AHMADIYYA BULLETIN

Jan/Feb 2021: (Sulh/Tabligh)

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International Virtual Mulaqats with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V

United Kingdom • USA • Ghana • Australia • Mauritius • Bangladesh

Friday Sermons Summaries of recent Friday Sermons from Baitul Futuh

> Feature Article Does Islam allow Female Imams?

Khalifatul Masih An Important Message to the World

UK NEWS Various nationwide news stories Humanity First First fundraiser featuring a successful virtual dinner

AUXILIARY NEWS News features from Ansar and Khuddam

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious Ever Merciful



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10: Virtual Meetings held with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V



- 10: National Majlis-e-Amila UK.
- 11: Virtual meeting with UK Misssionaries.
- **12:** Virtual meeting with Lajna Imaillah UK Amila.
- **13:** An Audience with Huzoor Agdas for the Alislam.org team.
- **14:** Historic meeting with Jamia Ahmadiyya International Ghana.
- **16:** Virtual meeting of Lajna Imaillah Ghana.
- 17: Virtual meeting of Bangladesh Ansar.
- 18: Virtual meeting with Waqfat-e-Nau males from Mauritius.
- **20:** Virtual meeting of Waqfat-e-Nau women from Mauritius.
- **21:** Virtual meeting of new converts in Germany.
- 22: Virtual meeting with German Khuddam.
- 24: Virtual meeting of Waqfe Bau ladies from Australia.

26: IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE WORLD FOR 2021



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CONTENTS

Jan/Feb 2021

3

The Holy Qur'an, Hadith and writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him)

Summary of Friday Sermon: From 4th December 2020 to 25th December 2020

28



37

HUMANITY FIRST VIRTUAL DINNER



Question & Answer Correct title for Khalifatul Masih

UK News

- 28 Tabligh Highlights
- **30** Voice of Islam Radio Presenter's Training Day
- 32 Newcastle Jalsa Seerat un Nabi
- 33 Humanitarian Efforts Sheffield Jama'at
- 33 Scunthorpe Volunteers uplifting spirits of the local community
- 33 Visit to St Aiden's Church and Community Centre
- 33 Lajna from Keighley deliver to nursing homes
- 34 Bradford South-East Humanity First Food bank donation
- 34 Huddersfield News Various activities
- 34 Spen Valley Efforts
- 34 Edinburgh & Fife help the homeless and others
- 35 Huddersfield Webinar on community cohesion and resiliance
- **36** Message of Islam relayed to Northern Ireland politicians
- 37 Humanity First virtual dinner
- 38 Announcement of Jama'at Cemeteries
- 39 Jumuah prayers around London
- 40 Announcement for admission to Jamia Ahmadiyya UK 2021

Voice of Islam Radio Presenter's Training Day





Does Islam Allow Female Imams?

42

46 CHILDRENS PAGES

'The Blessed Rice' and 'Be Grateful For What You Have'. ANSAR NEWS Report on Educational Rally in Bashir Region

48

KHUDDAM NEWS Khuddam news during the Corona Virus pandemic

49

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Quotation from the Holy Qur'an

What do they wait for except that the angels should come upon them or that the decree of thy Lord should come to pass? So did those who were before them. Allah did not wrong them, but they used to wrong themselves. So the evil result of what they did befell them, and that which they used to mock at encompassed them. (Al-Nahl, 16:34-35) هَلُ يَنْظُرُونَ إِلَّآ أَنْ تَأْتِيَهُمُ الْمَلَيِكَةُ أَوْ يَأْتِيَ أَمُرُ رَبِّكَ كَذَٰلِكَ فَعَلَ الَّذِيْنَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمُ وَمَاظَلَبَهُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَكِنْ كَانُوْا أَنْفُسَهُمْ يَظْلِمُوْنَ فَاصَابَهُمْ سَيِّاتُ مَاعَبِلُوْا وَحَاقَ بِهِمْ مَّاكَانُوْا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُوْنَ

Sayings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

Abu Hurairah has related that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said: Prayer in congregation is more than 25 times better in merit than prayer at home or in the shop, etc. Therefore, when a person makes his ablutions carefully and proceeds to the mosque with the sole purpose of joining in the service, his station rises in grade at every step and one of his sins is wiped out. From the moment he enters the mosque he is accounted as a participant in the service while waiting for the service to begin and, so long as he causes no inconvenience to anyone and his state of purity is maintained, the angels continue to pray for him: *Allah*, *have mercy on him; Allah, forgive him; Allah, turn to him with compassion*.

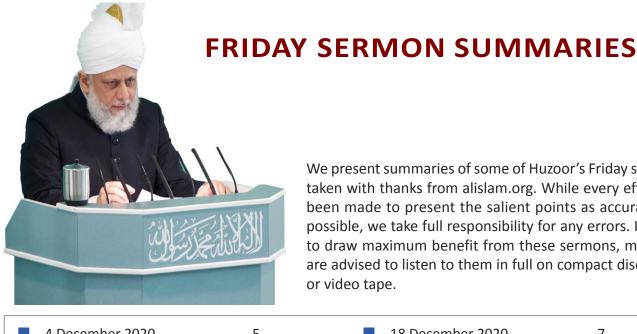


Writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him)

Remember, it is only to demonstrate the distinction between truth and falsehood that miracles are granted to men of God. The real purpose of a miracle is none other than that a distinction between a truthful one and a liar be established in the eyes of the wise and just. A miracle is shown only to the extent that is sufficient to establish such distinction. And this extent is determined by the need of the time, as is the nature of the miracles. It does not mean that whenever a prejudiced, ignorant or evil-minded person demands a miracle, it has to be shown, no matter how contrary it is to the Divine wisdom or the need of the moment. Were it so, it would be harmful to one's own faith, as it would be contrary to Divine wisdom.

(Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya, Vol 5, as quoted in Essence of Islam, Vol 5 pp.17,18).





We present summaries of some of Huzoor's Friday sermons taken with thanks from alislam.org. While every effort has been made to present the salient points as accurately as possible, we take full responsibility for any errors. In order to draw maximum benefit from these sermons, members are advised to listen to them in full on compact disc, audio or video tape.

- 4 December 2020..... 5 11 December 2020 6
- 18 December 2020..... 7
- 25 December 2020...... 9

SERMON: 4 Dec 2020 – Men of Excellence - Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him)

Huzoor Agdas said that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) referred to Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) as his brother on two separate occasions. He took part in all battles alongside the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) except for Tabuk, during which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) appointed Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) to remain behind and take care of his family.

Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) also accompanied the Prophet during the expedition to Ushairah.

Among the Three Best Soldiers

During Badr, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was among the companions whom the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) sent to find out information regarding the Makkans. As the battle began, the Makkans sent forth their three best fighters, and said that three of the best soldiers from the Muslims should be sent to fight them. Thus, Hazrat Hamzah, Hazrat Ali, and Hazrat Ubaidah bin Harith (Allah be pleased with them all) went out to fight them, and prevailed over the Makkans. During the battle, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to both Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with them both) that the angel Gabriel was on the right side of one of them and the angel Mikael on the right side of the other, and the Angel Israfil was fighting alongside them.

During the battle, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) would worry about the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). He narrates that whenever he would run back to see the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), he would find him prostrating and praying fervently for victory.

Marriage

Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) requested the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) for the hand of his daughter Fatimah in marriage. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked if he had anything to give in dowry. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) replied that he had a horse and his armour. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) instructed that he should keep the horse, sell his chainmail and use the proceeds as dowry. Huzoor Aqdas commented that just as the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) instructed, the dowry should be arranged, it should be understood that the dowry is a right of the bride and should always be given.

Despite not being very wealthy, Hazrat Ali (Allah be

pleased with him) and Hazrat Fatimah were very generous with whatever they had. Once, while doing some household work, Hazrat Fatimah experienced pain in her hand. She requested the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to grant her a worker who could help with chores around the home. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) later visited Hazrat Fatimah and Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with them both) in their home, and said that he would tell them something which was better than a worker for the home. This was they should recite Allahu Akbar [Allah is the greatest] 34 times, Alhamdulillah [All praise belongs to Allah] 33 times, and Subhan Allah [Holy is Allah] 33 times.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not wish for people to think that he was using wealth from the treasury for his own family, nor did he wish to set a precedent for future rulers whereby they could consider using wealth from the treasury for personal use. Though there was a portion set by God for the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his family, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) only ever used wealth which directly fell under his share.

Wise advice of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

Once the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked Hazrat Ali and Hazrat Fatimah (Allah be pleased with them both) as to whether they would wake up for the Tahajjud prayer. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) replied that if God wished for them to wake up then they would, otherwise they would not. There was a slightly contentious tone in this reply. However the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was not angry, nor did he say that such a reply should never have been given to him because of the esteemed rank he held. Instead he simply walked away saying that at times, people become contentious in the simplest of matters. This wise course of action adopted by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was enough to show Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) that he should not have replied in such a manner. This also showed that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) always explained matters with great patience and kindness. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) would go on to say that after this incident, he never missed the Tahajjud prayer.

SERMON: 11 Dec 2020 – Men of Excellence - Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him)

After reciting Tashahhud, Ta'awwuz and Surah al-Fatihah, Huzoor Aqdas continued to highlight incidents from the life of Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him).

During the battle of Uhud, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) gave the flag of Islam to Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) after the martyrdom of Hazrat Mus'ab bin Umair. During this battle, the flagbearer of the disbelievers came forward and attacked Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him), but was defeated.

Love for the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

During Uhud, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was injured by the Quraish. Hazrat Fatimah was cleaning the wounds while Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) poured water from his shield. On that day, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) suffered sixteen wounds himself.

Sword of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

At Khandaq, when some of the Quraish were able to cross the ditch, they called out for battle. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) requested the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) for permission who granted it together with his sword and prayed for his victory. As a result Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) overcame and defeated 'Amr while the rest of the Quraish fled.

Scribe For the Treaty of Hudaibiyah

Huzoor Aqdas said that at Hudaibiyah, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) served as scribe of the Treaty. When writing Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) put 'Muhammad, Messenger of Allah'. The Makkan representative objected. The Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) told Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) to erase this. Hazrat Ali's (Allah be pleased with him) eyes filled with tears and he could not bring himself to do it. Thus, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) erased it himself.

At the time of Khaibar, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) announced that he would grant the flag of Islam to he who loved the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be



upon him) loved him for victory will be achieved by his hands. At the time, Hazrat Ali (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was experiencing an ailment of the eyes. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) put some of his blessed saliva on his eyes, which relieved the pain and he was given the flag of Islam.

During the battle, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) came face to face with a Jewish soldier and they fought. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) overcame him and knelt upon him. Just as Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was about to strike the final blow, the man spat in his face. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) immediately stepped back and spared the man. When asked why, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) explained that up until that point, he had been fighting merely for the sake of Allah; but when the man spat in his face, he became angry and worried that now he would be killing him out of personal anger.

Trust

Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was part of the mission sent by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to retrieve a letter being sent to the Quraish revealing Muslim plans before the conquest of Makkah. They were successful in retrieving this letter before it reached the Quraish and returned it to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

During the Battle of Hunain, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was awarded the flag of the Muhajireen (migrants). There came a point where only a few companions were left who remained alongside the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), among whom was Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him). When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) set out for Tabuk, he assigned Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) as the Amir in his stead. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) asked the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was he leaving him behind amongst the women and children? The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) replied that he should be happy, for he was to him, as Aaron (peace be upon him) was to Moses (peace be upon him).

Once, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) sent Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) to Yemen as a judge and advised him that whenever two opposing parties present a matter before him, he should never make a decision until he had heard both sides. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) said that after this and by following the advice of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), he never experienced any difficulty in adjudication.

SERMON: 18 Dec 2020 – Men of Excellence - Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him)

After the demise of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was among the companions who bathed the blessed body and was also among the same companions who lowered him into the grave.

Pledging Allegiance to the first Khalifa

Huzoor Aqdas quoted from a narration that after the Muslims had pledged allegiance to him, Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) looked around for Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him). He inquired and sent for him, upon which he arrived and pledged allegiance at the hand of Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him).

Another narration states that Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) pledged allegiance to Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) either the first, or second day after the demise of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and always remained loyal to Hazrat Abu Bakr(Allah be pleased with him).

Huzoor Aqdas quoted from the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) stating that Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was so eager to pledge allegiance at the hand of Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him), that he left his home without even having fully tied his turban.

Huzoor Aqdas presented another quotation in which the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) addressed those who believe that Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) thought that he should have been the first successor. However the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) wrote that this could not have been the case, because not only did Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) pledge allegiance to Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him), but he remained completely steadfast and loyal to him. He never joined those who tried to stir up disorder against Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him), rather he opposed them. He always offered his prayers behind Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) and never abandoned doing so, nor did he ever utter anything close to a complaint of any sort.

Thus, Huzoor Aqdas said that Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) never opposed any of the three Caliphs before him; and to say that he did not pledge allegiance to Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) is a disservice to his honour.

Various services after the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

Huzoor Aqdas said that after the demise of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), there were some who went astray and some who joined a false claimant to prophethood Musailimah. This posed a threat to the safety of Madinah, as plots were being hatched to attack. Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) devised a plan to station the army at various entry points to Madinah. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was among those appointed to oversee this.

Huzoor Aqdas said that during the Caliphate of

Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him), at times when he himself would go out on expeditions, he would appoint Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) as the leader of Madinah in his absence.

Huzoor Aqdas said that during the Caliphate of Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him), various disorders arose. During this time, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) dutifully remained alongside Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him) and would provide sincere and wise counsel in various matters. Once, Hazrat Uthman's (Allah be pleased with him) home was besieged by some dissidents, who would not even let the Caliph eat as they stopped any food from reaching him. This greatly troubled Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) who went to plead with them, saying that even the disbelievers would let their prisoners eat. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) made every effort to plead with them.

Huzoor Aqdas said that when he learned of plots for the martyrdom of Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him), he sent his two sons Hasan and Husain to stand guard at the door of the Caliph. Eventually, when the dissidents broke through and martyred Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him), Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was extremely troubled and grieved.

Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) said to Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him), that he feared plots were being made to assassinate him. Thus he requested Hazrat Uthman's (Allah be pleased with him) permission to fight against these people. However Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him) replied saying that not a drop of blood should be spilled for his sake.

Commencement of Caliphate of Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him)

After Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him) was martyred, Muslims flocked towards Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him), saying that he was the next Caliph. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) responded that the next Caliph should be chosen by those who participated at Badr. Everyone insisted that the next Caliph should be Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him).

SERMON: 25 Dec 2020 – Men of Excellence - Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him)

After reciting Tashahhud, Ta'awwuz and Surah al-Fatihah, Huzoor Aqdas continued mentioning incidents following the martyrdom of Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him) and the disorder arising. Huzoor Aqdas quoted a passage from Hazrat Musleh Maood (Allah be pleased with him) who advised that in order to avoid such disorder, Muslims must be welleducated, and must always remain attached with the Jama'at and Khilafat.

