

AHMADIYYA BULLETIN

Sep Oct 2021

Tabook Ikha 1400



INTRODUCTION TO HGV DRIVING

17th Oct 2021

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community UK

HATRED FOR NONE

INTRODUCTION
TO HGV DRIVING

LOVE FOR ALL
HATRED FOR NONE

The Promised Messiah Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian ^(upon whom be peace) says:

It is a known fact that success breathes a new life into a person's resolve and determination. One should derive benefit from this life and through it, increase in their understanding of Allah Almighty. For the greatest of all things, which becomes a source of benefit, is this very cognisance of the Divine; and this develops when an individual reflects over the grace and mercy of God Almighty. No one can thwart the grace of Allah Almighty. Extreme poverty too can plunge a person into misfortune. This is why it is related in a Hadith: (Poverty glooms the face). I have seen poverty drag many people to atheism. A believer, however, does not think ill of God no matter how stringent their circumstances, and deeming it to be the result of their own faults, they beseech God for His mercy and grace. Eventually, when this era passes, and the prayers of a believer come to fruition, they do not forget their time of weakness, but rather, remember it always. Therefore, if you believe in the fact that one is always in need of God, then adopt the way of righteousness. Blessed is the one who adopts righteousness in times of prosperity and joy; and unfortunate is the one who stumbles, yet does not turn to God.

(Malfoozat, Vol. 1, p 154)



In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious Ever Merciful



14. 38th Annual Ijtema Majlis Ansarullah UK

18. Ijtema Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK 2021

30. Virtual Meetings held with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V

- 30: Virtual Meeting of Khuddam From North England and Scotland
- 31: Virtual Meeting of Khuddam From The South of UK
- 33: Virtual Meeting of Khuddam From Midlands of UK
- 35: Virtual Meeting of Lajna Imaillah USA
- 36: Virtual Meeting of Nasirat From Midlands & South-West UK

24. Lajna Imaillah Ijtema UK 2021

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Holy Qur'an

Alas for My servants! There comes not a Messenger to them but they mock at him. Have they not seen how many generations We have destroyed before them, and that they never return to them? And all of them, gathered together, will certainly be brought before Us.

(36:31-33)

يَحْزَنُهُ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ مَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِنْ رَسُولٍ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ
يَسْتَهْزِئُونَ ﴿٣١﴾ أَلَمْ يَرَوْا كَمْ أَهْلَكْنَا قَبْلَهُمْ مِنَ الْقُرُونِ
أَنَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾ وَإِنْ كُلٌّ لَّمَّا جَمِيعٌ لَدَيْنَا مُحْضَرُونَ ﴿٣٣﴾

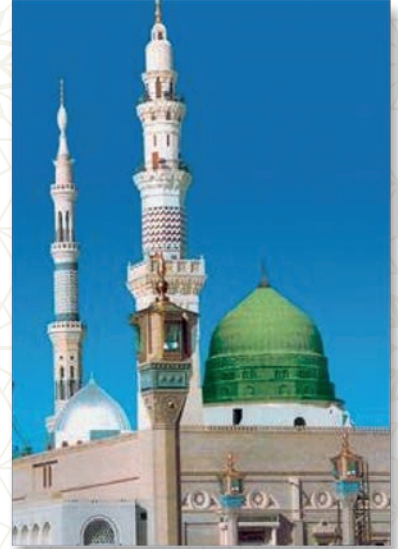
Hadith

Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Charity is due from every limb of a person on every day on which the sun rises. Doing justice between two persons is charity, to help a person ride his mount or to place his baggage on it is charity, a good word is charity, every step taken to participate in the Salat is charity and removing anything from a path which occasions inconvenience is charity.

(Bukhari and Muslim)

Muslim has also reported on the authority of Hazrat Ayesha that the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Everyone has been created with three hundred and sixty joints. Then whoever affirms Allah's greatness, praises Allah, affirms His Unity, proclaims His holiness, asks His forgiveness, removes a stone or thorn or bone from a path frequented by people, enjoins good, or forbids evil to the number of three hundred and sixty, goes about having rescued himself from the Fire.

(Gardens of the Righteous, p.33, No. 122)



Malfoozat

I admonish the members of my Community that they should have true faith in the credo that there is no one worthy of worship except Allah, and Muhammad^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the Messenger of Allah; and that they should die in this faith. They should believe in all the Prophets and all the books, the truth of which is affirmed by the Holy Qur'an. They should observe the fast and perform the Salat and pay the Zakat and perform the pilgrimage and carry out all that God Almighty and His Messenger have prescribed and should abstain from all that they have forbidden and thus conform in every respect to Islamic commandments. We consider it our duty to accept all that is supported by the consensus of the righteous ones who have passed away and all that is considered as part of Islam by the consensus of the Ahl-i-Sunnat. We call to witness the heaven and the earth that this is our faith.

(Ayyam-us-Sulah, from Essence of Islam, Vol 1, p. xxxii)





FRIDAY SERMON SUMMARIES

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.

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SERMON: 20 AUG 2021

Men of Excellence

Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab (Allah be pleased with him)

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and Surah al-Fatihah, Huzoor continued highlighting the life of Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him).

One of the battles fought in the time of Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) was the Battle of Gundeshapur. During this battle one Muslim decided to present a token of peace. So, when they saw him, they opened the gates to the ramparts and the people rushed out having thought that they had been granted security, saying that they will accept to pay the *jizyah* [tax] and in return they will be granted peace. In this way, this battle came to an end and the Muslim army returned.

It was the desire of Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) to put an end to fighting in the area between Iraq and Ahwaz, a place in Iran. In 17 AH, a Muslim delegation from the army came before Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him). He asked them why there continued to be violations of the agreements in conquered lands. The delegation replied that this was not the case and the Muslims are fulfilling their oaths. Ahnaf bin Qais of this delegation then said,

'you have forbidden us to take any further military steps and to remain here. However, the king of Iran still lives and because of this the Iranians continue to fight us. It cannot be that there are two governments coexisting in one place.'

This in fact is proof that the Muslims never conquered lands just to cause warfare, they would merely retaliate to the fighting imposed on them from their adversaries.

It was only in 21 AH that Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) decided to take action when a large army of Iranians had assembled to attack and this is when the Battle of Nahavand took place. Nahavand is a city surrounded by mountains. Hazrat Sa'd informed Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) of the great army being assembled, and thus Hazrat Ammar bin Yasir was (Allah be pleased with him) appointed to govern over the matter. During one consultation, Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) stood and delivered a powerful speech. Thereafter, the Muslims answered that they were prepared to do whatever he decided; be it remain in Madinah, or go and fight. Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) advised that he would also go to the frontline to fight and also sought further counsel. Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) said that the armies should be split into three, so that Madinah may also be protected. In the end, Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) decided that it was appropriate for someone else to be sent as his



representative and thus appointed Hazrat Nu'man bin Muqarrin for this great task.

