raising Children who Love Allah'
- Dr Ahmed Saad, 'Reflections from the Sira'

Other highlighted events included a series of Country Walks (destinations included Wandlebury, Grantchester, and Milton Country Park); our Madrasa Sports Day; our annual Muharram recital of the Rawdat al-Shuhada; and our regular Community Litter Pick (very popular with our friendly neighbours!).



Our Own Mi'rajiyya!

To honour the city of al-Quds and al-Aqsa, whose imams have a special connection to our mosque, Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad has just released a new book of songs and poems to commemorate the Mi'raj! All proceeds go to Cambridge Central Mosque.

This year's Mi'raj recital in our mosque attracted an audience of over four hundred people, with visitors coming from as far away as Birmingham and even Amsterdam.



Our Youth Hub now has approved Duke of Edinburgh Award status. An exciting opportunity for young people aged 14-25 to learn new skills, serve the community, build confidence, and gain a nationally-recognised award.

Fasting for Inner Peace

Dr Tariq Shamlan

‘Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those who came before you, that you may learn taqwa’.

THIS IS A verse of the Holy Qur’an which we hold close to our hearts in the blessed fasting season, and also in those other days of optional fasting at other special times of the year.

The human soul is a universal centre of the world and of history. Sometimes it is besmirched and distorted, so that destructive errors of belief and moral habits occur. That damage can come from inadequate parenting, or education, or from living in a culture where holy purity and goodness are not sufficiently accessible. Hence there has hardly been a religious path since the dawn of time that has not recognized the value and importance of fasting.

The world into which we are born contains so much beauty and pleasure. Yet often the latter obstructs the former, when enjoyed to excess.

‘The best of all matters is the middle path,’ says the Holy Prophet, may blessings and peace rest upon him. This is also one of the meanings of the *Sirat Mustaqim*, the Straight Path, which keeps us safe from error, including those errors which happen when we do too much of something permissible, or not enough.

‘Say: Who shall forbid God’s ornaments, or the good things of His providing?’ says Allah in *Surat al-A’raf*, verse 32. It is wrong to deprive people of the halal, of the wholesome and nourishing and beautiful, with which He has filled the world in which we live. This is why in our balanced religion, the *hanifiyyat samha*, the Abrahamic, gracious and tolerant religion, we

avoid extreme forms of self-denial. To be patient (*sabr*) is noble, but we benefit also from giving thanks (*shukr*).

So fasting has not been prescribed to deny us the good things of divine making and gift. Instead it helps us to learn restraint, *sabr*, and also to increase our opportunities for gratefulness, *shukr*. Both of these are key virtues, which if we practice them in a balanced and natural way, will make us noble and happy human beings. So much of the sadness and depression in our troubled age is the result of a lack of *sabr* and *shukr*. Here Allah is gifting us with a wonderful medicine which will heal us deeply.

And for believers, the month in which we take this remedy daily, is the year’s great opportunity to return to health. We should try hard to gain in our *sabr* and our *shukr* in this amazing and beautiful and busy and peaceful month, which is a time unlike any other. On each day that we accept Allah’s gift of this wonderful therapy we hope to grow healthier. And whatever we may boast about ourselves, who among us does not need more self-discipline? To be master of one’s instincts is to be a free and noble Sultan.

But the therapy is not only the gift of the fast; for the blessed fasting days offer an opportunity to learn more about our religion, to care for parents and relations, to attend lovingly to our children, and to make sure of the wellbeing of our neighbours and friends, whatever their religious background. We are called to be an *Umma* of service and giving. In this way we will be respected, admired, needed and loved.

So we ask Allah the Exalted to ease our fasting, to accept it, to give us strength, and to grant us a right intention in serving others, avoiding laziness and weakness, so that we may be ‘the best *Umma* raised up for mankind,’ deserving of His grace and acceptance and good-pleasure. Amin!

FOOD PACKS

Alhamdulillah, with the support of @islam-icreliefuk, we recently prepared hundreds of food packs to distribute to families in need. Each pack includes staple items – rice, lentils, pasta, sugar, salt and more – simple things that make a big difference. May Allah accept this effort, bring ease to those struggling, and remind us to give in whatever way we can – to our neighbours and communities around the world, insha’Allah. Jazakum Allahu khayran to our amazing volunteers and partners for making this possible.