Jang-e-Jamal – Battle of the Camel

Huzoor Aqdas related incidents regarding the Battle of the Camel, which took place between Hazrat Ali and Hazrat Aishah (Allah be pleased with them both). It is narrated that Hazrat Aishah (Allah be pleased with her) was riding a camel during this battle which is why it is called the Battle of the Camel.

Agreement upon reconciliation

Once both armies had reached Basra, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) sent someone to Hazrat Aishah. Later Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) himself went and met with them, and all agreed that there was no need for fighting.

Mischief of the Rebels

Huzoor Aqdas said that upon seeing this agreement had been made, the rebels became worried. They realised it would not be good for their own objectives if Muslims became united. Thus, they devised a plan. Those rebels posing to be supporters of Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) and those rebels posing to be supporters of Hazrat Aishah attacked one another. This raised a commotion, and made it seem as if a battle between the two sides had begun. The battle only ended, once someone hamstrung the camel of Hazrat Aishah.

Hazrat Zubair and Hazrat Talhah

Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was deeply saddened. Hazrat Zubair and Hazrat Talhah had both abandoned the battleground. They realised the fault in what was happening. However both were martyred in the course of battle but by the time of their martyrdom, they had both professed their allegiance to Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him).

Battle of Siffin

This took place between Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) and Hazrat Mu'awiyah. When both sides had reached Siffin, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) clearly expressed that he had only come in order to form a truce with Hazrat Mu'awiyah. However the latter refused and insisted that the killers of Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him) should be handed over to him. Every possible effort to avoid fighting was made, but to no avail. One such effort was that both sides appointed a representative who would decide, according to the Holy Qur'an, as to what should be done with those who martyred the Caliph. Hazrat 'Amr bin 'Aas was appointed from the side of Hazrat Mu'awiyah while Hazrat Abu Musa Ash'ari was appointed from the side of Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him). When both conferred, they decided that first both Hazrat Mu'awiyah and Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) should relinquish their position of leadership. Huzoor Aqdas pointed out this was not the purpose for which they were appointed to confer upon, thus this decision was wrong in every sense.

When the two representatives were to declare their decision, Hazrat 'Amr bin 'Aas announced that their decision was that Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) should no longer be the Khalifa, but then he also said that Hazrat Mu'awiyah should remain as the Amir. For whatever reason, perhaps due to being influenced by others, he made this wrong decision and announcement. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) refused, and said that this was not the purpose for which these two had been appointed. A group of rebels went to Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) and said that he had been wrong to appoint a representative in the first place, even though he had agreed to do so upon their urging. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) stated that there was nothing wrong in appointing representatives to decide in the matter of the killers of Hazrat Uthman (Allah be pleased with him). However he had made it clear that their decision would only be accepted if it was according to the Holy Qur'an, and their decision was not. These people did not accept this and left the allegiance of Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) and became known as the Khawarij, and said that there was no need for leadership.

Battle of Nahrawan

Huzoor Aqdas then related incidents regarding the Battle of Nahrawan, which was between Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) and the Khawarij.

Virtual Meetings held with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V

All the reports have been adapted from a press release issued by the Press & Media Office of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at



National Majlis-e-Amila UK

On 17 January 2021, the National Majlis-e-Amila United Kingdom and regional presidents within the Greater London area were granted a virtual official meeting and audience with Khalifatul Masih.

Huzoor Aqdas presided the meeting from his office in Islamabad, Tilford, whilst the Amila members joined the meeting virtually.

During the 55-minute meeting, all present had the opportunity to speak to Huzoor Aqdas and to receive the guidance and instructions of His Holiness on a range of issues.

During the meeting, Huzoor Aqdas particularly instructed that the National Tarbiyyat Secretary should ensure that Tarbiyyat secretaries serving at a local level are very active in order to ensure the moral and religious training of the members of the Jama'at.

Huzoor Aqdas also mentioned the need for Amila members to lead by example and commit their time for Waqf-e-Arzi – dedicating a two-week period to help teach the Holy Qur'an or to convey the teachings of Islam to the wider public.

Speaking to the National Secretary responsible for Waqf-e-Arzi, Huzoor Aqdas said:

"First you should concentrate on the Amila members of all the central organisations,



Khuddam, Ansar, Lajna and then regional and local Amila members and then others. If they participate in this Waqfe Arzi scheme, then others will follow them."

Huzoor Aqdas also emphasised the importance of encouraging Ahmadi Muslims to enter public service, such as the civil service.

A special video report was presented to Huzoor Aqdas about the progress of the Baitul Futuh Mosque reconstruction, along with other departmental reports.

Regarding the Baitul Futuh Mosque complex, it was informed that the exterior of the building was now

mostly complete. However, significant internal work remains before the project concludes. The rebuilt structure has had solar panels installed to provide renewable energy. Once complete, the building will include various halls, offices and accommodation facilities.

Virtual Meeting of UK Missionaries with Hazrat Amirul Momineen

On 10 January 2021, Missionaries serving in the UK had the good fortune of a virtual audience with Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V. Huzoor Aqdas presided the meeting from his office in Islamabad while the Missionaries were seated in Baitul Futuh.

The meeting lasted for around an hour and all present had the opportunity to personally speak with Huzoor Aqdas and to seek his prayers and guidance.

Addressing the Missionaries, Huzoor Aqdas reiterated that Mosques of the Jama'at in the UK should strictly adhere to the laws of the land in relation to social distancing. While they remained open, prayer services would continue but with limited attendance to ensure that the services complied with Covid-19 protocols.

Huzoor Aqdas instructed that Missionaries should adapt their work during the Covid-19 lockdown to ensure that the moral training of Jama'at members is maintained. Similarly, they should continue to find ways and means to convey Islam's teachings to the wider public. Every possible effort should be made to break down barriers between those of different faiths and beliefs and to increase tolerance and mutual understanding.

In terms of catering for the moral training of members, Huzoor Aqdas said that Missionaries should increase online meetings, classes and send daily audio recordings through which members could increase their religious knowledge. Huzoor Aqdas explained:

"Whilst remaining within the protocols prescribed by the government and whilst fully observing the restrictions implemented by the government, we should do as much work as we can. It should not be that we completely sit idle and in the near future our members forget that there is even supposed to be a Dars that is delivered after the prayers. Rather than going from one extreme to another, the middle path can be adopted." Huzoor Aqdas stated that whilst observing government guidelines on social distancing, members should continually seek to fulfil their religious obligations. Furthermore, given how Covid-19 was spreading at a rapid rate at this time, members living in the UK should ensure that they only left their homes where it was essential.

Huzoor Aqdas said,

"Every Missionary should continually advise Jama'at members in their areas that they should not roam the streets needlessly. If members go to parks, even there they should maintain social distancing according to the government guidelines. Other than that, as places of worship are currently allowed to open, people can come to pray in the Mosques. They should bring their own prayer mats or at least a piece of cloth to place at the point where they prostrate during the prayer. Furthermore, Mosques should be kept especially clean these days. For example, they should be vacuumed on a daily basis."

On a number of occasions, Huzoor Aqdas emphasised that Missionaries should reach out to Khuddam in particular. For example Huzoor Aqdas instructed,

"Try also to attach the youngsters to the Mosques. Elderly people do come, however the youth should also attend the Mosques. As many as the elderly come to the Mosque, the same number of young people should also come."

Speaking to another Missionary, Hazrat Amirul Momineen stated:

"Try to bring the youth closer and in these days make a special effort to make the youth regular in observing their prayers."



Missionaries informed Huzoor Aqdas about the various online initiatives taking place, such as religious classes for children and elders. Additionally, social media was being utilised to reach out to those not part of the Jama'at to inform them of the true teachings of Islam.

Huzoor Aqdas instructed the Missionaries to regularly contact members during the lockdown to find out about their wellbeing and needs.

As the meeting reached its conclusion, Huzoor Aqdas reiterated the need for the Missionaries to establish a strong personal relationship with God Almighty. In this regard, he particularly encouraged the offering of Tahajjad prayers. Huzoor Aqdas stated: "You should offer Tahajjad prayers regularly. Due to the fact that there is plenty of time nowadays, an hour-long Tahajjad is not difficult in the current circumstances. You should offer the voluntary prayers for an hour at night and also in normal circumstances you should make an effort to maintain this. What is truly of most importance is prayer, indeed it is our prayers that shall accomplish all the tasks, God willing. Pay attention towards prayers and increase your relationship with God Almighty. It is this which is of the upmost importance for us. Pay much attention towards prayers and seeking the forgiveness of Allah the Almighty."

First virtual meeting of Lajna Imaillah UK Amila with Hazrat Amirul Momineen



On 2 January 2021 Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V held a virtual online meeting with the National Amila of Lajna Imaillah UK.

Huzoor Aqdas presided the meeting from his office in Islamabad, Tilford, while the Lajna were gathered in the Tahir Hall at the Baitul Futuh Mosque complex.

During the meeting, Hazoor Aqdas outlined the various responsibilities assigned to the respective Lajna Amila members and gave guidance on improving the activities of their departments.

At the start of the meeting, a Lajna member informed Huzoor Aqdas that a programme had been set up to support Ahmadi Muslim women who were interested in setting up their own businesses in various sectors such as e-commerce and professional tutoring.

Furthermore, during the Covid-19 pandemic, Lajna Imaillah UK had utilised the skills of Lajna members to produce and distribute large amounts of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including over 86,000 masks and over 1,000 full medical scrubs for health workers.

Huzoor Aqdas advised that Lajna Imaillah UK should intensify its efforts to serve humanity and to widen the scope of its activities. For example, Lajna Imaillah should increase its collections for food banks and similar charitable organisations. He also said that efforts should be made to help under privileged people living in Africa learn new skills so that they could stand on their own feet.

In addition, Lajna funds that had been saved this year because the National Ijtema had not been held should be diverted to a humanitarian project – namely a maternity hospital being built by Lajna Imaillah UK in Sierra Leone.

Speaking about the project, Huzoor Aqdas said:

"I hope that Ahmadi Muslim women doctors will dedicate their time for a few years at least to serve in the hospital you are building in Sierra Leone. Certainly, after the hospital is complete it will be up to Lajna Imaillah to run it and to provide the doctors and other medical staff."

Regarding Tabligh, Huzoor Aqdas stated that Lajna should seek to convey the true teachings of Islam to the public and that the members of the National Amila should be at the forefront of this effort.

"Every member of the National Amila should seek to preach the message of Islam to the wider society and to convert at least one person each year. The National Tabligh Secretary should activate and motivate the Amila members in the field of Tabligh."

Huzoor Aqdas also spoke of the importance of the moral and spiritual training of Nasirat and Lajna.

In terms of Nasirat, Huzoor Aqdas stated that the motto underpinning their moral training should be the saying of the Holy Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings be upon him) that 'Modesty is a part of one's faith'.

With regard to the moral training of all members of Lajna Imaillah, Hazrat Amirul Momoneen advised:

"It should be that all members of Lajna Imaillah

are fully observant of the five daily prayers and through this their children will also be naturally trained in offering the prayers. Secondly, all members of Lajna Imaillah should be regular in reciting the Holy Qur'an on a daily basis. Within homes, Ahmadi Muslim families should read the commentaries of the Ahadith and the books of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and all members of Lajna Imaillah should listen to my weekly Friday sermons."

An audience with Huzoor Aqdas for the Alislam.org team

On 21 November 2020, members of the Alislam.org team were granted a virtual audience with Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V.

Huzoor Aqdas presided the meeting from his office in Islamabad, Tilford, while the Al-Islam team joined from the Baitur Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland which serves as the National Headquarters of the USA Jama'at.

During the 50 minute meeting, the Al-Islam team had the opportunity to put on a series of presentations regarding a new project related to the Holy Qur'an, as well as developments to the existing Al-Islam website and to receive guidance and instructions of Hazoor Anwar.

The Al-Islam team were able to show Hazoor a test version of a new online website and search engine dedicated to the Holy Qur'an to be launched in the near future. The new website wilal seek to make reading and studying the Holy Qur'an as easy and accessible as possible for people across the world.

Hazrat Amirul Momineen instructed that efforts should be made to ensure that the Holy Qur'an website and search engine proves not only to be a resource for Ahmadi Muslims but proves to be a great resource and source of knowledge and enlightenment for other Muslims and non-Muslims around the world.

In addition, various updates to the Al-Islam website were presented, including a new section relating to the companions of the Holy Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings be upon him).

At the conclusion of the meeting, Hazrat Khalifatul



Masih V appreciated the efforts of all the members of the Al-Islam team and prayed for their future success saying:

"May Allah the Almighty bless you and increase your knowledge and wisdom. Amin."



Ahmadiyya Bulletin • January/February 2021





On 5 December 2020, Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V presided a seventy-five minute online class with 185 students of Jamia Ahmadiyya International Ghana.

This was a historic occasion. It was the very first time that Huzoor Aqdas had held a class with Jamia Ahmadiyya International in this way. Students from a range of countries including Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Jordan and Kazakhstan, were able to pose questions to Hazoor Anwar who graciously blessed them with his replies.

Proceedings took place virtually with Hazrat Amirul Momineen in his office in Islamabad while the Jamia students and their teachers were gathered at Jamia in Mankessim in Central Region of Ghana.

After recitation and translation of verses of the Holy Qur'an, a poem and a narration of the writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) followed.

During the meeting, Huzoor Aqdas was asked to share a special memory from his time living in Ghana during the 1970s and 1980s. Hazrat Amirul Momineen stated:

"During my time in Ghana, the third Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him) visited the country and I recall that on the very first day of the tour, people had gathered in Accra to greet him and so the third Khalifa came out to meet them and he delivered a short address. Whilst doing so, it started to rain heavily to the extent that, despite having an umbrella above him, the clothes of the third Khalifa became soaked. Despite the heavy rain, the Ghanaian men, women and children did not move an inch and continued to listen to his address with full attention. The third Khalifa was very much impressed by their high levels of patience and tolerance and later remarked how they had listened to the words of the Khalifatul Masih attentively throughout the rainstorm and did not move from their places."

Huzoor Aqdas continued:

"In a similar vein, I remember when I visited Tanzania in 2005 there were several rainstorms occurring during those days. Thus, when I addressed the ladies during the Jalsa Salana, suddenly the heavens opened from above. The covering placed above them could not withstand it and so suddenly a great deal of rainwater came gushing down to where the ladies were seated and yet not one moved from their place. Rather, they maintained their position and continued to listen to my address with patience and concentration."