After Hazrat Nu'man bin Muqarrin had departed, he received a letter from Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) to advance together with the Muslims. In this letter, he also mentioned who would deputise, should Hazrat Nu'man bin Muqarrin be martyred. With regards to the Iranian army, historians have written that it was 60,000 strong, or even 100,000. But according to Sahih Bukhari, it was 40,000. When both parties came face to face, the Iranians used foul words against the Muslims, threatening to destroy them completely, and thus both parties prepared for battle. Due to being in their fortresses and by using their ditches, the Iranians would only pick certain times to come out to fight before returning once again, whilst the Muslims were in an open field. One companion

made a suggestion whereby the Iranians would think that the Muslims were retreating and perhaps open their gates to chase after them. This is exactly what happened and Hazrat Nu'man bin Muqarrin made such a powerful speech to the Muslims that left them in tears before they launched an attack upon the enemy. So much blood was shed in this battle that even the horses would slip on it. Hazrat Nu'man bin Muqarrin also fell from his horse and was martyred. The fighting lasted the entire day, and by night time the Muslims had attained victory over the city.

Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) handed the banner to Hazrat Abdullah bin Abdillah for the conquest of Isfahan. He was told to depart for Isfahan, where they were met with an army. A fierce battle ensued, the enemy retreated. The Muslims advanced and surrounded the city which then surrendered.

SERMON: 27 AUG 2021**Men of Excellence****Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab** (Allah be pleased with him)

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and Surah al-Fatihah, Huzoor continued highlighting the life of Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him).

One battle was the Battle of Rayy. The chief of Rayy called for help against the Muslims. Once the Iranian reinforcements had reached Rayy, there was no comparison between the numbers in each army. One of the Muslims planned to enter the city undetected while the rest of the Muslims attacked from their front. Both parties fought determinedly, but when the enemy heard the battle cries from the Muslims who had entered the city, they were unable to defend on both fronts. Thus, the Muslims conquered Rayy and offered peace to the residents provided they desisted from their mischief and paid the *Jizyah*.

The victory over Azerbaijan also took place in 22AH. Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) sent Utbah bin Farqad and Buqair bin Abdullah there, instructing them to attack from opposite sides. En route, Buqair and his army met Asfandyaz bin Farukhzad, brother of Rustam who attacked with his army. Battle ensued and the enemy was defeated.

After the victory over Azerbaijan, Buqair was sent to Armenia. Suraqah was appointed as the governor of this mission. As one of the battalions had gone ahead of the army of Buqair, it was met with an Iranian who offered to provide military support, and in return he would not have to pay the *jizyah*. Suraqah agreed, and in this way, Armenia was conquered without any battle taking place.

The victory over Khorasan took place in 22AH. After the Iranians were defeated in Jalulah, Yazdegerd was forced to move to other cities. As he did so, he carried with him the sacred fire, as they were fire worshippers. Having settled near Khorasan, Yazdegerd began to incite Hormazan and others against the Muslims, and thus broke his treaty with the Muslims. Learning this, Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) permitted the Muslims to advance and extinguish the rebellion. Ahnaf bin Qais was sent towards Khorasan. As Ahnaf approached the lands of Khorasan, Yazdegerd moved to Maheruz. Yazdegerd sought military help from all around, even from the emperor of China. When the Muslim army was making its way to Maheruz, Yazdegerd fled once more, this time to Balkh. The

Muslim army of Kufa made its way directly to Balkh, and when Yazdegerd was met with them, they fought in battle, wherein the Iranians were defeated.

The Muslims were met with the Iranian army in Jur, en route to Istakhr. After attaining victory there, the Muslims then went on to conquer Istakhr. Many lives were lost in the battle, and many fled. Hormuz, the governor of Istakhr eventually agreed to the peace treaty and to pay the *Jizyah*. One fifth of the spoils of war were sent back to Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him). If there was any wealth that was taken wrongfully, the Muslims were instructed to return it right away, as this was against the principles taught within Islam.

Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) then sent Sariyah bin Zuna'im to Fasa and Darabgerd in 23AH. The Muslims were able to attain victory and among the spoils of war was a treasure chest. The Muslims agreed to send it as a gift to Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) who refused to keep the chest, telling them to return it to the people there.

The victory over Kerman in 23AH took place at the hands of Suhail bin Adiyy. The people of Kerman fought the Muslims but were defeated. Their chieftains were killed and Suhail sent armies to capture those who fled from battle.

Sajistan was a very vast and powerful place in ancient times. Asim bin Amr made his way to Sajistan along with Abdullah bin Numair. They fought near Sajistan and the people of Sajistan fled. In the end, the people of Sajistan agreed to a peace treaty with the Muslims. The victory over Mokran in 23AH was claimed at the hands of Hakam bin Amr with the support of other armies.

SERMON: 3 SEP 2021**Syed Taalay Ahmed
An Exemplary Life-Devotee**

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and Surah al-Fatihah, Huzoor said that recently, a very dear life-devotee, Syed Taalay Ahmed was martyred in Ghana, Africa.

On the night between the 23rd and 24th of August, the MTA team which was filming a documentary was travelling when they were attacked by robbers who fired at them, injuring two people, Umar Farooq and Syed Taalay Ahmed. On the way to the hospital, Syed Taalay Ahmed passed away. Although there may

have been previous martyrdoms of workers in MTA International from other parts of the world, but this was the first from the UK. Perhaps, this was the first martyrdom of a UK Waqfe Nau.

He was the great grandson of Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad and Mir Muhammad Ismail. He was also the son-in-law of Ghulam Qadir Shaheed.

He had been active in Khuddamul Ahmadiyya serving in various capacities and in his Jama'at in Hartlepool. He was appointed to the MTA News team full-time in 2016 and had the opportunity of making various documentaries for MTA.

He was very passionate about his work and seeing it through, no matter the hardships he may have to face along the way. Syed Taalay Ahmed began working on his laptop while on the journey.

Robbers had begun firing at the vehicle. Syed Taalay Ahmed had been struck in the back and lost a great deal of blood. As the robbery was happening, he quickly hid the laptop and other equipment under the seat. As they were driving to a nearby clinic, Syed Taalay Ahmed would ask whether Huzoor had been informed. Along the way to the hospital, he said,

'Tell Huzoor that I love him and tell my family that I love them.'

This was a beautiful gem which has left us. He understood his oath of life-devotion and fulfilled it to the utmost degree. His level of love and devotion for Khilafat was such that even some, who have deep-rooted knowledge of faith, do not possess it.

Syed Taalay Ahmed wrote a poem in which he expressed his love for Khilafat. He started the poem by saying that he loved Huzoor the most, and he ended by saying that perhaps Huzoor would never know how much he loved him.

From among the youth of the Promised Messiah's^(peace be upon him) family, there was no one who loved Khilafat as much as Syed Taalay Ahmed.

Huzoor said that he himself bears testament to the fact that Syed Taalay Ahmed fulfilled his oath of life-devotion.

Abdul Quddoos Arif, Sadr Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK, said that at a young age Taalay Ahmed had been reading the Five-Volume Commentary of the Holy

Qur'an in detail making notes.

His wife Satwat Sahiba, said that he was very kind, caring and loving, always very appreciative and supportive. He would weep while relating stories about Khilafat to his son.

Syed Taalay Ahmed's father Syed Hashim Akbar said that he had seen a dream about his own martyrdom and later learned that his son Syed Taalay Ahmed had seen the same dream about the martyrdom of his father.

His sister Nudrat Sahiba said that he would often return home late from his work. He studied Ahadith and became quite well-versed in them. She also shared two dreams which seem to have been indicative of his martyrdom.