The Olive Tree Library is an educational initiative that provides books for children in our community and meets once a month. Gifts of good children’s books are always welcome!

2025 in Numbers

During the year we carried out:

- 276 Nikahs
- 135 Shahadas
- 181 Scheduled Imam Consultations
- 309 Group Tours
- 10,290 attendees in total!



A Mansion of Qur'an

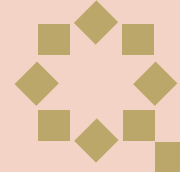
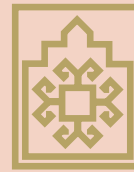
AS WELL AS our much-appreciated range of guest reciters during Ramadan, we have been inviting leading reciters to present selected suras in our mosque. Noteworthy was a 6 December recitation by Alpcan Çelik, Osman Bostancı, and Hassan Sadeghi. Our evening children's madrasa is now at capacity with 160 keen pupils.

Our first young Hafiz has now graduated! Very many congratulations to Mohammad Mazharuddin, a local engineer, for memorizing the entire text of the Holy Qur'an. A celebration was held on November 29 in the mosque to mark this landmark event.

Imam Nurullah's madrasa for Turkish pupils meets twice a week and attracts around sixty students.

We have launched a Qur'an Revision Day, from Fajr until Isha. Every memoriser from the region comes to go through the entire Qur'an in one day.

We have also launched Tilawat Fridays, a transformative 10-week Quran recitation course led by our esteemed Imams. Each session begins with 30 minutes of essential theory taught by Imam Sejad, followed by 1 hour of guided practice with the Imams and our trained instructors.



Baraka Books!

Our mosque does not have a bookshop, but visitors can collect free copies of **Muslim Book News**, which showcases leading publications by Cambridge-based Islamic publishers, which can then be ordered online.

Cambridge is a major hub for Muslim publishing, being the home of the Islamic Texts Society, CMC Press, the Quilliam Press, the Muslim Academic Trust, Lote Tree Press, and Equilibra Press.



Discover the Beauty of Islamic Literature and Gifts

As a new family in Cambridge, we've been warmly welcomed into the community of Cambridge along Mill Road and have Alhamdulillah brought to fruition a dream to provide quality goods and literature to the local community.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ✓ Qurans | ✓ Beard products |
| ✓ Islamic literature | ✓ Perfume free soap |
| ✓ Children's books | ✓ Handmade tasbeehs |
| ✓ Abayas | ✓ Perfumes |
| ✓ Hijabs | ✓ Black seed oil |
| ✓ Thobes | ✓ Yemen sidr honey |
| ✓ Prayer mats | ✓ Supplements |
| ✓ Breathable nail polish | ✓ Health products |

In addition, every Friday after Juma at 2pm, we will be offering arts and craft activities, which you are welcome to attend and participate in.

www.jawharah.co.uk



@JAWHARAH.CO.UK





Years of Tears

1. Years of tears that son of valour
Shed upon the doubting desert
Thorny words and scorning slander
Were the guerdon of his effort
2. Son of sorrows, sum of hardships
Destined in a dole so dreadful
Friends assailed and wife departed
People of the House forgetful
3. In this night of flight surrendered
To the mandate of his Maker
Not for fear of cruel kindred
Nor of venomous lawbreaker
4. Fragrant he, the fearless Prophet
See him stand upon the bedrock
Such a sight of peerless beauty
Manly and of noble bloodstock
5. Now the firmament in darkness
Longs for rise of moon resplendent
Watches, waiting, breath abating
Hushed the heavenly spheres, impendent
6. Comes the hour by Heaven's order
When the dust and stones lamenting
Now the feet of God's Apostle
Feel they not, to God assenting
7. He who made of man a walking
Creature weighed to earth by matter
Able is to wing him higher
Laws confound and reasons scatter
8. Through the layered skies He bears him
Like a lambent lamp nocturnal
Rank on rank of seraphs smiling
Cherished by His hand eternal

This poem is from the *Mi'rajiyya*, a book sold for the benefit of the Cambridge Central Mosque.
Published in 2025 by the Muslim Academic Trust, ISBN 978 1 902350 15 8.

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

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS:

<https://www.justgiving.com/muslimacademic>

Post one-off cash/cheques made payable to:

"THE CAMBRIDGE MOSQUE TRUST"

309-313 Mill Road,
Cambridge CB1 3DF

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