Huzoor Aqdas pointed out that patience and discipline in the face of adversity were the hallmarks of successful nations and stated that African people and nations were an example for others in this regard. Hazoor said:

"Generally speaking, African people have a high threshold of patience and tolerance and they are also naturally disciplined people. It is important that these qualities remain and are built upon. Hence, all of you, who are becoming Missionaries, should ensure that apart from teaching the matters of faith to the coming generations, you should also teach them that Islam places importance on having discipline and, certainly, those nations who bear this quality are those who progress and flourish. As I have said, naturally Africans are disciplined people and it just requires for this quality to be harnessed and organised in a productive way. If your nations are able to achieve this then Africa, God Willing, will come to lead the world and for this you, as Missionaries, must play your role."

One student enquired how was it best to convince atheists about the existence of God. Huzoor Aqdas explained:

"The strongest proof of the existence of God for a person of faith is their own example and experience. If an atheist denies God, we must inform them that we have seen and witnessed in our lives the existence of God. Each of us have experiences of when we have prayed to Allah the Almighty and He has accepted our prayers. Thus, when any of you encounter atheists you should let them know that you have seen God Almighty and felt Him and so it is impossible that you could ever deny Him. Tell them that if they sincerely strive with an open mind then they too will find God."

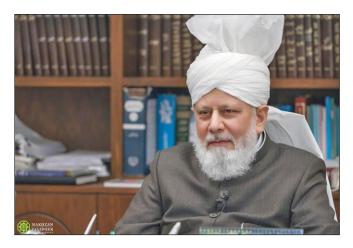
And added:

"Many people who deny God are very stubborn in their beliefs and do not even want to hear or consider any proofs or evidence to the contrary. Some years ago, a well-known atheist wrote a famous book denying the existence of God and so, in response, I sent him the 5-volume English commentary of the Holy Qu'ran and the book of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) 'The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam' and I requested him to read them so he could understand our beliefs and proofs regarding the existence of God. However, he responded by saying that he had no interest in reading them. Hence, he wanted us to read his book but was unwilling to read ours. Nonetheless, there are other atheists who are more open minded and willing to listen to others and so you should get to know such people personally and strive to bring them closer to God."

Huzoor Aqdas stated:

"In the past, many people have come to meet me and later they admitted that though they did not believe in God but if they were ever to change their beliefs it would be because of the Khalifa, as he had explained the existence of God in the most logical way. Also, you should remember that in order to soften and turn the hearts of others you must use the limitless power of prayer and set an excellent personal example from which others can learn and benefit."

As the meeting drew to a close, Hazrat Amirul Momineen was asked what field or career he had wished to pursue while he himself was a student. Huzoor Aqdas replied:



"What I wished to become I could not and I ended up in such a place that I had no personal desire for."

Huzoor Aqdas continued:

"At first, I was interested in science and thought that I may pursue medicine. Then I did agricultural economics and I prayed and pledged in my heart that if I get good marks in the MSc examinations I would devote my life for the service of the Jama'at. Thereupon, Allah enabled me to get good grades and to enter the First Division without any real effort on my part and so then I fulfilled my pledge to serve as a life devotee."

Further, Huzoor Aqdas explained:

"I was first posted to Africa and from that moment onwards Allah the Almighty took hold of my finger and took me forward from place to place and I had no control in this. Thus, we must always seek and endeavour to tightly grasp Allah's Hand and to seek His Help in all matters. If we do so with sincerity, then Allah guides and takes care of a person Himself. Especially, our Missionaries must take hold of the Hand of Allah and to beseech Him that He may take us wherever He desires and deems better for us and that he inculcates within us those qualities that He desires. This alone is the way of the blessed."





On 24 January 2021, Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V presided over a meeting with the National Amila of Lajna Imaillah Ghana. Hazoor spoke to the ladies from his office in Islamabad while the ladies joined the meeting from the Wahab Adam MTA Studios at Bustan-e-Ahmad in Accra.

During the meeting, Huzoor Aqdas outlined various responsibilities assigned to respective Lajna members and gave guidance on improving the activities of their departments.

One Amila member asked Huzoor Aqdas what expectations he had of Lajna Imaillah Ghana.

In a detailed answer, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih stated:

"My expectations are that 100% of your Lajna members should be regular in offering five daily prayers. My expectation of you is that 100% of your Lajna members should do recitation of the Holy Qur'an daily. My expectation is that at least 50% of your Lajna members involve themselves in preaching and Tabligh activities. My expectation is that 100% of Lajna members study some book of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). My expectation is that all Lajna members who are married should train and bring up their children in a way that they become good Ahmadi Muslims."

Huzoor Aqdas further stated:

"My expectation is that all the Nasirat members are regular in offering prayers and the recitation of the Holy Qur'an and try to increase their Islamic knowledge. Try to learn what the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) expected from us – that is to increase our level of piety and righteousness. My expectation is that all the Lajna members should follow the motto of 'modesty is the part of your faith.' So, these are some of my expectations and if you achieve this you will be one of the best Lajna of the world and I hope that Ghana Lajna can be one of the best Lajnas in the world." In response to a question about how Ahmadi Muslims should pray so that the world may avoid another World War, Huzoor Aqdas explained:

"The best way is to first reform yourselves and try to follow the teachings and commandments given to us in the Holy Qur'an and try to be a good Muslim. We must follow the teachings of Islam. Whilst in prostration during our five daily prayers, we must pray fervently that, 'Allah the Almighty, save us from the torment of the world war. And also save us from the ill-effects of this coronavirus and also save us from all bad things so that the world becomes a place of peace for us.""

Continuing, Huzoor Aqdas stated:

"So, we must first try to reform ourselves, we must try to better ourselves, we must try to follow all the commandments of the Holy Qur'an given to us by Allah the Almighty. If we do this, God willing, Allah the Almighty will remove all the difficulties and He will make this world a peaceful place to live, like a heaven. Even Allah the Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an that you can develop and create paradise on this earth and that can only be achieved when you are following Allah the Almighty's commandments."

One Amila member enquired on how they could ensure 100% literacy amongst the members of Lajna Imaillah and Nasiratul Ahmadiyya.

In response, Huzoor Aqdas said that Lajna Imaillah Ghana should seek to ensure that all Ahmadi Muslim girls are literate and have proper schooling. Further, all those who seek higher education should have the opportunity to pursue it.

Huzoor Aqdas stated:

"The Nasirat Secretary should make it an objective to ensure all the Nasirat members should at least complete their middle school. When the girls enter Lajna Imaillah, the Secretary Umoor-e-Talibat should then try to identify their talents. They should be given the opportunity to have better and higher education and to go to university. If because of some financial restraints or some other problems, they cannot do so, then we should help them and so we should not let the talent or potential of even one girl go to waste."

Virtual meeting of Bangladesh Ansar with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V

On 16th January 2021, Hazrat Amirul Momineen graciously granted a virtual audience to the National Amila of Majlis Ansarullah Bangladesh. Hazoor presided over the meeting from his office in Islamabad Tilford while the Ansar were seated in the Darut Tabligh Mosque complex in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

During the 60-minute meeting, all present had the opportunity to speak to Huzoor Aqdas. Members of the National Amila presented their respective reports and were able to receive valuable guidance and instructions from Huzoor Aqdas on a range of issues.

Huzoor Aqdas encouraged the teaching of the Holy Qur'an amongst the members of Majlis Ansarullah and set the target that they should ensure that 100% of their members are regular in their five daily prayers.

Speaking about the importance of keeping the members of Majlis Ansarullah physically active, Hazrat Amirul Momineen stated:

"Those Ansar who have cycles should use them daily. Instead of using cars and buses and other things it is better that the younger members of Majlis Ansarullah (Saf-e-Dom) use cycles to travel to their work places if possible or at other times, for some exercise."

One of the Amila members asked how a person can improve their moral deeds. Huzoor Aqdas responded:

"Allah the Almighty has said that the purpose of human creation is worship. If you worship Allah the Almighty according to the due rights of worship, if you offer the five daily prayers and do so whilst fulfilling all its conditions and if you bow down before Allah the Almighty and sincerely pray to him during your prostrations and you ask for forgiveness for your sins and if you beseech Allah the Almighty for the betterment of your future generations and if you pray for your own spiritual progress, if you weep in your prostrations, then Allah the Almighty says that He will accept your prayers. So, for personal progress you must beseech Allah the Almighty. This is our purpose, that every task must be accomplished through prayers and this is the purpose of human creation."

Huzoor Aqdas was also asked about how those members could be engaged who are not responsive. Outlining a detailed and comprehensive approach, Huzoor Aqdas pointed out:

"Our job is to continuously remind and draw the attention of our members. Remind them that they are Ahmadi Muslims and this brings with it some responsibilities and duties which we must act upon. We have been instructed 'zakkir' [in the Holy Quran, which means, "Go on reminding"]. We have been commanded to advise people and to constantly remind. This is the commandment that was given to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) from Allah the Almighty and that is the commandment we must follow."

Huzoor Aqdas continued:

"There are people who become lazy and this can be abated by reminding them. The attention of such people should be drawn with kindness. If they are treated with love, then even if they have reached the age of Ansarullah, they will begin to take part in your programmes."

Huzoor Aqdas explained that there should be a concerted effort from each of the auxiliaries of the Jama'at – Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, Lajna Imaillah and Ansarullah – to reach out to the respective members



of Jama'at households so that if the children become more responsive, or if the women of a household are more active, they may have a positive impact on other family members.

Further elaborating upon the responsibilities of the Ansar of a household, Huzoor Aqdas stated:

"You should draw the attention of the Ansar yourself as well that if they do not pay heed, then their children and family will also move away from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and this will have a negative impact upon them. They should be reminded that they [as the elders] will be responsible in that case and will be held accountable in the sight of God. So, with love and wisdom keep reminding them... Our job is to keep reminding people as we are instructed in the Holy Qur'an."

At the end of the meeting, Huzoor Aqdas encouraged that more members should be involved in online programmes and those who are not well acquainted with modern technology should be trained so they can easily take part in virtual events.

Virtual meeting of Waqfat-e-Nau males from Mauritius with Huzoor Aqdas

This was a virtual meeting presided by Huzoor Aqdas on 13 December 2020 in Islamabad while the Waqf-e-Nau were seated in the Darus Salaam Mosque in Mauritius.

Proceedings commenced with the recitation and translation of verses of the Holy Qur'an, followed by a poem and a brief report outlining the activities of the Waqf-e-Nau in Mauritius.

The remainder of the one-hour meeting was given to a Q&A session where Waqf-e-Nau took up the opportunity to pose their questions to Huzoor Aqdas who graciously blessed them with his replies.

One of the first questions that was put concerned children and how they could be protected from becoming addicted to their phones or tablets. Huzoor Aqdas replied:

"It is a matter of understanding and priority. Every Ahmadi Muslim should understand that his main obligation is to offer the five daily prayers – not just for the sake of offering the prayer, but to achieve the love of Allah the Almighty. So when you realise that the purpose of your existence is the worship of Allah the Almighty, then you will give preference to that main objective."

Huzoor Aqdas added:

"Parents should also be watchful at all times to see what their children are doing. A child of 10 years of age should not spend more than one hour on a mobile phone or online games. Outside games are much better, as they

can help you better your health. So it is the duty of the parents as well that they should watch that their children are not spending too much time on mobile phones and make them realise, with love and kindness, that they have a purpose and they should try to achieve that purpose instead of wasting their time on online games."

Huzoor Aqdas was also asked about the problems that an island like Mauritius might face in case of the Third World War.

Huzoor Aqdas commented:

"Whether Mauritius is directly involved in a future world war or not, it does not matter because nowadays the world is like a global village and all the countries are interdependent. So if there is a world war and you have any food item which needs to be imported then you will suffer to get those food items. If you trade with a country which has been affected by the world war and their economy is crippled, then Mauritius will also face the effects. So people of different nations will suffer whether they are directly involved in the world war or not."

Continuing, Huzoor Aqdas pointed out:

"This interdependence will mean that every country will suffer because economically the whole world will feel the crisis. For example, the 2008

18



economic crisis affected Mauritius as well. Although there are a very few cases of coronavirus in Mauritius but still Mauritius is also affected. The economy is not as good as it used to be when the days were normal so the same thing will happen during and after a world war."

Another young Waqf-e-Nau member asked how they should respond if the politicians of a country were corrupt.

In response, Huzoor Aqdas said:

"If you feel your leaders and government are not discharging their responsibilities, then you should try to find good people and use your right of vote and bring those people in the government who are not corrupt – those who are honest and sincere to the country."

And added:

"If you know someone personally who is pious and sincere and honest to the country then use your vote for him or for her. But it is very difficult to find from amongst the politicians any person who is true and sincere to the country. The only solution is that you yourself should stand in an election and try to change and better the total political atmosphere of the country."

In response to a question of the possibility of extraterrestrial life, Huzoor Aqdas explained:

"Even the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has said there are quite a number of other galaxies and it is quite possible that there is life in any of the other galaxies and other planets as well. But we don't know for now the actual position of them. Some scholars say that from the verses of the Holy Qur'an we construe that a time will come when there will be a signal from other planets to our earth and then there will be a mutual communication but how it will happen and when it will happen, Allah knows better. But there is life out there."

Another questioner asked if the recent American elections would in any way influence when a Third World War may take place.

In response, Huzoor Aqdas advised:

"If a world war is in Allah's plan and it is destined to happen then it will happen. It does not matter whether the American President changes. However, if the politicians are sensible then it can be delayed but ultimately, as the world is forgetting their responsibilities, they are not following the teachings given to them by Allah the Almighty, they are not discharging duties owed to Allah the Almighty and towards fellow beings, then Allah's wrath and punishment may come in shape of a world war. It does not matter who the American President is – Biden, Trump or whoever."

Huzoor Aqdas continued:

"But we should pray that Allah the Almighty has mercy on us and such a war should not happen in our lifetime and that Allah the Almighty changes the minds of people and they accept the teachings of Islam and accept what Allah the Almighty says. Otherwise, under present circumstances, no matter who is the President it seems as if it is going to happen. When? Allah knows better."

Huzoor Aqdas was also asked about greed and how it can be overcome. In a comprehensive answer, Huzoor Aqdas explained:

"Allah the Almighty says that you have to be content. Contentment counts. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him) has said that when you see somebody who is pious, who is God fearing, who is observing all the commandments of Allah the Almighty then try to follow him and pray to Allah the Almighty that He also gives you that status and you should also struggle hard for that. But if you see a worldly person who is very wealthy and who is a millionaire but he is not discharging his responsibilities towards his fellow beings but is just accumulating and collecting money and is usurping the rights of others, then pray to Allah the Almighty that Allah the Almighty saves you from this and don't follow his example."

And added"

"Today because the vast majority of people are materialistic so they have forgotten their responsibilities towards their Creator. That is why they are greedy. Had they known their duties towards their Creator, they would not have behaved like this. So we as Ahmadi Muslims should take this banner and spread this message to all across the country and the world that we should discharge the duties we owe to Allah the Almighty and to our fellow beings."