His youngest sister said that he was an excellent role model and she was able to learn a great deal from him.

Abid Khan, Press Secretary who was also his maternal uncle said that he possessed a profound love for the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him).

Adam Walker said he noticed that he worked very meticulously.

Maulana Naseem Bajwa mentioned that he noticed the young Taalay to always be obedient, respectful to his elders, responsible, busy in the remembrance of God, and passionate about preaching.

Huzoor said that it is fitting that Allah Almighty chose the month of Muharram for Syed Taalay Ahmed to be able to present this sacrifice.

Huzoor prayed that may Allah Almighty continue to elevate the station of Syed Taalay Ahmed. Surely, he would have been given a place in Paradise near the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

SERMON: 10 SEP 2021

Men of Excellence

Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab^(Allah be pleased with him)

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and Surah al-Fatihah, Huzoor continued highlighting the life of Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him).

Damascus was besieged for several months during the time of Hazrat Abu Bakr^(Allah be pleased with him), and

eventually, soon after the demise of Hazrat Abu Bakr^(Allah be pleased with him), the Muslims gained victory in Damascus.

Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) had instructed that the Muslims should first focus on conquering Damascus, then they should make their way to Fahl. Once these lands had been conquered and the Muslims proved victorious over the Romans, Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) instructed that the lands be left in the custody of their owners.

Besan was also conquered during the time of Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) as was Tabariyyah. When Tabariyyah was conquered, they requested to be presented before Shurahbil, the same person who led the conquests of Fahl and Besan, in order to reach an agreement.

Homs was conquered during the time of Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him). This was a renowned place in Syria, and held great significance. The people of Homs themselves came forward to battle with the Muslims, which resulted in their defeat. The weather was cold at the time, and the Romans believed that the Muslims would not be able to fight for long in an open area. It is recorded that the Romans had leather shoes, yet their feet would freeze, while the Muslims would only have normal shoes at best. Nonetheless, despite the cold, the Muslims remained resolute, and as the cold passed and the Romans realised that the Muslims could not be defeated, the people of Homs requested for a peace treaty.

Marj-ur-Rum was also conquered. The Muslims battled successfully despite the cold weather and many of them nursing wounds.

After the victory of Marj-ur-Rum, Hamat was also conquered by the Muslims. The people of Hamat agreed to the terms of a treaty. Then the Muslims proceeded to conquer Salamiya.

When the people of Lazica saw the Muslims approaching, they closed off any entrance to their city. The Muslims laid siege. Hazrat Abu Ubaidah determined that continuing the siege would take a very long time, so various trenches were dug, which could conceal both a horse and its rider. In the morning, when the people of Lazica could not see the Muslims, they came out, and the Muslims were thus able to enter the city and conquer it. The people of Lazica entered into a treaty with the Muslims. They were able to retain ownership of their castle, beside

which the Muslims would go on to build a mosque. The people of Qinnasrin had encamped outside of their city in order to fight the Muslims. Eventually, the Muslims proved victorious over them and a treaty was agreed upon. Some went into the city and locked themselves in. Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed told them that God would either enable the Muslims to reach them or God would convey them to the Muslims. Eventually they surrendered and the people of Qinnasrin were given the assurance of security. They were able to retain their lands, and only some land was used by the Muslims for building mosques.

Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) sent Yazid bin Abi Sufyan with 17,000 Muslims who besieged Caesarea, which at the time was a large city and was guarded by a huge Roman army. The Romans attacked the Muslims but were unsuccessful and resulted in 80,000 of their soldiers being killed in battle, and including those who fled, this number reached 100,000. Hazrat Ubadah bin Samit, a Companion who took part in the Battle of Badr, also took part in this battle. He acted with great bravery and encouraged the Muslims stating that whenever he led Muslims into battle, they were always victorious. As a result, the Muslims fought inspiringly against the Romans and proved victorious.

SERMON: 17th SEP 2021

Men of Excellence Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab^(Allah be pleased with him)

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and Surah al-Fatihah, Huzoor continued highlighting the life of Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him).

There are some varying opinions as to when exactly the battle of Yarmuk took place, but according to historical accounts, it is clear that it took place during the Caliphate of Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him). The Romans called upon their allies and those under their rule to establish a large army. Hazrat Abu Ubaidah learned of these plots and ploys and encouraged the Muslims. It was suggested that the Muslims would form their ranks outside of the city. Up until then, the Muslims had made a pact with the Christian tribes and allowed them to maintain their lands and properties. Hazrat Abu Ubaidah decided that all the tax which used to be collected from them was returned to each individual. Upon hearing this, the Christians rejoiced.

Hazrat Abu Ubaidah went to Yarmuk, located close

to the river of Jordan. The Romans had a large army, which was causing fear in some Muslims. When Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) was informed of this, he spoke to the Muhajireen and Ansar who all expressed their desire to help. In the end, it was decided that more troops would be sent in order to help replace those already there. The Roman army totalled around 200,000 and had their religious leaders at the forefront of their ranks. During the battle, the Muslims were proving to be victorious. As the day came to an end, the battle was paused until the next day. A Roman by the name of George approached the Muslims and asked them to appoint a representative to negotiate terms of peace. Hazrat Abu Ubaidah appointed Hazrat Khalid for this task.

In the meantime, one of the Christians saw Hazrat Abu Ubaidah praying in the mosque. Afterwards, he asked him what Islam has to say about Jesus^(peace be upon him). Hazrat Abu Ubaidah replied by reciting verses of the Holy Qur'an regarding Jesus^(peace be upon him) which greatly impressed the Christian so much so that he accepted the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was true. He did not wish to return to his people but Hazrat Abu Ubaidah said that if he refused, the Romans may think this to be a gesture of non-compliance. Thus, he told him that he should go back the next day with the representative appointed for the Muslims.

The next day, the Romans attempted to entice the Muslim representative with riches and wealth and cited their good treatment of the Arabs in the past. Then they offered monetary compensation for the Muslims leaving the battlefield. The Muslim representative realised that these conditions were being presented only because the Romans were realising their imminent defeat. He replied by saying that the Romans had only treated the Arabs well in order to spread their religion, and those same Arabs were fighting against them alongside the Muslims. Furthermore, he said that though the Romans may be wealthy, the Muslims were given the greatest wealth by the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Thus, he stipulated the condition that if the Romans agreed to pay jizya [tax] then the battle could cease and the Romans would be spared. However, they strongly refused the idea of paying any sort of tax, and thus, preparations for another battle ensued. The Muslims fought courageously. Although the Muslim army was not more than 30,000-35,000, including women who fought boldly, the Romans were defeated.

Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) had anxiously been

waiting to hear about the outcome of this battle and had not slept. Upon hearing that the Muslims were victorious, he immediately fell into prostration, thanking God. Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) also instructed that the tax had been instituted in areas which had been conquered by the Muslims on the condition that the Muslims would protect them. However, since the Muslim army had been fighting another battle and were unable to be present in those areas, the amount received in tax from them was to be returned. Such an example has never been enacted by any other ruler in history.

SERMON: 24 SEP 2021

Men of Excellence

Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab^(Allah be pleased with him)

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and Surah al-Fatihah, Huzoor continued highlighting incidents from the life of Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him).