Huzoor Aqdas brought the virtual meeting to a close by leading everyone in a silent prayer

Virtual meeting of Waqfat-e-Nau women and girls from Mauritius with Huzoor Aqdas

On 20 December 2020, Huzoor Aqdas held a virtual online meeting with Waqfate Nau from Mauritius.

Huzoor Aqdas presided over the meeting from his office in Islamabad, Tilford, while the Waqfat-e-Nau were seated in the Darus Salaam Mosque in Rose Hill, in Mauritius.

Proceedings began with the recitation and translation of verses of the Holy Qur'an, followed by a poem and a brief report outlining the activities of the Waqfat-e-Nau in Mauritius.

During the meeting, Huzoor Aqdas answered a range of questions pertaining to religious and social issues.

The remainder of the hour-long meeting was taken up by a Q&A session where, one at a time, the Waqfate Nau posed their questions to Huzoor Aqdas who graciously gave his answers.

Huzoor Aqdas was asked about the value of certain creatures like insects in the light of the verse of the Holy Qur'an which translates:

'And we have not created the heaven and the earth and all that is between them in vain' (*Chapter 38, verse 28*)

Huzoor Aqdas replied:

"Allah has not created anything in vain. No part of creation is useless. For example, a scorpion's venom has been used in certain medicines . The same is true of snake venom, which has been used in homeopathy. There are other medicines that have been developed using insects or creatures that might otherwise have been considered useless. So there are quite a number of things which though we may not understand their purpose, Allah has instilled within them some purpose and so none of His creation is useless." Huzoor Aqdas was asked about social media and whether it was advisable for young girls to permit their non-Ahmadi friends to post photos of them together on social media. Huzoor Aqdas replied:

"If you are of an age where you observe Hijab and take a photo with your friends then you should ask them not to post your photos on social media. To avoid risk, try to avoid having such photos taken in the first place but where they are taken then, as I said, ask your friends not to post them on social media. If they are your good friends, they will accept and honour your request."

Another Waqfaft-e-Nau enquired how a person can attain the love of God Almighty and know that God is satisfied with them. Huzoor Aqdas explained:

"If you always obey what Allah the Almighty has said then you will acquire His love. There are quite a hundreds of commandments in the Holy Quran and so if you follow all of them then you will attain the love of Allah the Almighty. If you are properly worshipping Allah the Almighty then you can attain the love of Allah the Almighty. However, if you are disobeying Him then Allah cannot be satisfied and happy with you."

Huzoor Aqdas was asked how children should respond if their parents disciplined or punished them. In response, Huzoor Aqdas said that parents should not tell their children off for trivial or small matters and should instead guide their children with love and kindness. He also stated that parents should particularly treat their daughters with tenderness and in a gentle way. Huzoor Aqdas stated:

"The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) said



that he did not like for parents to unnecessarily scold their children over petty things. Rather he taught they should show patience and should pray for their children that Allah the Almighty may reform them and remove their shortcomings and the problems they have."

In addition, Huzoor Aqdas further explained that children, as they grew older, also had a responsibility to follow the commandments of Allah Almighty.

Another Waqfat-e-Nau mentioned the prevalence of illegal drugs in society and how the lives of young people were being gravely harmed through their use.

In response, Huzoor Aqdas stated that the use of illegal drugs was a huge social problem across the world. He strongly condemned drugs cartels and suppliers as totally immoral and stated that they were corrupting societies worldwide. Huzoor Aqdas expressed his dismay and horror at the fact that there were now drug dealers who were even ensnaring young children into the fold of their crimes by using them as mules for their illicit activities. Huzoor Aqdas elucidated:

"The use of drugs is prevalent everywhere in the world and is being controlled by a large mafia, who are even utilising school children to sell their drugs. They offer them a small amount of drugs for free and when they become addicted then they ask them, 'Okay, we shall give you more drugs free of cost if you sell them for us among your fellow students or others.' So the society is now completely corrupted. There are no morals in the society. They do not care what they are doing with their children and the children of the nation."

And added:

"So we must be very vigilant and parents must keep a close eye and advise their children about the dangers of bad company and the main thing is to pray for your children that they are never involved in such type of dangerous habits. Further, if you come to know of any person involved in such activities who are destroying the lives of children then you should inform the concerned authorities to take action against those people. Parents have to be very careful and watchful with regard to their children and their day to day activities and then pray for them."

As the meeting drew to a close, a member of Waqfate-Nau asked how one could ensure that a person's spiritual state never declines or falls back. Huzoor Aqdas advised:

"Offer Istighfar – seeking the forgiveness of Allah the Almighty – continuously. Seek Allah's Help. Beseech Him for His Help. Fervently pray to him that once you have attained a certain spiritual status that you never fall back. Offer the five daily prayers with regularity, as Allah the Almighty has said that the daily prayers are the best source of keeping a person safe and free from the harmful effects of the worldly, materialistic society. And whenever any bad thought enters your mind always remember that Allah the Almighty is watching over you and that your every deed and action is being watched by Him."

Virtual meeting of new converts in Germany with Huzoor Aqdas

On 3 January 2020, Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V held a virtual online meeting with 25 recent converts from Lajna Imaillah.

Huzoor Aqdas chaired the meeting from his office in Islamabad, Tilford, while the new converts were seated at the Baitus Subuh complex in Frankfurt.

The event began with a recitation and translation of verses of the Holy Qur'an, followed by an Urdu

poem of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and its translation.

For the rest of the meeting, each of the converts was able to introduce herself and speak to Huzoor Aqdas. Some asked questions, whilst others narrated their personal stories of why they accepted Islam and entered the fold of the Jama'at.

Huzoor Aqdas asked some of the converts if they

were ready to bear hardships and religious opposition from their families and the wider society. All affirmed that they were ready to make whatever sacrifices were needed for the sake of their faith and sought the prayers of Huzoor Aqdas for their continued spiritual progression.

One of the converts narrated that she was from a Sikh background. Her family was opposed to her conversion and did not want her to wear the headscarf or to practice Islam. She sought guidance on how she should respond to them. In reply, Huzoor Aqdas stated:

"Tell your family that, 'As long as my religion is concerned, I will practice my religion since I have accepted Islam as a true religion.' But never try to argue or quarrel with them or fight with them in any way. You should treat them with due respect, especially to your parents and be polite to your siblings as well. But never leave the teachings of Islam. So, keep on practicing Islam's teachings and pray to Allah the Almighty that may He change their minds and hearts."

In reply to a comment where an Ahmadi Muslim lady, who had recently joined the Jama'at, expressed her fear that perhaps she was lacking in some way in comparison to those who were born Ahmadi Muslims, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V was reassuring and advised:

"Every Ahmadi Muslim has some shortcomings. Do not feel you are lacking something. Even you might be better than some of the born Ahmadi Muslims."

In response to a question about how to improve one's attention whilst observing the five daily prayers, Huzoor Aqdas advised that when reciting chapter Al-Fatiha, which is the opening chapter of the Holy Qur'an during their prayers, they should repeatedly recite the portions: "Thee alone do we worship and Thee alone do we implore for help," and "Guide us in the right path."

Another person asked about dreams and how to know if a dream is merely a representation of one's subconscious or a true dream. In response, Huzoor Aqdas explained that though many dreams were a product of one's subconscious and daily experiences; certain dreams had a much stronger impact upon the recipient. Huzoor Aqdas mentioned that if the converts saw such dreams which they felt had a deeper meaning they ought to write the dream to him or to other people who they trusted.

A convert said that because of Covid-19 restrictions new converts were unable to benefit from the environment of mosques, which were currently closed, and asked how they could create an Islamic atmosphere within their homes, whilst living amongst family members who were non-Muslims.

In response, Huzoor Aqdas said that modern technology had provided the means to remain connected with Khilafat and to increase one's spiritual and religious knowledge. For example, MTA International, was widely accessible and so Huzoor Aqdas counselled they should attach themselves to its programmes and visit websites of the Jama'at to increase their knowledge. Huzoor Aqdas also advised to keep in regular contact with other Ahmadi Muslims and to share knowledge and converse with them regularly.

One woman mentioned she was married before converting and her husband remained a non-Muslim. When Huzoor Aqdas asked if her relationship was well with her husband, she informed that he does not like that she has converted but she was trying to act positively so he sees the good in her choice. Huzoor Aqdas said she should continue as she was and pray for her husband that he too becomes an Ahmadi Muslim. He said she should care and love her husband even more than before so that he would come to recognise the positive impact of her acceptance of Islam.

Huzoor Aqdas was also asked by the mother of a young child about how she could ensure the moral upbringing of her daughter so that she grew up to be a faithful Ahmadi Muslim. Huzoor Aqdas explained:

"If you yourself become a good Ahmadi Muslim, your daughter will also become a good Ahmadi Muslim... Pray for her that Allah may make her good. When she becomes 7 years of age, have her pray with you too and try to get her to read the Holy Qur'an. Tell her what Islam is, why the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was sent as the last (law-bearing) Prophet and how he spread Islam and after that, according to his prophecy, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was sent as his true servant. He again clarified that the true teachings of Islam require that you fulfil the rights of Allah and the rights of His creation. You should teach your daughter small easy to understand aspects of the Islamic faith. Teach her prayers and the declaration of the faith and show her your own good example and treat her with kindness and tell her pious and good things. This way her moral upbringing can be done in the best way."

Virtual meeting of German Khuddam with Hazrat Amirul Momineen

On 6 December 2020, Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V held a virtual online meeting with more than one hundred Khuddam from Germany.

Huzoor Aqdas presided the meeting from his office in Islamabad, Tilford, while Khuddam were gathered at the Crystal Palace Event Hall in the German city of Gross-Gerau.

Those meeting Huzoor Aqdas were all immigrants who had claimed asylum in Germany in recent years due to the

persecution inflicted on members of the Jama'at in Pakistan.

Each individual had the opportunity to personally speak to Huzoor Aqdas and Huzoor Aqdas graciously prayed for the individuals and their families.

While addressing all migrants, Huzoor Aqdas urged them to constantly seek the nearness of Allah the Almighty and to never forget Him. He also instructed the immigrants to ensure that they spoke only the truth during their asylum process. Huzoor Aqdas explained:

"During the asylum process you must never tell any falsehood or exaggerate in any way. Rather, simply explain the reality of what is happening in Pakistan, where every Ahmadi Muslim is living under the cloud of persecution knowing they could be targeted or falsely charged at any time. Tell them that it is due to such unjust circumstances that you have migrated in order to be able to live with religious freedom. If you always speak the truth then, God Willing, your asylum cases will be accepted."

Huzoor Aqdas advised:

"On a personal level, you must ensure that you are regular in observing the five daily prayers



(Salat) and you should bow down with heartfelt emotion and sincerity seeking the Help of Allah the Almighty. Additionally, you should develop the habit of offering voluntary prayers (Nafl) regularly. When you go for asylum hearings you should recite Surah Fatiha before entering the Court. Furthermore, you should make a firm pledge in your heart that once your case is accepted and when your circumstances improve you will continue to offer your prayers with diligence and regularity. If you do all of this then, God Willing, you will witness the Grace and Mercy of Allah the Almighty."

Concluding, Huzoor Aqdas stated:

"If you act upon what I have said your asylum applications will, God Willing, be accepted. Always remember that for all your needs you should turn to Allah the Almighty and, as I said before, you must make a firm pledge in your heart that when your circumstances improve you will not forget Allah but will continue to seek His nearness, you will continue to offer your prayers and you will continue to strive for righteousness. Allah the Almighty knows what a person's true intention is and what is in their heart and so if you later become immersed in

23

materialistic desires then you will suffer and face difficulties. Anyway, it is my prayer that

may Allah the Almighty bless all of you and be your Helper and Protector. Ameen."

Virtual meeting of Waqfe Nau ladies from Australia with Hazrat Amirul Momineen



On 19 December 2020, Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V held a virtual online meeting with the National Amila of Lajna Imaillah Australia.

Huzoor Aqdas presided over the meeting from his office in Islamabad, Tilford, while the Australian Amila were gathered at the Khilafat Hall of the Baitul Huda Mosque complex at Marsden Park, a suburb in the Greater Sydney region.

During the meeting, Huzoor Aqdas outlined the various responsibilities assigned to respective Lajna members and provided guidance on improving the activities of their departments.

Huzoor Aqdas said it was crucial to embed Islamic values in the minds of Ahmadi Muslim children from a young age and explained:

"Parents and the Lajna administration should observe a balanced way when guiding children. From a young age, Ahmadi Muslim girls should be taught that, according to Islam's teachings, their means of dress should always be modest and decent and, as they become older, they should understand that one of Allah's commandments as prescribed by the Holy Qur'an is Hijab. If you guide the Ahmadi girls from a young age about the importance of modesty, when they enter Lajna Imaillah they will recognise and understand the true value of Hijab and how it is a means of protection from many of the ills of society."

Huzoor Aqdas stressed that it was imperative that Ahmadi Muslim youth learned the fundamental teachings of their faith and religion stating:

"When Ahmadi Muslims enter college or university they should be fully aware of who they are and what their faith teaches. They should know what the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is and why the Promised Messiah (peace be upon

him) was sent by God Almighty. Some of our youth are not clear on the need for the advent of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) given that Muslims already had the Holy Qur'an and the Ahadith (sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessing be upon him) and believe the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) to be the Seal of the Prophets. So, it is essential that Ahmadi Muslims are taught from childhood about why Allah the Almighty sent the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and they must be aware that he came in accordance with the prophecies of the Holy Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings be upon him). All of our youth must know what their faith is, why they are Ahmadi Muslims and what are their responsibilities to their religion. If you are successful in instilling these values within your children then I am sure the future generations of Lajna Imaillah will be even stronger than their predecessors."

During the meeting, Huzoor Aqdas spoke of the great importance of working as a team and training others so that the work and objectives of the Jama'at are continually being fulfilled and so that the transition from one administration to the next remains effective.

"One point I wish to make to all the members of the Lajna administration is that simply to work hard yourself is not representative of true success or excellence. Of course, to personally work hard is a good quality and of value, however if you have not cultivated and developed a team – a second line who can follow you and ensure that the work of your department progresses smoothly after your term ends – it means you have actually not achieved anything at all."



"You should reach out to and guide all of the members of Lajna Imaillah with great love and tenderness, rather than seeking to assert any form of superiority as an office holder. Be like their sisters, be like their mothers, be like their friends and never give up."

Huzoor Aqdas continued:

"As I said, to only work hard personally is not the objective, rather your objective is to make such an excellent team so that when your term ends others will be ready to assume the duties of your respective department or office. Regardless of your age, whether you are young or old, you must develop and train others and this spirit of work should be instilled within every office bearer of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community at every level."