Under the leadership of Amr bin al-Aas, the Muslim army encircled Bait al-Maqdas (Jerusalem). The Christians eventually agreed to a treaty, but said that they wanted Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) himself to come and sign the treaty. Thus, Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him), after consulting with other companions, set out for Bait al-Maqdas. Huzoor presented the statements of various historians regarding this incident and some of their varying views regarding these occurrences. It is stated that Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) had already set out towards Bait al-Maqdas before any talk of the treaty, as Amr bin al-Aas had sent him a letter requesting assistance. When Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) had stopped on the way at Jabiyah, where he wished to consult with his army commanders, he was told of the Christian demand that he be present himself for the brokerage of a treaty.

At Jabiyah, Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) summoned the Muslim commanders and saw that they had adopted a physical appearance that resembled other Arabs who dressed extravagantly. This displeased Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him), but they told him that they were still wearing armour underneath, and that this appearance was fitting for Muslim Arabs.

It was in Jabiyah that the treaty between the Muslims and Christians was signed. In this, Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) declared that the people of Ilya, their homes and their churches would not be harmed. Those who wished to go to the Romans were free to

do so, and those who wished to stay on their lands were free to do so, as long as they paid the Jizyah.

This showed that the Muslims did not impose themselves by way of the sword.

After the treaty was finalised, Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) went to Bait al-Maqdas. The Christian priests handed over the keys to the city to Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him). He took a tour of the Bait al-Maqdas and when it came time for prayers, the Christians invited him to offer prayers there. However, Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) said he feared that if he did so, the Muslims would take this to be a sacred place for them, and then try to take it over. Thus, Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) went outside to offer his prayers.

While in Ilya, people requested Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) for Hazrat Bilal to call the Azan. Hazrat Bilal said that he had vowed after the demise of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to never call the Azan again. However, since Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) insisted, he called the Azan. This reminded everyone there of the time of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

As the Muslims gained victory after victory, others were becoming fearful of losing their cities. The people of Jazirah, located between Iraq and Syria wrote to Heraclius seeking help and asked him to send ships to combat the Muslims. He agreed. The people of Jazirah took an army of 30,000 to Homs. When Heraclius's ships arrived, the Muslims found themselves in a difficult situation. Hazrat Abu Ubaidah wrote to Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) informing him of the delicate situation. Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) commanded Sa'd bin Abi Waqas to send help, and thus he sent an army of 4,000 to Homs which was still not enough to combat the Roman army of Jazirah. However, as the army of Jazirah was in Homs, Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) commanded that another army be sent to Jazirah, so that the army would have to return to Jazirah in order to defend their city, thus relieving the Muslim army in Homs who were facing a difficult situation. This showed the great strategic capabilities of Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him), and it proved successful, as when this happened, the army of Jazirah was forced to leave Homs and return to Jazirah. Eventually, the Muslims proved victorious.

SERMON: 01 OCT 2021

Men of Excellence

Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab (Allah be pleased with him)

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and *Surah al-Fatihah*, Huzoor said that once, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II (Allah be pleased with him) said in a sermon regarding Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) that often, in the battles that took place after the demise of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), there would be a shortage of Muslims in the army.

Once, Hazrat Abu Ubaidah wrote to Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) asking for more soldiers, as the enemy number was high. Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) consulted with various tribes and learned that there was a tribe from which youngsters could be deployed in the army. Thus, Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) informed Hazrat Abu Ubaidah that he was sending 6,000 more soldiers. 3,000 soldiers, and Amr bin Madi Qarib who on his own, represented 3,000 soldiers. Upon his arrival, the Muslims did not question how one person could be the equivalent to 3,000. Instead, they were so overjoyed that they rejoiced and began raising slogans upon his arrival. The opponents saw this jubilation and thought that the Muslims had received reinforcements in the hundreds of thousands. In the end, the Muslims would overcome the opponents.

After the conquest of Jerusalem, upon his request, Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) sent Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas to Farhama with an army of 4,000. Hazrat Umar (Allah be pleased with him) had instructed him that if he received his letter informing him to return before he reached Egypt, then he should return. However, by the time Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas received this letter, he had already reached Egypt and so according to the instructions, he stayed there and went to Farhama. The Muslims laid siege and this continued for several months. Finally, one day the army came out to fight and the Muslims defeated them.

After Farhama, Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas set course for Bilbies. The Byzantine army did not wish for the Muslims to reach there as they wanted to save their Babylonian fortress and so they stopped the Muslims along the way. The Byzantines wished to fight where they had stopped the Muslims, but Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas said that they should first at least listen to what they had to say. Thus, Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas spoke with two representatives from Bilbies and gave them the offer of a treaty wherein the people of

Bilbies would be safe and would pay the Jizyah. They asked for a few days to ponder, during which time the Muslims were attacked by the Byzantines and many Muslim lives were lost. Later, however, the Muslims would go on to be victorious.

After Bilbies, Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas went to Umdonain. Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas felt that he did not have a large enough army to conquer the castle and so he sent a request for reinforcements. Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas set out and lay siege to the city and during this time, he learned that Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him) was sending 4,000 more Muslim soldiers to help the army of Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas. Eventually, the Byzantine army came out to fight, and due to a proficient strategy used by the Muslims, they were victorious.

Then Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him) gave permission for the Muslims to proceed to Alexandria which they also conquered. Thus, with the victory at Alexandria, the Muslims effectively secured all of Egypt.

After Egypt, Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas set out for Baraka and Tripoli which the Muslims then conquered. The people agreed to remain there peacefully and pay the Jizyah.

During the era of Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him), Islamic rule spread far and wide, affording everyone freedoms, safety and peace. During the battles and conquests of Hazrat Umar's ^(Allah be pleased with him) era, the Muslims would regularly offer the pre-dawn optional prayers (*tahajjud*). Regarding the battles of the Rightly Guided Caliphs, history bears testament to them being wronged, but nowhere in history do we find them ever wronging those same people or taking retribution.

SERMON: 08 OCT 2021

Men of Excellence

Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab ^(Allah be pleased with him)

Huzoor continued relating the account of the life of Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him) and stated that some Western historians have presented various aspects about the Persian and Byzantine rulers, making it inevitable for them to eventually fall to the Muslims. They record that there was a sect which was not accepted by the Persian rulers but was continuing to grow. They wished to establish values such as equal rights for all including women.

After the demise of Khosroe Pervez, it became difficult to find an able person to lead the Persian empire. As such, there were many changes in leadership, which also played a hand in the weakening of Persia. Furthermore, there were also attacks by the Byzantines upon Persian lands which led to their weakening as well. Despite this, the Persians were not short of any means, especially in warfare. They were heavily clad in armour and had various weapons at their disposal. The Arabs on the other hand were very ill-equipped, and if they had anything, it was made of leather, as opposed to the iron armour of the Persians.

Allamah Shibli Nu'mani says that the primary factor of how the Muslims were able to vanquish such empires was the zeal and fortitude instilled in the Muslims by the Holy Prophet ^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) which was fostered further by Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him). Furthermore, the Muslims were fair and honest, which would turn even those of other faiths in their favour and support.

As for those who contend that there are others in history similar to Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him) who have attained such victories, they should be reminded that there is no other example of the compassion and forgiveness shown by Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him) even after having conquered great empires. Furthermore, one of the greatest testaments to the leadership of Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him) is that those lands that were conquered by Islam remain under the banner of Islam to this day.