During the meeting, Huzoor Aqdas also spoke about the importance of Tabligh and explained the real purpose underlying the efforts of Ahmadis to spread the message of Islam. He stated:

"You should set an ambitious target when it comes to Tabligh. Always remember that our efforts to convert others to the true message of Islam is not for the sake of numbers or so that our reports are more impressive. Rather, we seek to propagate our faith and to bring other people into the fold of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community due to our love for other members of society and for our nations. This love requires us to convey the true teachings of Islam to them and it is our heartfelt desire to bring them closer to God Almighty. Furthermore, it is not enough for us to convey the message to others, rather we must also spiritually and morally reform and better ourselves and to constantly seek to increase our own bond with God Almighty."

As the meeting drew to a close, Huzoor Aqdas was asked for guidance on how the Lajna administration could encourage greater participation at their events and meetings. Huzoor Aqdas advised:

"You should reach out to and guide all of the members of Lajna Imaillah with great love and tenderness, rather than seeking to assert any form of superiority as an office holder. Be like their sisters, be like their mothers, be like their friends and never give up. Furthermore, choose topics and programmes that are interesting and encourage those who are reluctant to come to actively participate. For example, you can ask them to give talks or speeches and then you will see that they will come to the events, God Willing."

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE WORLD FOR 2021

At the start of New Year in his Friday Sermon of 1 January, 2021, Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) gave a very powerful message for the World. This is reproduced as reported in *The Review of Religions*.

Huzoor Aqdas said that today marks the beginning of a new year and is also the first Friday. Huzoor Aqdas said that we should all pray that the new year proves to be blessed for the Jama'at, and for the entire World. May we continue to turn to and prostrate before God more than ever before, and may the worldly people also be able to recognise God. May we be able to fulfill the rights we owe to one another and humanity at large.

Huzoor Aqdas said that for the past year, we have been enduring a grave pandemic, from which no place in the world is safe. Huzoor Aqdas said that despite this, many do not seem to want to consider the fact that this pandemic may have come about as a warning for us to start fulfilling the rights we owe to God and one another.

Huzoor Aqdas said that a few months ago, he sent letters to various world leaders in which he drew their attention to the fact that such calamities come about from becoming unmindful of God and growing in injustice. Huzoor Aqdas said that though some leaders replied, their replies were limited to the worldly aspect of this crisis, they failed to acknowledge the aspect of God and faith which Huzoor Aqdas had mentioned.

Huzoor Aqdas said that these leaders do not seem to take any steps in changing their ways, nor do they wish to draw the attention of their people to their true purpose. This is despite the fact that they all know what is to come after this pandemic; something which everyone knows. However, their efforts are limited to the worldly aspect, and do not go beyond that.

Not only is this pandemic affecting the health of people, but at the same time, everyone is being impacted at a societal level. Worldly people only have one solution to this, which is that when their own resources become depleted, they will take the resources of smaller nations, as a result of which wars will break out. In fact, some say wars have already begun. As a result, the world will fall into an even deeper pit. Thus before the world falls into such a state, we must do our part in warning and helping the World.

Huzoor Aqdas said that thus, it will only be right to congratulate one another on the new year once we do our part in warning the world. In order to do this, we must first analyse ourselves. For us, who have accepted the Messiah (peace be upon him) of the age, are we doing our part in fulfilling the rights owed to God, and then for His sake, fulfilling the rights owed to His people. Thus, every Ahmadi must ponder and realise that they have the responsibility of a great task, the fulfilment of which calls for them to first establish a loving community amongst Ahmadis.

Then we must bring the world under that flag which was raised by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)), which is of the unity of God. Only then will we be fulfilling the pledge of allegiance which we have made; only then will we be able to receive the blessing of God Almighty, and only then will it be appropriate for us to congratulate one another on the dawning of a new year.

Huzoor Aqdas said that every Ahmadi man, woman and child should understand this and vow to strive and use all their faculties and capacities to bring about a revolutionary change in the world. Huzoor Aqdas prayed that may every Ahmadi be granted the ability to do this!

Huzoor Aqdas again urged the Jama`at to continue praying for Ahmadis in Pakistan and Algeria, who continue to face hardships. Huzoor Aqdas said that in Pakistan, certain Government officials and other clerics continue to increase in grievances they are carrying out. Huzoor Aqdas prayed that may God swiftly take such people to account who do not possess the ability to establish justice and peace! May Allah remove the obstacles which they continue to put up for Ahmadis in Pakistan. They seek to do all this under laws created against Ahmadis based on false pretenses that Ahmadis dishonour the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). However, their own actions completely contradict the example set by the Mercy for All of Mankind (peace and



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blessings of Allah be upon him). Ahmadis are those who are ready to offer their lives for the sake of the Holy Prophet (peace ane blessings of Allah be upon him). In fact, it is only Ahmadis in the world today who are truly endeavouring to bring the world under the banner of the Holy Prophet (peace ane blessings of Allah be upon him).

These people can continue to perpetrate such injustices against us. However, we believe in a God Who is the Greatest Helper. When that help manifests, then not a remnant remains of those who perpetrate such acts.

Huzoor Aqdas said that another court in Algeria has freed Ahmadis who were being falsely charged, however there are still some or are captive. Huzoor Aqdas urged the Jama`at to pray for those in captivity there as well as in Pakistan.

Huzoor Aqdas said that whether it be the new year or Eid, our true happiness will be when we raise the banner of the unity of God in every corner of the World, for which the Holy Prophet (peace ane blessings of Allah be upon him) was commissioned in this world. Our true happiness will be when humanity begins to recognise the rights we owe to one another, when hatred turns to love. Huzoor Aqdas prayed that we may see such happiness soon. May the Muslim Ummah recognise the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). May the world turn the attention of every nation and every person towards fulfilling the rights owed to one another.

Huzoor Aqdas prayed that may Allah Almighty keep every Ahmadi throughout the World in His protection, and may this year be a source of blessings for every single person. May we be safeguarded from those shortcomings of the past due to which we have incurred the displeasure of God or due to which we have remained bereft of attaining certain blessings. May Allah shower His blessings upon everyone! Amen!

TABLIGH HIGHLIGHTS

REGIONAL TABLIGH TRAINING

The National Tabligh Department launched a new initiative in the form of Regional Tabligh Training sessions which have taken place monthly since July 2020.

On the 13 of December 2020, the theme of the training was *What Did the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) Give to the World.* Two regions participated. They were South West and Scotland. The meeting was addressed by Mr Ibrahim Ikhlaf, National Secretary Tabligh, Maulana Ibrahim Noonan, Missionary In Charge Ireland, Maulana Waseem Ahmad Fazal, Murrabi Silsila and Maulana Mansoor Zia, Murrabi Silsila.

The same training had taken place on 27th of the previous month. At that session, the regions attending included the South, East, North East and Masjid Fazl regions. The meeting was addressed by Mr Ibrahim Ikhlaf, National Secretary Tabligh, Maulana Ibrahim Noonan, Missionary in Charge Ireland, Maulana Ataul Momin Zahid, Murrabi Silsila and Maulana Mansoor Zia, Murrabi Silsila.

Speeches at these events were in both English and Urdu. Each session was followed by a Q&A session conducted in both English and Urdu. These meetings were found to be very useful in helping members to improve their knowledge in this area.

ONLINE TABLIGH TALK AND Q&A

Another initiative launched by the National Tabligh Department UK in recent months was Tabligh Talk and Q&A. This was held each week on Sunday evenings. Recent meetings have been as follows:

1 November: The event was held on the topic *Can Spirituality be a substitute for Religion.* The main speaker was Missionary Raja Burhan Ahmad. He was joined by Missionary Hafiz Tayyab Ahmad for the Q&A session.

8 November: The event was held in Urdu and the topic was *ils Human life better without God.* The main speaker was Missionary Mansoor Zia. He was joined by Missionary Rawah Ud Din for the Q&A session.

15 November: The event was held in English and the topic was *iCan you be good without God.î* The main speaker was Missionary Abdul Ghany Jahangeer Khan.

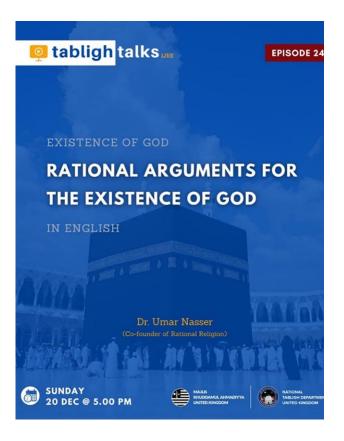
22 November: The event was held in Urdu and the topic was *iDegree of Spirituality.î* The main speaker was Missionary Hafiz Muhammad Zafarullah. He was joined by Missionary Mansoor Ahmad Zia for the Q&A session.

29 November: The event was held in English on the topic *'Different states of Spirituality.'* The main speaker was Missionary Abdul Ghany Jahangeer Khan.

6 December: The event was held in Urdu on the topic *'Rational Arguments for Existence of God.'* The main speaker was Missionary Hafiz Muhammad Zadarullah. He was joined by Missionary Mansoor Ahmad Zia for the Q&A session.

20 December: The event was held in English and the topic was *'Rational Arguments for Existence of God.'* The main speaker was Dr Umar Nasser.

27 December: The event was held in Urdu on the topic *'Can Science prove God Exists.'* The main speaker was Missionary Hafiz Mashood Ahmad.



RATIONAL RELIGION

The Rational Religion website was launched by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V at the 2018 Jalsa Salana. Its aims were to show that science and religion are reconcilable; that faith and reason can go together; that true spirituality and true religion are one and the same. It produces articles and videos addressing these issues. Its main platforms are its website and Youtube channel. Among recent videos produced are:



Neil DeGrasse Tyson: Why does God Allow Suffering? Where Did Jesus Die? In KASHMIR! Sunni vs Ahmadiyya on Messiah and Imam Mahdi

November

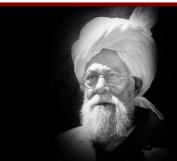
- Muslims and Jews Surprising Similarities 3673 views, 11th Oct
- Sunni vs Ahmadiyya on Messiah and Imam Mahdi 2013 views, 13th Oct
- Where did Jesus Die? In Kashmir 3445 views, 16th Oct
- Neil DeGrasse Tyson: Why Does God Allow Suffering? 2351 views, 25th Oct

December

- Neil De Grasse Tyson Get Religion Wrong? 1st Nov, 3879 views
- Is Mindfulness Making Us Numb? 29th Nov, 466 views
- Mindfulness a Capitalist Conspiracy 29th Nov, 421 views
- Rumi What They're Not Telling You 30th Nov, 1042 views

SOME IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- National Peace Symposium (20th March 2021)
- Masih Maud Day (23rd March 2021)
- Start of Ramadan (14th April 2021 - TBC)
- Eid-ul-Fitr (14th May 2021 - TBC)
- Khilafat Day (27th May 2021)
- Eid-ul-Adhia (21st July 2021 - TBC)
- Jalsa Salana (6th-7th-8th August 2021)



Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) said:

The Valentine day which is celebrated on 14th February, this is foul and useless culture which is only celebrated to make friends among boys and girls and that their attention should be incline to each other. Ahmadi Society should be completely clear and purified from it. Meaning all Ahmadis should not celebrate it.

VOICE OF ISLAM RADIO PRESENTER'S TRAINING DAY

This event took place on Sunday 3rd January 2021 online via Zoom and designed to give the presenters of the Radio Station, Voice of Islam (VOI), guidance on their work.

After Tilawat-e-Qur'an the first presentation was on the correct use of language by Mr Fareed Ahmad Secretary Amoore Kharijah. He focused on the terminology that should be used, bearing in mind that the target audience of VOI is external and therefore, our language should be oriented towards them. He drew attention to Qur'anic teachings (44:14), in guiding us to ensure that the message of Islam is delivered clearly and that the example of the Holy Prophet (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is one which is followed at all times.

Naib Amir UK Mr Naseer Dean, then discussed with participants the role and objectives of Ofcom. He highlighted that Ofcom considers every complaint that they receive and gave an example of a Pakistani TV channel criticising the Jama'at. After a detailed assessment, Ofcom published a 45-page judgement concluding that the channel delivered hateful and abusive content against the Community and Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (may Allah be his Helper). He drew attention to the fact that this was a costly issue for the channel as there were defence costs, fines, and also loss of reputation. This is something that we must be aware of in terms of our own programmes.

The next presentation was by Murrabi Silsila Mr Raza Ahmed, who discussed the question of whether or not presenters should be reading a script. He drew from personal experiences in the studio and described what should be followed and avoided. He reminded presenters that they need to bring their own research to the show, as it becomes very clear whether the presenter is familiar with the topic or not. This included ensuring all presenters have read the script well in advance because at times non-English names or organisations are mentioned. Therefore, presenters should review all pronunciations beforehand to avoid embarrassment and non-professionalism.

Secretary Audio Video Mr Safdar Ali then delivered a



presentation on the utilisation of radio. He started with giving the metaphor of a passenger airplane. The pilot arrives beforehand and ensures the plane is ready for travel. Similarly, the presenter is the 'pilot' and therefore must take responsibility to ensure that everything is ready for the show. This includes the need to arrive at the studio at least 30 minutes before the show in accordance with the instructions of Amir Sahib UK. The pre-show prep includes all audio being uploaded well in advance for the show, and that presenters are ready to present with ample time before the show is set to begin.

Mr Abdul Quyyum gave a presentation on Case Studies, with a compilation of recordings of presenter mishaps. He then followed up with explanations of the mistakes in each of these clips, which included internal jargon being used, loud breathing, speed talking, and sound quality. He reminded presenters that they must tell the technical team if presenters will be presenting remotely well in advance of the show so that the team can make checks and organise a fallback plan if needed. He drew attention to the fact that hesitations and silences amount to dead space and once edited out, leave a shorter show which is very wasteful of our airtime. All guests must be vetted thoroughly to avoid controversial issues being discussed too brashly and impudently

Secretary VOI and Murrabi Silsila Mr Mujeeb Mirza spoke about a new handbook which has been created for presenters in reference to what was discussed in the Voice of Islam annual conference. He introduced this, which was then launched after the training day event and it included the mission statement which was the inaugural address by Huzoor Aqdas – *Pathway to Peace; Important directives; Further Guidelines*.

Naib Amir UK Mr Akram Ahmedi concluded the first session of the day. He reflected on the importance of the lessons taught, and the importance of learning from our mistakes in order to ensure professional and effective presentations. He highlighted how presenters must give each show their 100% focus and attention in order to deliver an engaging show.



"Similarly, the presenter is the 'pilot' and therefore must take responsibility to ensure that everything is ready for the show. This includes the need to arrive at the studio at least 30 minutes before the show in accordance with the instructions of Amir Sahib UK."

Secretary Tabligh UK Mr Ibrahim Ikhalf began the second session with a recap of his presentation from the 2020 Voice of Islam annual conference which remains relevant. He reminded presenters that they are in charge and that they should tailor the show in regards to their knowledge. Producers should mould the show around the presenter's expertise and character. The aims of the radio station should always be at the forefront of our minds. He mentioned that radio listeners are often multitasking when they are listening. Thus, it is important that it be engaging and accurate to ensure that all information in the programme is true to point.

Then Mr Munir Odeh spoke in regards to the fact that presenters must have full command of their topics and, to a certain extent avoid improvising, especially if it is not their area of expertise. Presenters should listen to their own shows in order to improve and know what it sounds like to listen to the radio from an audience perspective. Issues as simple as repeating words multiple times can be easily avoided. Presenters should be aware that they must have confidence and strength in themselves. Phrases such as 'I think' should be avoided.

A Question & Answer session was then led by Murrabi Silsila Mr Raza Ahmed, where he read out questions sent in throughout the session. This was for all panellists to answer based on their areas of expertise. Issues raised included: *Language and jargon*, *Ofcom guidelines and Internet calls*.



Rafiq Hayat, the Amir UK. gave some concluding remarks drawing attention to some of the key issues that were raised throughout the day, including the way presenters approach their topics and how to approach more controversial issues. He reminded us that there are many positive things that can be discussed, so we should not bring up controversy without genuine justification. We must take the English people of this country into account.

Amir Sahib also spoke about the quality of the station as consistently improving, which is a good sign, by the Grace of Allah as well as reminding of the aim of Voice of Islam were given. Amir Sahib congratulated all volunteers on their hard work and fervour. He reminded us to continue to pray to be able to maintain the aims of Voice of Islam in our work, and reminded us to remember the Ahmadis of the world, particularly Pakistan and Algeria in our prayers. The event was concluded with a silent prayer led by Amir Sahib.

NEWCASTLE JALSA SEERAT UN NABI

By the Grace of Allah, Newcastle Jama'at was able to hold a Virtual Seerat un Nabi Jalsa on 27th December 2020. During the planning phase, it was expanded to incorporate a wide enough audience as possible.

The keynote speaker was Naib Amir and Missionary In charge UK Maulana Ataul Mujeeb Rashed.

The Jalsa was broadcast live on YouTube on the day at 17:00 GMT. Notification of the event being live streamed was sent in advance to as many members as possible

in and outside the UK. Hence many were able to join to view the proceedings.

The Jalsa started with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an and Urdu translation by Mr Chaudhary Munawwar Ahmed. The English translation was read by Mr Minhas Younas. Following this a poem written by the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) in praise of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was recited by Mr Musawwar Ahmed. Next Dr Muzaffar Ahmad, Regional Amir North East, gave a welcome address after which Mr Naveed Iqbal, President Newcastle, gave an introductory speech. It was on the importance of Jalsa Seerat un Nabi especially during current times when we are observing more conspiracies against Islam and people using vulgar language against its founder, he said.

He added that the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) wrote: "It is possible for us to reconcile with wild snakes and beasts of the wilderness, but we cannot reconcile with people who do not desist from insulting the honour of God's Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)".

Many Jama'ats in the world are organising Jalsa Seerat un Nabi in accordance with the blessed Instructions of Huzoor Aqdas to counter the damaging effects of propaganda against the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Maulana Ataul Mujeeb Rashed delivered a speech in English and in Urdu where he highlighted the noble character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Imam Sahib explained, through mentioning various



incidents from his blessed life, of how the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) carried out his duty as a Prophet and leader for the entire humanity and how this can serve as an excellent example for us all. The companions of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) were completely obedient to him because they had learnt obedience from him, and every action of our Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was in full compliance of the Holy Qur'an.

If we look at the lives of the companions, we see a reflection of the life of our Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) because of their love and affection towards their Master (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Similar obedience can be observed in today's age where the Institution of Khilafat is established and the true followers are completely obedient to him like the companions of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

The Jalsa concluded with a silent prayer led by Imam Sahib. By the Grace of Allah, the total views on the day were 904 and the total number of chat messages were 526.

The total number of views as of now has passed 1,400 and counting. The Jalsa can still be viewed on:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdsYnthNr2o

May Allah enable us to follow on the footsteps of our beloved master Hazrat Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS SHEFFIELD JAMA'AT

By the Grace of Allah members of the Sheffield Jama'at continued to provide valuable support to the vulnerable during the pandemic.

Preserved food of all kinds was collected and provided. In the days leading up to Christmas a special effort was made to donate toys for underprivileged families.

The Jama'at continues to support Humanity First and in particular its foodbank in Mirfield.



Donation to Humanity First Foodbank

SCUNTHORPE VOLUNTEERS UPLIFTING SPIRITS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

On the 25th December 2020 Scunthorpe Khuddam visited key workers across the town and donated gift hampers to the local Police Station, Humberside Fire & Rescue, Scunthorpe General Hospital and Lindsey Lodge Hospice.

The local President of the Jama'at in Scunthorpe told reporters: "It is the religious duty of young Ahmadi Muslims to take time out of their day and serve the local community. I feel this was a good initiative by the local youth and I hope it brought some joy and festive cheer during these difficult times."

VISIT TO ST AIDEN'S CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Hartlepool Jama'at visited St Aiden's Church and dinated £200. During thsi pandemic they have provided over 30,000 meals to the Church who look forward to continously working with the Jama'at during 2021.

Donation to Scunthorpe General Hospital



Another donation to St- Aiden's Church

LAJNA FROM KEIGHLEY DELIVER TO NURSING HOMES

The Keighley Lajna prepared and deliverered meals to care staff at local nursing homes to show their appreciation of the hard work of staff during this pandemic. The food was much appreciated and enjoyed by the staff.





BRADFORD SOUTH EAST HUMANITY FIRST FOOD BANK DONATION

Members from the Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Bradford South East responded to the Humanity First Mirfield Food Bank appeal. Humanity The Food Bank urgently requested items, including tinned food, packet soup, cereals, jams, tea, coffee, long-life milk, crisps, biscuits and toiletries.

The youth donated over £200 which was economically spent on the urgently requested items. 203Kg of items was donated which included a wide variety of all the requested items.

Items were gratefully received by the Humanity First Mirfield Food Bank.



Another donation to St-Aiden's Church



HUDDERSFIELD NEWS – VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

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Jama'at members from Huddersfield have been actively involved during this pandemic by donating food to frontline NHS workers, emergency services and to local foodbanks amongst others. Khuddamul Ahmadiyya from Huddersfield South and East delivered food hampers to neighbours whilst Huddersfield West delivered hampers to the local Royal Infirmary. Also actively involved was the Huddersfield North Lajna who made cupcakes for Humanity First Food bank for visitors to take home.

SPEN VALLEY EFFORTS

Men, women and children of the Spen Valley Jama'at continued their efforts in recent weeks in the collection for the Poppy Appeal and donating food to Humanity First's Foodbank located in Mirfield nearby.

The efforts of Lajna in raising funds for the British Royal Legion Poppy appeal were acknowledged with a special presentation of a certificate provided by the organisation.



EDINBURGH & FIFE HELP THE HOMELESS AND OTHERS

The efforts of the Jama'at in Edinburgh and Fife were gratefully received by the public of that part of Scotland with the Press giving good coverage of their work. Members of the Jama'at distributed food to homeless shelters including the James Bank Hostel where 145 home cooked meals were donated over the Christmas period. Staff at the James Bank Homeless Shelter said:

'The residents were so grateful and enjoyed the food delivered......'



The local Jama'at Vice President Dr Abdul Hayee said to the press:

On 18th December Majlis Ansarullah

Huddersfield South organised an

interfaith webinar on the subject of

Community Cohesion and Resilience in

The proceedings began with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an together with its English translation. The host, Mr Fatihul Haq, then gave a brief introduction of the topic and the Jama'at before giving a short back-

ground for each speaker. These were drawn from different faiths and walks of

the face of COVID-19.

'Our organisation has relationships with homeless shelters across the UK and as a local group we were looking to donate in the same way. Due to the coronavirus pandemic homeless people are even more vulnerable and are in danger of being left unnoticed and hungry. We try to work with James Bank regularly, but on this occasion the manager said that residents needed help with hot food over Christmas.'

During this period, when the charity Shield Fife appealed for contributions to their campaign for providing toys for children of underprivileged families, the local Jama'at made a handsome contribution.

The Jama'at is also promoting a 'Cheap and Easy Cooking' campaign which gives tips for families on how they can help people who are trying to get by with meagre resources. This effort also continues to be very well received.

HUDDERSFIELD WEBINAR ON COMMUNITY COHESION & RESILIENCE

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By Fatihul Haq

life. Each was provided an 8 minutes slot to give their view and experience of this Pandemic.

The first speaker, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Ed Anderson, praised the Jama'at for its excellent work and spoke about the importance of working together at all times, whether in ease or difficulty. Mr Inderpal Randhawa, a respected leader from the Sikh Community was next. He thanked the Jama'at and gave an account of how the Sikh community has endured and helped in this Pandemic.

The third speaker Mr Richard James, who is the managing director of Intensive Engagement Ltd, praised the humanitarian and community engagement work done by the Jama'at. He gave a detailed insight into how data and information are processed and used for community organisation and planning.

He was followed by Lord Timothy of Harrogate, who also praised the Jama'at for its efforts. He went on to speak about the importance of learning from our difficulties and finding solutions so humanity can be better prepared in the future.

The final speaker was Maulana Ibrahim Noonan, Missionary in-charge of Ireland. He gave a discourse on the Islamic and religious perspective on the subject, quoting from the Holy Qur'an, the Bible and Ahadith. He reminded all, of our responsibilities to our Creator and to His creation.

A vote of thanks was given by the local Zaeem Mr Munir Ahmad Ghuman. A Question and Answer session took place at the end where viewers were invited to put their questions to the speakers. This proved to be extremely interesting and engaging.

This programme was simultaneously broadcasted live on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. By the Grace of Allah, in excess of 5000 views were recorded through various media channels, twitter and facebook. There was great feedback from local and regional communities with the webinar being posted on the local council website. International messages of support were received showing its reach.



The Northern Ireland branch is one of the smallest Jama'ats of the UK. Its President Dr Nauman Iftikhar took the initiative to share the Jama'at's literature with senior members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of the country and some elected to serve in the Westminster Parliament.

These included Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA Northern Ireland from West Tyrone who served as the Deputy Chair of the Employment and Learning Committee, and also as a member on the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. He also holds the position of Chairperson on the Assembly All Party Group on Cancer and Secretary on the Assembly All Party Group on Diabetes. He represents the Democratic Unionist party (DUP).

Another MLA provided literature of the Jama'at was Mr Daniel McCrossanfrom West Tyrone who is currently the SDLP Infrastructure Spokesperson in the Assembly and held the role of Vice Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

The Jama'at's local President also met Órfhlaith Begley MP who is a Sinn Fein politician representing West Tyrone.

Other politicians receiving the Jama'ats literature included:

- Ms Catherine Kelly MLA who has served as Member of Legislative Assembly Northern Ireland representing the constituency of West Tyrone
- Mr Declan McAleer MLA represents the West Tyrone Area. He is Sinn
- Fein spokesperson on Transport and infrastructure. He is Chairperson of Loughmacrory



Dr Nauman Iftikhar with Richard James Shannon is a Democratic Unionist Politician from Northern Ireland, UK. He has sat in the House of Commons of United Kingdom since 2010, as Member of Parliament (MP) for Stangford.

Community Development Association and a member of Loughmacrory GFC.

- Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA belongs to the Ulster Unionist Party and represents the Fermanagh & South Tyrone constituency.
- Mr Richard James Shannon MP is a Democratic Unionist Politician representing Stangford.

Dr Iftikhar was also able meet with Mayor of Fermanagh and Omagh Siobhan Currie and present books on Islam to her.

May Allah enable all recipients to study the literature received and bring them closer to accepting the truth.



HUMANITY FIRST VIRTUAL DINNER

On Sunday 24th January 2021 Humanity First UK organised a virtual dinner to raise funds to feed the poor. The event was publicised extensively through the social media and various Jama'at channels.

Each ticket to participate cost £100, a sum which, when donated to Humanity First, could be used to feed a whole family for an entire month and fund other Humanity First projects. The ticket also qualified the donor to 2 large Pizzas delivered to their home between 5pm and 7pm on the day of the virtual dinner.

The deadline to purchase a ticket was set to expire at 10 pm the previous evening.

The event was a good success by the Grace of Allah as many people donated to take part. With the pizza delivery synchronised to take place at roughly the same time, participants were able to eat in unison while being joined together virtually. During the meal, a virtual quiz on general knowledge and on the history and activities of Humanity First was held.

In excess of 500 tickets were sold and some donated asking to forego their right to a Pizza requesting the saving also to be used to serve the poor. A total of £68,000 was raised which will be expended on HF UK projects in 11 countries.

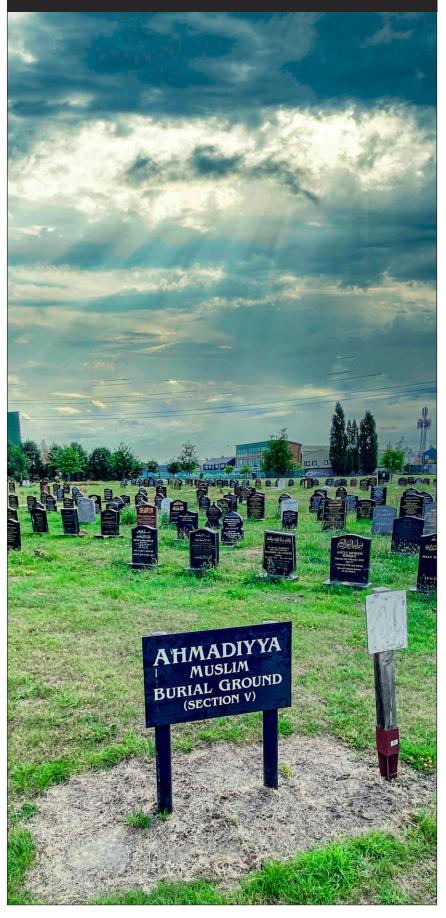
The organisation for the event was a huge logistical challenge and not everything went exactly to plan. Lessons were learnt and these will be put to good use in the future.

Feedback received afterwards for the event was encouraging. The dinner was said to have provided a much needed boost to dispel some of the doom and gloom that had crept in because of the lockdown.

Participants also spoke of how they found the experience thoroughly enjoyable with many eagerly enquiring about dates for the next virtual dinner. These are being planned and details will be put up on its website in due course.