Quoting Allamah Shibli Nu'mani who said that the zeal of an army can only be of true benefit when they are led by someone with the same zeal, it was thus that the Muslim army was always prepared to follow Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him) and whatever he said even if it was a mere indication. An even greater testament is that Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him) was never physically present during these conquests, yet whatever happened was only after his approval and guidance.

The Holy Prophet ^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) foretold the martyrdom of Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him). The latter would pray to be martyred in the way of Allah in the land of the Prophet ^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II ^(Allah be pleased with him) commented on this desire that reflected the rank of Hazrat Umar ^(Allah be pleased with him), regarding whom the Holy Prophet ^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that if there were a prophet right after him it would

be Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him). He was someone whose selflessness and level of sacrifice has been lauded by historians and even opponents.

Dreams seen by some other companions also indicated the martyrdom of Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him), who was attacked on 26 Dhul Hijjah 23 A.H., a Wednesday and passed away the next day. He was then buried on the morning of 1 Muharram 24 A.H.

Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) was leading prayer when he was stabbed. As the attacker was fleeing, he attacked anyone who was in his way and killed seven others. He was apprehended and upon realising his fate he passed the knife over his own neck. Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) was informed the attacker was the slave of Mughirah. He gave thanks that his attacker was not a Muslim. Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) was carried home and given something to drink, but when he would swallow it, it would come out from his wound; the Muslims realised that his demise was nigh. Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) also realised this, and sent a message to Hazrat A'ishah requesting that he should be buried by his two friends i.e. the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and Hazrat Abu Bakr^(Allah be pleased with him). She said she had been saving that place for herself but gave her consent for him to be buried there.

SERMON: 15 OCT 2021

Details Surrounding the Martyrdom of Hazrat Umar bin al-Khattab^(Allah be pleased with him)

Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) was attacked at the time of the Fajr prayer. According to some narrations, he was taken home right away, and was in a state of unconsciousness. When he awoke, he asked whether everyone had offered their prayer.

Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) asked for an investigation into who it was that attacked him. It came to be known that Abu Lu'lu', the slave of Mughirah bin Sha'bah was the culprit, and he had attacked others as well.

Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) was not martyred due to any personal quarrel, rather this was done as a result of a plot. A renowned Persian soldier, Hormuzan, who had apparently become a Muslim and was living in Madinah was also a proponent of plotting this scheme. In a way, Abu Lu'lu' was also against Hazrat Umar^{(Allah}

be pleased with him) because the Muslims had conquered his land. This also aggravated him and led him to carry out this deed. Thus he sharpened his knife and dipped it in poison. He showed his knife to Hormuzan who said that anyone attacked with it would surely die.

There was a group of people within Madinah who claimed to be Muslims but were secretly plotting against Islam. This group of people thought that by attacking the leader of Muslims, it would impede upon their unity and thereby weaken Islam. However, it so happened that someone came across the knife even before Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) was martyred, and some even say they saw these three people plotting beforehand. Thus, matters became clear later on and the required actions were taken against the perpetrators.

It is recorded by Hazrat Umar's^(Allah be pleased with him) son that when his father was attacked, he was beside him. The people asked Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) to appoint a Khalifa after him. He replied saying that there was precedent of someone better than him, i.e. Hazrat Abu Bakr^(Allah be pleased with him) who appointed his successor. However, he said there was also the precedent of someone even greater than him, i.e. the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), who did not explicitly appoint his successor. Hazrat Umar's^(Allah be pleased with him) son knew after his father used this example, that he would not appoint his successor.

When Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) was attacked, the pain was excruciating. Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) was assured that the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had been pleased with him, as had Hazrat Abu Bakr^(Allah be pleased with him) and the companions of the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) said that this was only by the grace of Allah.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II ^(Allah be pleased with him) has explained one aspect of the promise of God in relation to Khilafat is, that He will change their state of fear into a state of peace. Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) himself prayed to be martyred in Madinah and this prayer was accepted. Therefore it cannot be said that his fear was not turned into peace, because he never feared martyrdom in the first place. In fact, this prayer was accepted in a way that Hazrat Umar's^(Allah be pleased with him) desire for martyrdom was fulfilled, and it was done so without a foreign army attacking Madinah, thus keeping the Muslims safe.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^(Allah be pleased with him) said that prior to the martyrdom, a case was brought before Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) for a very small amount, in which one of the sides was the same person who would go on to become his killer. In this case, Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) made a just decision, and this happened to be against Abu Lu'lu'. This enraged him a great deal, and later he went on to martyr Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him). Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^(Allah be pleased with him) explained that even though the decision was regarding a small amount, the simple fact that the decision made was not in his favour enraged him so much that he went on to kill him.

Before he passed away, Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) asked his son about the amount which he owed in debt. This debt had not been incurred due to personal needs, rather it was as a result of tending and caring for the poor and spending his money on them. Hazrat Umar^(Allah be pleased with him) instructed his son on how to repay this debt, and very soon after his demise, his son repaid his father's debt.

Progress of Islam Ahmadiyyat

"Desist (your opposition), and fear Allah's wrath. Remember that your opposition has a stamp upon it, because if Allah was with you, you would have much support, and only one person's prayer would have finished me.

Not a single one of your prayers has been accepted in the heavens. In fact, the effect of your prayers against me has caused you to decline day by day. Can you not see that you continue to decline while I continue to succeed?

If you were in a superior level, would it be the case that you could continue to decline, and we continue to succeed?"

The Promised Messiah.

ANNOUNCEMENT



The Compilation of the History of Majlis Ansarullah UK

We are delighted to announce that Majlis Ansarullah UK is compiling its History. We would like you to help us in this regard. If you have any material related to the History of Majlis Ansarullah UK please send it to the address below.

Sarai Ansar,
Mr Shakil Ahmad Butt
(To: Chairman Committee,
History of Majlis Ansarullah UK)
33 Gressenhall Road, London, SW18 5QH
Or E-Mail: History.AnsarUK@gmail.com

You can send us

1. Historic Photo (Please also provide time, event and names of people in photo)
2. If your father or grandfather came to UK between 1950 - 1980 and he was a member of Ansarullah during that time, send us his photo with brief introduction and also write if he performed any duty in Ansarullah.
3. Please have a look at old Jama'ati Photos in your home, you may find a historic photo.
4. Any incident related to the History of Ansarullah UK. Any published material.

38th Annual Ijtema

Majlis Ansarullah UK

Introduction

Following the success of the Jalsa Salana UK this year in the wake of the pandemic, Majlis Ansarullah UK became the first of the auxiliary organisations to hold its annual Ijtema. This was held on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September 2021 at the Baitul Futuh Mosque complex. The theme of this 38th Ijtema of Majlis Ansarullah was Taqwa - Righteousness.

Inaugural Address

The event began with the flag hoisting ceremony on Saturday morning at about 10am followed by the inaugural address by the Amir UK Mr Rafiq Ahmed Hayat. Amir Sahib began by acknowledging the difficult year that had passed due to Covid, but cautioned that the pandemic was not over. At some Jama'at events, due to carelessness, cases of Covid had resulted. Therefore, it was imperative, he urged that social distancing and other safety measures are strictly observed when holding such events. Amir Sahib reminded members of the freedom of faith they enjoy – a freedom denied to Ahmadis in Pakistan who are still suffering worsening persecution. However, all the freedoms we have in this country can potentially take us away from God. It was important for us to follow the instructions given by Huzoor on all matters to safeguard us from the pitfalls that exist and ensure we are always conducting ourselves in the best manner and earning the pleasure of Allah.