ANNOUNCEMENT ON JAMA'AT CEMETERIES



BY SECRETARY TARBIYYAT UK

BOOKWOOD - WOKING

This is 99.99% full. A few spaces are left in the non musi area. **Cost:** £2,300. £475 surcharge for weekend and Bank Holidays

MERTON & SUTTON JOINT CEMETERY

Spaces are available in both Musi and Non-Musi areas.

Cost: £3,700 to £6,000 depending on residency of the deceased.

 ±700 surcharge for weekend and Bank Holidays

EASHING CEMETERY - GODALMING

Spaces are available in both Musi and Non-Musi areas.

Cost: £2,000.

£500 surcharge for weekend and Bank Holidays

ADDITIONAL COSTS: Funeral Director

Other cemeteries are available in outer London and other cities.

PLEASE NOTE:

Reservations are not permitted.

- No flowers or decorations are to be placed immediately around or on top of individual graves.
- Headstones should **not** be prepared and erected without the knowledge of the central team. In this case currently the department of Tarbiyyat.
- During Covid times, the attendees at Janazas/burials should be limited to healthy close members of the family. Attendance is restricted to 15 to 20 people depending on the cemetery's rules. Please do not just turn up at the Cemetery expecting to attend as these are abnormal circumstances we are all experiencing.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Wasiyyat of the deceased should be cleared by family members before burial via the Wasiyya office.

Working in London and need to know where to offer Jumuah prayers ?



Our main service is at Quaker Friends Meeting House, serving the City of London where daily Zuhr prayers are also offered Monday - Thursday.

DAILY ZUHR NAMAZ SERVICE

Monday/Tues/Weds and Thurs at **Bunhill Meeting Room** at 1330 promptly.

Contact Kaleem Edwards on 07973 782 807 or email mrchrisedwards@gmail.com

Bunhill Meeting House Quaker Court, Banner Street, London EC1Y 8QQ.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/bunhill-fields average attendance 8-12

FRIDAY JUMUAH OPTIONS (IN ORDER OF SIZE OF CONGREGATION)

Bunhill Meeting House Quaker Court, Banner Street, London EC1Y 8QQ

Bunhill Meeting House can be found through a rectangular archway off Banner Street, (see 'Bunhill Meeting House' sign) a short walk from Old Street Underground station.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/bunhill-fields

First Adhan from 13:10 • Khutba from 13:15 and salaat at 13:30 – (we aim to finish about 13:40)

Contact: Kaleem Edwards on 07973 782 807 or email: mrchrisedwards@gmail.com

Average attendance 30-40

Docklands – 5 mins from South Quay station on DLR which is couple of stops from Canary Wharf – Island House Community Centre, Roserton St, London E14 3PG

First Adhan from 13:00 • Second Adhan from 13:10 Khutba from 13:15.

www.island-house.org.uk/

Contact: Imran Yusuf on 07881 019 878 or email ama_cw@googlegroups.com

There is a whatsapp group for members

Average attendance 12-20

UCL University College London with the students (term time only)

** sadly this service is no longer active**

Green Park – Green Park centre's address is no longer at EME Capital. 1.15pm at St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL

Venue booking in the name of AMA UK, starting from 1pm to 2pm in **'The Meeting Room'**. The sign **'AMA Friday Congregation'** will be displayed on the railings where members will enter.

Contact: Mansur Mannan on 07920 008 939 or email mansur@dar-capital.com

Average attendance 30-40

Imperial College with the students (term time only) – Chaplaincy Multi-Faith Centre, 10 Prince's Gardens, London SW7 1NA. Located in the Multi-Faith Centre of Imperial College.

www3.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy/contactus

From South Kensington tube station it is about a 10 minute walk. Out of the turnstiles turn right and enter and follow the tunnel till the end and then turn left. Keep walking down, past the big glass building of Imperial College. Turn right onto Prince's Gardens. The Centre is no.11, past the Ethos gym.

If you are coming please text beforehand so we can allow you into the building, or update you if there has been a change of time. This is essential, as sometimes the time is shifted according to the availability of students.

Contact: Arsam Mahmood on 07480 852 110 or email arsammahmood@gmail.com



Jamia Ahmadiyya UK will be holding entry test and interview on 14th and 15th July 2021 for this year's intake of students. The following conditions apply:

QUALIFICATIONS: Minimum qualifications for the candidates are six GCSE, three A-Level or equivalent with C grades or 60% marks.

AGE ON ENTRY: Maximum age of 17 years for students with GCSE or 19 years with A-Levels or equivalent qualifications.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE: The applicants MUST submit a medical certificate from the GP with whom they have been registered.

WRITTEN TEST AND INTERVIEW: The applicants will take a written test and will appear before a Selection Board for interview. Only those who pass the written test will be invited for interview.

The written test and interview will be based on the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, the Waqfe Nau Syllabus, and proficiency in reading, writing and spoken English and Urdu languages. However, candidates will be judged for their inclination towards learning and reading the translation of the Holy Qur'an and the books of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him)

PROCEDURE: Application will **ONLY** be accepted on the prescribed Admission Form available from the Jamia UK office. Incomplete application form will not be accepted. It must be accompanied by the following documents:

- Application must be endorsed by the National Ameer.
- Medical certificate from the GP.
- Photocopies of the GCSE or A-Level results. If the results are awaited, the candidate must include a letter from his school/ sixth Form tutor about his projected grades.
- Copy of applicant's passport.
- One passport size photograph.
- An attested photo copy of the birth certificate.
- The spellings of the name must be the same as in the passport.

LAST DATE: The application for the 2021 entry MUST arrive by 30th May 2021. Applications received after that will not be considered.

Applications should be addressed to:

THE PRINCIPAL Jamia Ahmadiyya UK Branksome Place Hindhead Road, Haslemere GU27 3PN

For any further help or clarification, please telephone: +44 (0)1428647170 or +44 (0)1428647173, +44 (0)7988461368 (Mob.), Fax: +44(0)1428647188

Jamia is open from Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm. Visitors are welcome ONLY by prior appointments.



Historical QUESTION & ANSWER Session

Question and Answer Session - 18 November 1995, Mahmood Hall, London

CORRECT TITLE FOR KHALIFATUL MASIH:

The title of the Ahmadiyya Khalifa is Khalifatul Masih, which is how it is normally written and spoken. Why isn't it given as Khalifatul al-Mahdi, as the Promised Messiah was both Messiah and Mahdi?

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (Allah have mercy on him): Do you know how many claimants of Mahdihood are there in Islam? [Answer: Several]. And how many Messiahs claim to have descended from heaven? [Answer: Only one.]. So that is the obvious reason. One title [Mahdi] could be confusing; the other one [Messiah] stands alone by itself – there is no confusion about it. When we speak of al-Masih-e-Ma'ud, (the Promised Messiah) he is the one. And secondly the concept of Messiahood is universal while the concept of Mahdiviyat is not universal.

Mahdiviyat is a title which remains within the confines of Islam; but Messiah is a title which attracts the interests and also answers to the hopes of the 3 great religions, eg Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and if these 3 religions join forces (under the Promised Messiah) the rest of the world would not mean anything any longer. So a title was chosen which was of a much wider interest as far as the people outside of Islam are concerned.

QUESTIONER

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was the Messiah and Mahdi for the whole world. So why don't we, when we refer to the Khulafa do we say Khalifa of Ahmadiyya Jama'at instead of Khalifatul Muslimeen? The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was for the whole world.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (Allah have mercy on him): What is Ahmadiyyat other than Islam? Ahmadiyyat is a vision of Islam which completely tallies with Islam and why do we insist on the title of Ahmadiyyat to be used has many reasons. It was the prophecy of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be on him, as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an that he would reappear in the latter days among a people who had not yet met the earlier people. Now his reappearance was not to be personal but a representative one, and he was to represent particularly his title of "Ahmad". So when we speak of Ahmadiyyat we do not speak of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad at all, we speak of Hazrat Muhammad Rasullah, peace and blessings of Allah be on him, whose name and title was Ahmad, other than So it was the second phase of Muhammad. Ahmadiyyat which was to cover the whole world in relation to that Ahmadiyyat is exactly Islam and nothing but Islam.



Does Islam Allow Female Imams?

In a recent radio programme¹ the subject of female Imams was raised. This can be a controversial issue and may prove to be difficult for some to deal with during their tabligh activities. The following exposition by Dr Umar Nasser on the Rational Religion website provides a useful insight into the entire subject which we reproduce, suitably adjusted, for the benefit of our readers.

To answer, we need to understand what an Imam is, as a basic concept. An Imam is fundamentally someone who leads prayer services. With this in mind, *anyone* can be an Imam of some sort. It is not a formalised role that is sanctioned specifically in Islam, rather it is a religious and social function. Even a child can be an Imam of other children, if they lead them in prayer. Gender does play a role though, in expanding or limiting whom one can lead in prayer. Men can lead men and women in prayer, whereas women only lead other women in prayer. We see then that who an Imam is depends on the demographics of the devotees behind them.

Why is this? One answer is essentially the same given to the question of why women stand behind men in prayer, and not in front of them. It is a fairly practical issue: Muslim prayer involves a lot of bending and prostrating. This can be somewhat sensitive for both men and women — neither would be particularly comfortable doing this in front of each other, especially given the Islamic emphasis on not needlessly gazing upon the opposite sex so as to keep one's sexual desires in check. For this reason, mosques try to segregate prayer areas, but where this is not possible, women pray behind the men.

Praying behind men is not a demotion, since all devotees are equal before God. That's why Muslims pray in strict rows, and it's first come, first served. You can't reserve a place at the front to show how holy you are. A King will pray behind a pauper, a Queen behind her maid, without anyone being able to legitimately object. The reason why women pray behind men if they can't be separated, is likely because it is more of a priority to safeguard a woman's sense of modesty in this situation, over a man's. It may also be to recognise that a man may be more distracted by a woman praying in front of them than vice versa. There is no empirical evidence for this as such, though the emphasis in our culture on the female form over male form, and the large disparity in the number of females vs. male 'fitness models' exhibiting their bodies on social media is revealing. We invite any critic to conduct a survey on this issue if he/she so wants, as the results will be amusing at the very least.

If this principle is accepted, then it would not make sense for a woman to lead the gathering, as she would need to be in front of men. Why not just have a man lead the prayer? Leading the prayer is not some kind of great, exalted position in Islam. It does not confer upon one a divine right to rule, and leaders of prayer services have no theological power over others. It is quite simply, leading a collective prayer. All such prayers are essentially identical, regardless of whom they are led by.

One could argue that if men and women are segregated in different areas, then a woman could lead the prayer for both men and women. However this has not always been possible historically, and a rule should be general, for all times and places. To have men leading mixed gatherings takes care of all situations, without having to make exceptions for certain prayer set-ups, and without any actual disadvantage to anyone involved. "If a critic asks why some of our Jewish and Christian neighbours have made female priests/rabbis, that is for them to answer. Perhaps they do not have frequent set prayers in the same way that Muslims do?

Perhaps their religions have a different view on parenthood, or perhaps those communities are relinquishing their religious teachings under social pressure? Who's to say?

What Muslims can say, is that there is a reason for giving this responsibility to men, and not women, and there is wisdom in it. Religion is there to reform and guide humanity — not the other way around."

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP & WOMANHOOD

So far we have discussed the essential role of an Imam as simply a leader of prayer services. Over time, however, the concept of the professional 'Imam' has emerged. There is no ordained Church in Islam as such, so this is something of a social role recognised by Muslim communities. Colleges and universities give qualifications of scholarship to people aspiring to be 'Imams', and these individuals often become missionaries seeking to spread Islam, and often become the designated 'Imam' of a specific mosque. They may be salaried by a religious organisation, and will naturally have an influence over the local congregation, hopefully encouraging them to be of service to God and their neighbours.

These formalised positions are always held by men. The reasons are varied, and some are obvious. As discussed, Islam sanctions men alone to lead mixed prayer gatherings. Having a female Imam therefore would be fairly pointless as they would generally not be leading prayers. Not only this, but Islam exempts women from formal prayer while they are menstruating. This is actually the relief of a burden, rather than a restriction. Islam recognises that many women are often in significant pain during this time, and some would not be able to concentrate on their prayers, let alone lead them. Moreover, sanitary items like tampons are a modern invention, and even then, not available for many women worldwide. Making a rule that women should pray in this time would mean that all menstruating women populate prayer areas, potentially making these spaces unhygienic for others

using them. Even with modern hygiene items, their ability to contain menstruation is not perfect, so it is evidently unwise to allow women to be pressured into praying at this time. For this reason, Islam simply says that they shouldn't pray until their period has ended.

We therefore have another natural reason why women don't serve as designated missionaries or Imams — they cannot lead the prayers for several days a month, sometimes even 25% of the time. Even if they did lead the formal prayer the rest of the time, then the entire congregation would note their absence and know when their Imam is on their period. Does this sound acceptable to anyone involved? Again, why not simply give men the responsibility to be missionaries and designated Imams? This is the route that Islam has taken.

PARENTING IN ISLAM

Lastly, there is another reason why official religious duties of leading prayer and being a salaried missionary are generally given to men. It is because Islam promotes the family unit, with a partial division of labour. The position of motherhood is exalted in Islam, with Muslims being taught by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that 'Paradise lies under the feet of mothers.' This indicates not only that children should seek to serve their mothers, but that a heavenly society is largely formed through the close supervision and education by mothers of their children.

Naturally, this does not mean that men aren't

supposed to be active parents, or that women should just stay at home with the kids their entire lives while men go out and work, have fun, etc... What it does mean is that any given family will have two primary responsibilities: 1) bring in money to provide for the children and the parents; 2) ensure the children are properly parented. So, there are two essential roles that must be fulfilled, either through dividing labour or sharing labour to some extent.

In the early years, mothers play a particularly irreplaceable role in the second area, that of caring for children. Women alone are able to breastfeed, a practice that has well proven health benefits and is promoted by leading health agencies such as the WHO and NHS. Women, through this close physical bond, will usually become the primary attachment figure of their children, and the primary caregiver. The father can and should be very involved, but the father cannot breastfeed, and there can only be one primary attachment figure. And while this is happening with the mother, someone still has to be earning money for the family — the bills still need to be paid. As such, the father will generally go back to work a lot sooner than the mother. Society recognises this division of labour in the early months of a child's life especially. That is why a lack of paternity leave is seen as a serious concern; but a lack of maternity leave is an unacceptable outrage.