Amir Sahib pointed out that one of the consequences of Covid had been that our children have not been able to maintain a connection with the Jama'at and their local mosque for the best part of two years. That connection needed to be re-built and a concerted effort was required for this. Amir Sahib proceeded to mention the dangers of social media and how it was badly influencing our children. China, he said, had recently limited children in their country for playing

games to just 3 hours a week, as they had come to recognise their ill effects. If children are spending more than 6 hours a day in front of a screen, then they are classed as addicts and such activity will have an adverse bearing on their lives. There was one report of a married Ahmadi couple who didn't sit in the same room together, but in separate rooms and texted each other. Such is the bad influence of technology on their lives that it deprives us of positive social interaction. Some young people expect instant gratification on social media and when they don't get it, they become depressed. Thus our children need to be attached to the Jama'at and the tarbiyyat of our children should be the focus of our life. Amir Sahib concluded by providing members with an update of the Baitul Futuh mosque complex project.

Competitions & Events First Day

The inauguration was followed by academic competitions held in the complex while the sports events took place in the grounds over the road. Three workshops were also held which were:

1. How to take up Cycling (AMEA Cycling Club)
2. Making a Will
3. Health Matters

During the afternoon session participants had the opportunity to listen to speeches by scholars of the Jama'at. Qaid Talim Maulana Raja Burhan Ahmad spoke on the importance of reading books while Mr Asif Basit from MTA International addressed the audience on '*How to Protect our Next Generation from Negative Effects of Social Media*'. Qaid Tarbiyyat Fazalur Rehman Nasir also spoke. His subject was *The Importance of Wasiyyat*.

The final period of the first day included a talk on the upcoming Charity Walk for Peace, Prize Distribution and a Poetry session was hosted by Mr Mubarak Ahmed Siddiqi.

Second Day Events

The morning session on the second day was devoted



to further speeches on important subjects. The topic of Responsibilities of Ansarullah in Upbringing of Children was covered by Maulana Ataul Mujeeb Rashed Naib Amir and Missionary In charge UK and Maulana Akhlaq Anjum also gave an inspiring address on the Blessings of Khilafat.

Sadr Majlis Ansarullah UK, Dr Ch Ijazur Rahman also addressed the Ijtema. He listed what had been learnt as a result of the pandemic. We learnt how to get in contact with each other when the physical meetings were not allowed. We acquired the know-how of keeping in touch and holding meetings without physical contact through Zoom and teleconference platforms where attendances were even higher. Also, when at home, Jama'at members were able to offer Jumma with their families and their congregational prayers.

Despite concerns over job losses due to the pandemic, there was no adverse impact on collections and Majlis Ansarullah UK was able to meet its financial budget. The reduced expenses of the Majlis enabled it to save more funds and pay our loan back for the guest house that had been purchased near Islamabad.

Sadr Sahib's address was followed by Prize Distribution and a presentation on the Benefits & Blessings of the Masroor Eye Institute.

Concluding Address by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V

The highlight of the Ijtema was the concluding address delivered by Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V.

Huzoor spoke from the brand-new MTA Studios in Islamabad, Tilford while the majority of the participants joined from the Baitul Futuh venue.

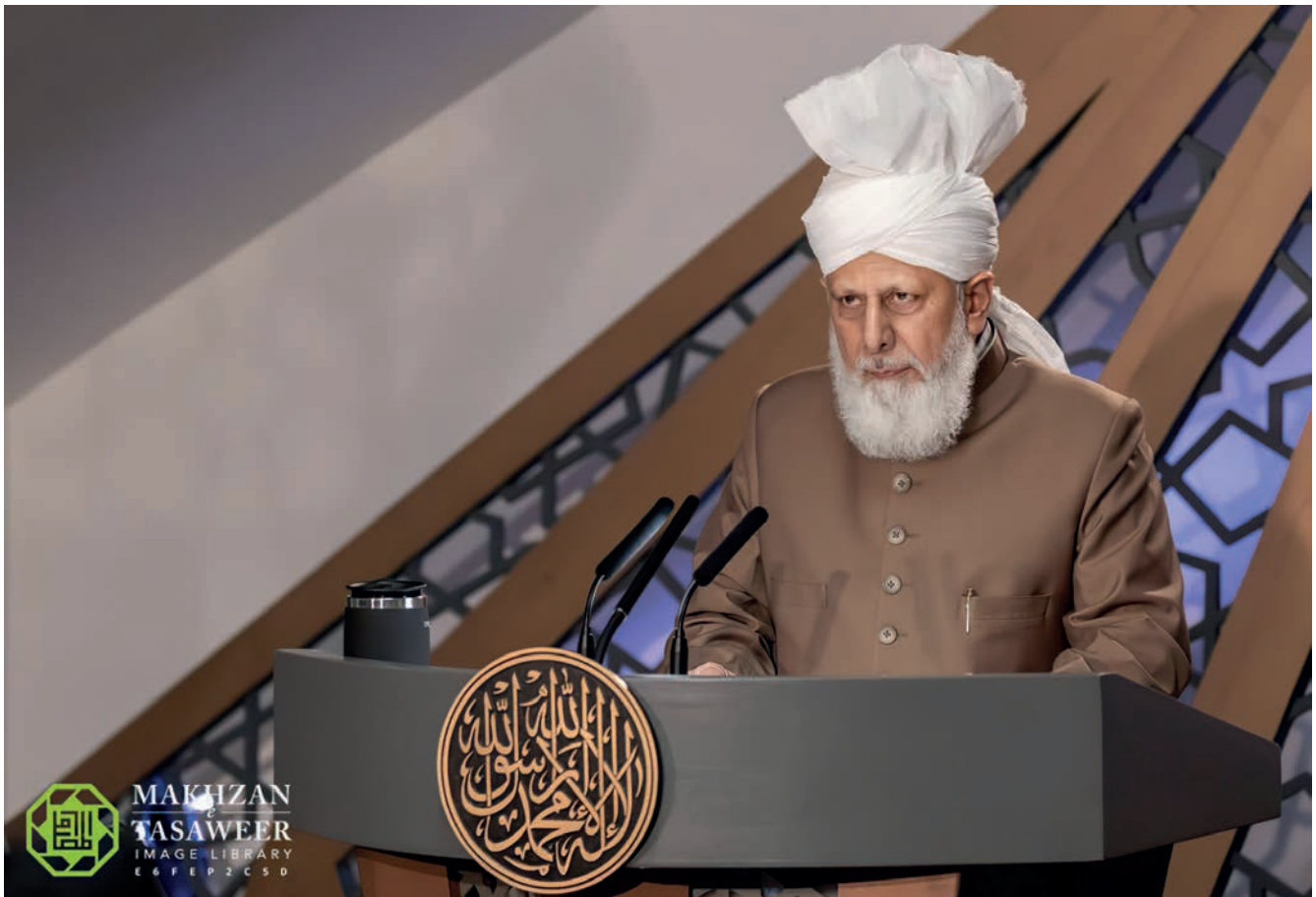
During his address Huzoor Aqdas spoke in detail about the standards of righteousness and sacrifice that the members of Majlis Ansarullah should strive to attain as outlined by the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him). Huzoor highlighted the heavy responsibility that lay upon Ansar to understand and fulfil the spirit of 'Ansarullah'. Huzoor Anwar stated,

"On one occasion the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) said that when the prophets^(peace be upon them) asked 'Who is it that will help me in taking people towards Allah the Almighty?' it was because it is the law of nature that to complete grand and important tasks there is the need of helpers. Such great tasks cannot be completed by just one person. Moreover, even though the Prophets manifested the highest standards of reliance and trust upon God, according to this law of nature they still also called upon helpers."