Now imagine, as is often the case, that a family has more than one child. In such a situation, the mother will often have to be off work for many months to years, consecutively, simply to do the basics of essential parenting. To go above and beyond, the mother may need longer stretches of time off. Income must still be brought in, and so, naturally, the father will be the primary earner, given that he cannot breast-feed, and that it is generally unwise to compete with your children's mother to be a primary attachment figure and primary caregiver. As such, we see that nature lends itself towards men and women in the early years of parenting, often in people's 30's, tackling different primary spheres of responsibility. This does not mean that women cannot work. They certainly can in Islam, as long as they are still able to fulfil their primary duty in the early years of a child's life. This does also not mean that fathers are exempt from parenting. They too must contribute significantly, but a full-time job means that, pandemic aside, they must spend long periods of time literally away from the house. Women also have full-time jobs

in this period. Children are not only in need from 9 to 5, rather they require constant attention.

If we accept this, then what would happen if Islam also gave women the role of being Imams? Would they be able to actually fulfil this role and do it justice, while tending to young children? Would they be able to be full-time Imams, and full-time parents? Being an Imam means, at a *minimum*, leading the prayers at specific times, 5 times a day. What happens if their baby is crying, sick, needs feeding or can't sleep? Should the mother leave their child and go to lead prayers? Or should they leave their congregation and look after their child? Would the congregation be happy with an Imam who can't get to prayers? Would the female Imam be happy with her ability to look after the mosque? Clearly, this is not an arrangement that works. Thus Islam, rather than trying to shoehorn in modern trends in defiance of natural demands, gives the job of missionary work and prayer leadership to men. Problem solved.

Some may object that this approach reduces womanhood to motherhood; that women should not be seen as mothers in waiting, but members of society that contribute just as much as men in their own right. The truth is that Islam does no such thing. Islam allows women to work and keep their income exclusively, whereas the father must spend on the family. The Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also put great emphasis on the education of daughters, saying:

'A person who is blessed with a daughter or daughters and makes no discrimination between them and his sons and brings them up with kindness and affection, will be as close to me in Paradise as my forefinger and middle finger are to each other.'

Thus, Islam does not detract from women. Rather, it additionally gives motherhood the respect it deserves as being foundational for society at large, and a pivotal experience for individual women. It is critics, and modern society, that often belittle motherhood, tacitly supporting an economic system that often requires mothers to be full-time workers and full-time parents. For our culture to accept this contributes to the increasing strain that ordinary women find themselves under, all the while being told that to object is to be a traitor to *feminism*. Islam on the other hand, does not make rules that ignore

how most men and women live for many years between the ages of 20 and 40 especially.

If a critic asks why some of our Jewish and Christian neighbours have made female priests/rabbis, that is for them to answer. Perhaps they do not have frequent set prayers in the same way that Muslims do? Perhaps their religions have a different view on parenthood, or perhaps those communities are relinquishing their religious teachings under social pressure? Who's to say? What Muslims can say, is that there is a reason for giving this responsibility to men, and not women, and there is wisdom in it. Religion is there to reform and guide humanity — not the other way around.

SPIRITUAL EQUALITY

There are clearly good reasons why men are given the responsibility to be Imams and missionaries in Islam, and also explains why Prophets are male rather than female — the same arguments apply but to a far greater extent with Prophets, given their much greater responsibility. However, this does not mean that Islam teaches that men and women are not spiritually equal. In fact, the Qur'an in one verse goes to great pains to show that spiritual rewards are equal for men and women:

But whoso does good works, whether male or female, and is a believer, such shall enter Heaven. (*Ch.4: V.125*)

"Surely, men who submit themselves to God and women who submit themselves to Him, and believing men and believing women, and obedient men and obedient women and truthful men and truthful women, and men steadfast in their faith and steadfast women, and men who are humble and women who are humble, and men who give alms, and women who give alms, and men who fast and women who fast, and men who guard their chastity and women who guard their chastity, and men who remember Allah much and women who remember Him – Allah has prepared for all of them forgiveness and a great reward." (*Ch.33: V.365*)

Not only this, but in fact *all* Muslims, male or female, are likened to two women in the final verses of Chapter 66 — Asiya, the wife of Pharoah, or Mary,

the mother of Jesus (peace be upon him). If Islam looked down upon women spiritually, it would not say that all male believers are spiritually akin to one of these two women. Instead, Islam recognises spiritual equality, but gives certain social and religious responsibilities more to one sex than the other. Unlike some trends of the modern era, Islam does not fight nature and seek to remove gender differences. Instead, it embraces them, regulates them and directs them, allowing every individual to flourish to the best of their ability.

This is not simply theory either. Many women have featured prominently in Islamic history. Hazrat Ayesha (Allah be pleased with her), the wife of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), was universally accepted as a pre-eminent scholar of Islam. Women have played pioneering roles in educational institutions over the years, with Fatima Al-Fihri founding what is taken by many to be the world's first university. There have been other spiritual pioneers like Rabia Basri, the famous Sufi. But these are only a few famous names, with countless others we could mention, and many more having been lost to history. For instance, Ibn Arabi, taken by many to be the greatest saint of his age, was mentored by a female religious teacher, Fatima bint Ibn al-Muthanna in Seville for many years. He was but one of her many students.

None of this is to say that Islam's teachings have not been misused, and that many Muslim majority countries do not oppress women in today's age. However, in doing so they stray from Islam, rather than adhere to it. Extremism exists in every age, in every doctrine, and must be challenged wherever it rears its head.

As for the here and now, there is certainly progress that has been made, and progress to be made. Mosques should ensure there is ample space for women to pray in. Women should also not be ignored for religious positions altogether. In this respect, the Jama'at sets a good example with the establishment of Lajna Ima'illah run administratively entirely by women, for women, with mosques having large women's-only areas.

1. *Woman's Hour,* 2021. Radio 4, 7th February.

Children's Stories

The Blessed Rice

Once the Promised Messiah (peace be upn him) invited some of his friends to dinner, but just when the meal was about to be served, the number of guests increased unexpectedly. So much so, that the whole of Mubarak Mosque was full of guests. The Promised Messiah (peace be upn him) sent word to his wife to send more food. Realising the situation, she became a little worried. She called him in and explained"

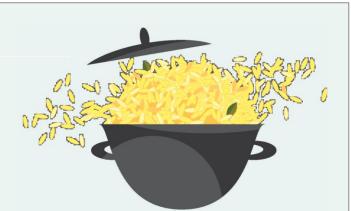
"There is only a small quantity of food as it was prepared only for a limited number of guests invited by you. What shall we do now?"

The Promised Messiah (peace be upn him) said very calmly:

"Don't worry, bring the cooking pot to me."

When the cooking pot with rice was brought to him, he covered it with a handkerchief, passed his fingers underneath the cooked rice, and prayed to Allah.

"Now serve the food to all the guests. Allah will bless it", said the Promised Messiah (peace be upn him), and he went out. Accordingly, the food was served. Everyone ate their fill and there was still some rice left in the pot.



On another occasion when Hazrat Ammaa Jaan, the wife of the Promised Messiah (peace be upn him), prepared some rice specially for him. One of his Companions, Nawwab Muhammad Ali Khan, came to see him along with his family. At dinner time, the Promised Messiah (peace be upn him) told his wife to serve food for them as well. She said the quantity of rice was very small; it could not suffice for all of them. Hearing this, the Promised Messiah approached the cooking pot, said some prayers, blew over it, and said to her,

"Now serve the food in the name of Allah."

It was reported that the rice was so extraordinarily blessed that Nawwab Sahib's family ate their fill. Some of the rice was sent to the family of Hazrat Maulana Noor-ud-Din too. As it soon became known as the Blessed Rice, many others came in order to obtain a share of it; and everyone who came was given a portion of it. By the sheer grace of Allah, it proved sufficient for them all

Be Grateful for What You Have

A young boy used to cry for new expensive shoes, which his parents could not afford to buy.

His father worked in a factory and earned very little. He would buy cheap shoes for his son and the boy was always disappointed.

He cried a lot and left the house. He sat near a bus stop and wondered when he would get the expensive shoes that he loved so much.

Just then a beggar passed by on his crutches. The boy was shocked to find that the beggar had no legs. This made him realise how fortunate he was - at least he was healthy and had both arms and legs. He thanked God for giving him legs and for his mother and father who were so caring and loving to him.

The moral of the story is don't cry for what you don't have, but be grateful for all the blessings you do have.





CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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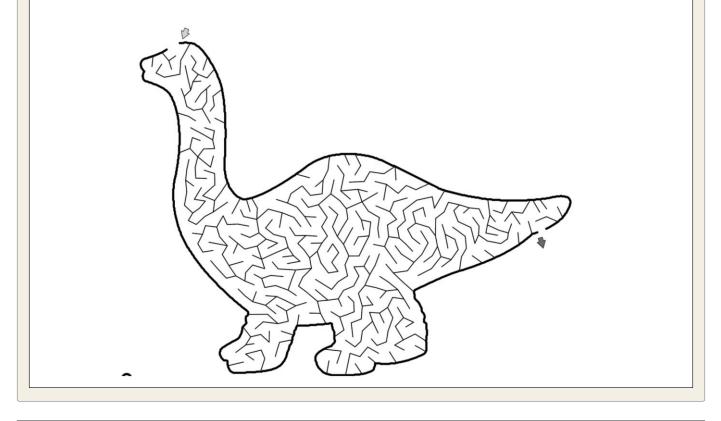
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Clues Across	Clues Down	
2. The best prophet	1. The Morden Mosque	
4. Another name for prayer	3. Name of our Creator	
7. The first mosque in London	5. Our headquarters in India	
8. Our holy book.	6. Name of our present Khalifa	

THE DINOSAUR MAZE: See if you can find your way out of the Dino-Maze, from head to tail. But don't get lost inside its tummy!



Educational Rally - Bashir Region

By the Grace of Allah the Bashir Region held their first virtual Ilmi (Educational) Rally on 27th December 2020. A month before this, a meeting was convened where a committee was formed under the supervision of Regional Nazim e Aala and Regional Nazim Taleem. In the meeting, it was agreed for this event, to organise competitions covering Tilawat-e-Qur'an, Nazm, Urdu/ English speech and Tarjama-tul-Qur'an. To generate publicity, a poster was designed and sent to all Zoama and regional WhatsAapp groups

The national syllabus was sent to all Zoama. Every week the Regional Nazim contacted Zoama directly to remind them to encourage Ansar to participate. Zoama were requested that for every competition, there should be a minimum of two Ansar participating from each majlis.

The agenda for the day was carefully prepared along with the worksheets to be used for the judging. Contact was made with the judges and guests. The Rally began as planned at 4:30 pm chaired by Qaid Taleem UK Maulana Raja Burhan. The opening ceremony commenced with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an. After a nazm, Qaid Taleem delivered a comprehensive speech on Khilafat and the importance of the books of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). Competitions started at about 5:00 pm. The first competition was Tilawat-e-Qur'an in which 16 Ansar participated. Qaid Taleem-ul-Quran stayed throughout the Rally and understandably showed particular interest in this competition. For the Nazm contest there were 10

· •	- Region B	Bashir -	TES ANEARON IN		
Tilawat	Sürah Aal-e-'Imran (verses 103-104), Sürah Al-A'raf (verses 27 - 28) or Sürah Ta Ha (verses 131-133)				
Nazam/ Poem	<u>ه همچ</u> یا محکار ایدار علاق طب ، و بام کارمان او بسیار انوام او کاردادی اور مدیم بخل حادی اور اور می را فر قرم ۲۷) بر مصافراً را کم تهیدی با یک بسیر کمان اور طلق عند با کالام اور طرحه کارمان گی دیدار کمان می بارد کمان می عیری تا اسلام زند اسل فازه افسار اور از شد قلق طرفین اور قلعت و آمند خس کشوا طلک و آغاز اور افکار اور افکار هست ۱۹۷۹ مو				
Prepared Speech (English)	 "The root of all virtues is fearing God" 2.Ways to achieving Taqwa 3.Salat – pre requisite to attaining closeness to Allah 4.Higher standards of Spirituality 5.Righteousness – The hallmark of a true believer (Record a speech of 2 and half imitutes to 3 minutes and send it.) 				
1.75	iii- لماز - قرب الحی کاد سیلہ (د حالی سے دست کی تقریر ریادڈ کر کے تیکن)	ii- حسول تقویٰ کے طریق	i-"براك على كاج الله (تقوى) ب		
(اردو)	(احالى = 3من كاتر برد بالدوكر مستعلى)	٧- تتوى ايك ي مومن كى مكان	iv روماتيت کرانل معيار		
Quran Split Word Translation	Part 1 from the Holy Quran				

competitors and 7 participated in the speech competition while there were just. 4 for the Tarjama-tul-Qur'an contest. The Ilmi Rally lasted for three and half hours. Both the audience and participants showed great interest in the competitions. There were 52 people in attendance in the Ilmi Rally. The closing session was chaired by Naib Sadr Majlis Ansarullah UK Mr Shakeel Butt. After the preliminaries, a report was presented by Naib Nazim Ala Mr Mubarak Khan. After this the positions were announced. Qaid Sahib Taleemul-Quran gave comprehensive advice over the correct recitation of the Holy Qur'an.

Naib Sadr Mr Shakeel Butt appreciated the regional efforts. He gave valuable advice, quoting extensively from the writings of the words of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) before bringing the event to a close with a silent prayer.



Siobhain McDonagh MP 🥝

Thank you to @AhmadiyyaUK for this

brilliant initiative showing step by step

videos for quick and tasty meals at less

loveforallhatredfornone.org/cheap-easy-

@Siobhain Mc

than £1 per serving!

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Jama'at Support For London & Surrey Homeless

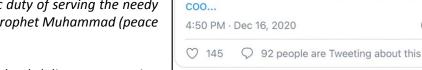
Members of the Jama'ats in South London and Surrey came out in force during the winter weeks to help support the homeless including through the festive period amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. On the afternoons of December 28 and 29, Khuddam braved the cold and dark helped deliver a dozens of food parcels and essential supplies to rough sleepers in their area.

This is just but one example of the kind of effort being made by Khuddam all over the country in supporting the vulnerable during the pandemic since it began in March last year and is an effort that is maintained to this day.

Delivering food packages to foodbanks in the region that have seen a surge in demand since the arrival of Covid-19 in the UK are also part of their volunteer efforts.

Regional Qaid Rafique Ahmad Bhatti said to the press:

"Young Ahmadi Muslims, took time out of their day to try and make a difference to the lives of so many people who are homeless,...The youth had themselves been making preparation for the grocery shopping to deliver at foodbanks....This a great opportunity for us to fulfil our Islamic duty of serving the needy and to follow in the examples of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him),"



Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya has helped deliver a staggering

673,000 items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) across the UK since the outbreak of coronavirus last year, with several thousand more meals delivered to the homeless, students and vulnerable people.

During the Covid lockdowns, it assisted in some 21,407 households with food packages and deliveries of essential medicines and this number is growing daily.