"Therefore you who call yourselves 'Ansarullah' (The helpers of God) must always keep this at the forefront of your mind that you can only truly be called 'Ansarullah' when you answer the call of the Imam of this Age, the appointed one of God, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, and are not just Ansarullah by name. Rather, be those who sincerely raise slogans that 'we are the helpers of Allah', whilst understanding this spirit as well."

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V explained that living up to the pledge of Ansarullah and being true helpers of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) requires self-assessment and a great reformation of one's individual state. In this regard Huzoor explained,

"In order to fulfil our pledges of being Ansarullah, and in order to be the true helpers of the Promised



Messiah^(peace be upon him), in the completion of this great and far-reaching work, we must enter the field with purpose and endeavour. Only then can we be true Ansarullah. Mere verbal claims of being so are hollow and meaningless. Rather, we must reflect upon our actual state."

"The task of propagating the message of Islam to the corners of the Earth is no easy feat. For this we must deepen our relationship with God, increase the standards of our righteousness, strive to increase our knowledge and endeavour to live our lives in accordance with the commandments of Allah the Almighty."

During his address, Hazrat Amirul Momineen narrated several extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) regarding the lofty standards that Ahmadi Muslims should strive to attain. Narrating one such incident, Huzoor Aqdas related,

"On one occasion the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) stated that people have now ventured far from the truth of Islam and that they have no idea what the truth of Islam is. True life in Islam requires a sort of death, in the form of hardship. But in the end, only he who attains this is truly alive. It is said in the

sayings of the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that man considers the desires and luxuries of this world as heaven even though they are, in reality, hell, whilst the righteous person endures difficulties in the path of God and this is heaven."

Huzoor proceeded to advise on the issue of worship and the need for its proper undertaking with the words of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) who states that worship should be coloured in the personal love of an individual for Allah the Almighty.

Quoting the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him), Hazrat Amirul Momineen said,

"I believe in heaven and hell and that they are a reality and that their punishments, blessings and pleasures are all true. But I say that man should not perform the worship of God on the basis of heaven or hell. Rather, he should do so because of his personal connection and love with Allah..."

"Does a mother care for her child in the hope that when the child grows older, he will feed her? No! Rather her love is pure. To such an extent that if a king was to instruct her, that if you neglect this child and it dies you shall not be punished in any way, rather will be given a reward, would she be happy with this

command or would she rebuke the king? This is pure love, and it is in this spirit that one should worship Allah the Almighty, not out of a desire of any reward or fear of punishment."

Highlighting the importance of practicing what one preaches, Huzoor stated,

"A name itself is of little value. If you are Muslim only by name or are Ansarullah only by name – it means nothing, until and unless your words and your actions are not one and the same."

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V reminded the Ansar to study the Holy Qur'an to ascertain the commandments and prohibitions set out by Allah the Almighty.

Huzoor explained the importance of unifying one's words and actions and the importance of one's own example when exhorting others in light of verse 4, chapter 103 of the Holy Qur'an which read, 'Exhort one another to preach truth and exhort one another to be steadfast'.

Narrating a story told by the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) in this regard, Huzoor related,

"A person having stayed in the company of a Maulvi and hearing his exhortations of piety and spirituality had become convinced to convert to Islam. One day the person who was due to convert came across that same cleric drinking alcohol and his heart became hardened, and he stopped. He said that this cleric tells me good and pious things and tells me about the detriment of alcohol yet he himself is sitting here drinking alcohol and so he thought to himself one should stay away from such a religion."

Speaking on the subject of tabligh Huzoor continued,

"One should not just convey the message of Islam with their words, rather they should do so with their actions. They should convince others with their personal examples, by remaining steadfast and guiding others with patience. One should not become frustrated in the face of opposition. So, these two principles must always be kept in mind when conveying Islam's teachings: to create unity in one's actions and teachings, and secondly to act with patience, consistency and self-control."

Hazrat Amirul Momineen reminded members about the importance of spreading the message of Islam and of availing the opportunities and freedoms given by the law in this country to do so, especially



considering the restrictions faced by Ahmadi Muslims in certain other countries of the world.

"Here, there are many opportunities to convey the message of Islam freely. If, in some other countries, there are obstacles in our way and the law and governments hinder us, then why should we not take advantage in those nations where we are free to do so?"

"Thus, those people who are living freely in these countries who have the opportunity to peacefully spread Islam should strive to do so to an even greater extent than before and prove by their own actions that Islam is that true religion that can bring the world to the right path and that can deliver it to salvation."

Towards the end of the address, Huzoor Aqdas reiterated the need for Ahmadi Muslims to fervently engage in prayer, and to understand that the essence of life itself is mindful and heart felt prayer to Allah the Almighty where one prays as if he is seeing God, or at least as if God is seeing him.



At the end of his address, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad announced the inauguration of the new MTA International TV Studios in Islamabad. Huzoor prayed that may it be a source of blessings and help in propagating the true message of Islam to the world. More than 1570 people from across the UK had participated in the Ijtema whilst many others tuned in virtually. The event was finally concluded with a silent prayer led by Huzoor Anwar.

Ijtema Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK 2021



Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK organised its 2021 Ijtema on the 19th and 20th of September at the Old Park Farm in Kingsley Farm near Alton. As many as 3200 Khuddam and Aftfal attended the event in person along with a large number who participated virtually.

The Ijtema was inaugurated by Amir UK following the flag hoisting where Amir Sahib hoisted the Lawaye Ahmadiyyat and Sadr Khuddamul Ahmadiyya raised the Union Jack.

In his address Amir Sahib stated that during the pandemic and lockdowns, people have lost some contact with the Jama'at. However, in the UK families have been holding Juma prayers and congregational prayers in their homes to keep up their personal relationship with Allah.

Most people present today at the Ijtema are born Ahmadis. Non-Ahmadis are causing problems for Ahmadis everywhere in the world and even here in the UK. So it is very important that all Ahmadis should know about their faith and how we differ from other Muslims, so we can defend our faith.

As Ahmadis we should reflect upon the standards set

by the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and the purpose of life. The purpose is not to become highly educated and buy a big home, big car and have 2 holidays a year. This would be a very meaningless objective for life. The purpose is to develop our relationship with our Creator, supplicate to Him and win His love. We have to develop this relationship first and only then can we help other people achieve this.

Amir Sahib then spoke about the issue of social media saying there are many positives drawn from this, such as the ease with which we can listen to Huzoor's sermons on a mobile phone. However, there are also many dangers, Amir Sahib warned. Today, the average age of a child receiving a phone is 10 years old. Bill Gates (former CEO of Microsoft) has stopped his children obtaining phones until they are 14. Mark Zuckerberg (CEO of Facebook) will not allow his daughter to open a Facebook account until she is 13. Both these individuals have realised the dangers of social media.





Young people are being affected by social media and are not developing their communication skills, as they can only take things in small bites. This will affect people in their relationships in the future with their wives, family and friends. Ahmadis are also being affected by conspiracy theories and fake news on social media. For example, some people are refusing to be vaccinated as they believe conspiracy theories against vaccination. So, parents should control and limit their children's exposure to social media. After these words of guidance, Amir Sahib closed the inauguration session by leading everyone with a silent prayer.

After this opening, academic competitions began in the Ijtema Gah and the dining marquee with sports events taking place in the fields. The Atfal organised their programmes in the adjacent marquee.

This year the theme of the Ijtema was "The Power of Durood Shareef" and as such was a spiritually motivating one in educating members

on the importance of Allah's divinely appointed Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). As such the ijtema managed to touch the souls of the deep lovers of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). In keeping with the precautions necessary, careful social distancing measures and masks covering each face were observed.

The highlight of the Ijtema was the concluding address delivered by Hazrat Amirul Momineen at the final session delivered in person. In this Huzoor spoke about the real objectives of the Ijtema and the importance of understanding the spirit of service and duty. Huzoor stated,

"It is very important to recognise that the primary objective of the Ijtema is not merely for the Khuddam and Atfal to gather together and enjoy each other's company. Rather, the true and overriding objective of the Ijtema is the spiritual, moral and religious development of the participants."



“The Ijtema provides a place for you to take a step away from the material world and to focus your time and energy on absorbing and experiencing those speeches, competitions and activities that will increase your piety and standards of righteousness.”

Huzoor Anwar explained that another key objective of the Ijtemas for all the auxiliaries within the Jama’at is to ensure that every individual recognises and realises their place, purpose and value within the Community.

“The various auxiliary organisations hold their Ijtemas to spiritually motivate their members through activities that are specially tailored for them, according to their age and understanding... They serve to address the particular challenges and issues that are faced by the members of each auxiliary organisation and to help them overcome those challenges so that they can fulfil the commands of God Almighty in the very best way.”

“Furthermore, the Ijtemas are held to ensure that every single Ahmadi, both male and female, and regardless of their age, ethnicity or social background, understand that they are each of great value and importance to the Jama’at ... Indeed, all Khuddam and Atfal should recognise that they are of great value and that each Ahmadi is a precious member of the Jama’at of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him).”

Having explained the incredible value that each and every individual is given in the Jama’at, Huzoor

impressed the need for that same value to be recognised and justified as well stating,

“This value is not to be taken for granted, rather it can only remain intact and be justified if you recognise that each of you has a role to play in upholding the dignity of the Community of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) and ensuring its continued progress and prosperity.”

Speaking specifically about the pivotal role that Khuddam had to play, Huzoor stated,

“It is a fundamental truth that the children and youth of each nation have a great role to play in the progress and wellbeing of their community. Certainly, a community whose children and youth are instilled with a spirit of service and devotion to their cause are those that are destined to scale the highest peaks of success and progress.”

During his address Huzoor Anwar further spoke about the need for all auxiliary organisations to work together. Extending this onus of responsibility beyond officials and office bearers, he stated,

“Every member of the Community, irrespective of whether they are an office bearer, should always reflect upon the fact that they have a personal responsibility to the mission of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him). Each of you has taken the Bai’at [pledge of allegiance] of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) and pledged to prioritise your faith and religion over all material and worldly matters. Such pledges on their own are meaningless and so you must make



them meaningful by making every possible effort to fulfil your pledge.”

“You must focus upon the grand objective of the Jama’at, which is to spread the message of Islam to all parts of the world and to convey its teachings of peace, love and security to all peoples and nations.”

Directly addressing the Khuddam, Huzoor instructed,

“For the overall success of the Community, it is essential that Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya fulfils its role and duties in the best possible way. If the members of Khuddam display the highest morals, give priority to their faith, maximise their religious and secular knowledge and, above all, are those who act upon the commandments of the Holy Qur’an and the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and are fully obedient to the Khalifa of the time then the rate of progress of the Jama’at will increase manifold.”

Hazrat Amirul Momineen impressed the need for Khuddam to recognise their pivotal role in the raising of the next generation stating,

“Many of you have been blessed with children of your own and so are now directly responsible for the next generation of our Community. The true role and value of a father is illustrated by the saying of the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that there can be no greater gift that a father bestows to his child other than inculcating within them the best morals and virtues. If you truly wish to bequeath the best gift to your children, you must first look at yourself and ensure that you are acting virtuously and are a true role model for them.”

“Do not think that your behaviour or conduct is something that does not impact others. Rather, the next generation is looking directly towards you and so do not let them down...if they go astray, you will be held responsible. “

Reminding all members of the Jama’at about the zeal and fervour needed in their efforts to set their own examples to the world, Huzoor said,

“Always remember that we are the community of those people who have accepted the Imam of the Age, the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) and who claim that we will spread the true teachings of the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to the corners of the earth...Therefore, we cannot afford to relax or rest easy until we are certain that every member of our Community leaves no stone unturned in their efforts to gain the nearness of Allah the Almighty.”

“Just as the sun rises without fail each morning, our each and every day should give rise to glad tidings of the spiritual progress and advancement of the members of the Community... Until that is our state, we cannot be content.”

Hazrat Amirul Momineen further spoke about the importance and ethos of the motto of Khuddamul Ahmadiyya that was given by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^(Allah be pleased with him) stating,

“On your banners, you proudly display the slogan bestowed to Khuddamul Ahmadiyya by Hazrat Musleh Maud ^(may Allah be pleased with him) that ‘Nations cannot be reformed without the reformation of the youth... However, these are not just words or a motto to take pride in but should be a wake-up call for the members of Khuddam and should motivate and inspire you.”

“This slogan is displayed prominently at your Khuddam events so that these profound words become deeply ingrained in the hearts and minds of every Khadim. Indeed, each Khadim, whether they are an office bearer or not, should view these words as a personal challenge for them to live up to, wherein they must play their role in the reformation of their nation by reforming themselves. Hence, you



must strive to attain the highest moral and spiritual standards and to be a true asset for your nation and community, otherwise just to repeat these words without any action is utterly meaningless."

Huzoor explained that in order to truly serve and sacrifice for one's 'faith, country and nation' as all members of Khuddamul Ahmadiyya proclaim in their pledge, the first and most imperative action is the offering of the five daily prayers. Elaborating upon how one should perform the prayers, Hazoor Aqdas advised,

"You must be regular in offering the five daily prayers. And do not speedily offer them without due attention. Rather, your prayers should be offered carefully, with proper concentration and with a true love of Allah embedded within your heart."

"Use that time of prayer to build your relationship with Allah and do not just pray for yourself or your family but also pray for your faith, for the Community and nation."

Huzoor offered practical advice on how one can bring about a personal reformation within oneself when he said,

"If every month, you make a resolute effort to leave aside one harmful thing, whilst seeking to adopt one quality or virtue taught by the Qur'an, then over the course of a year, you will be saved from a multitude of vices and will have replaced them with many virtues."

The more you tread upon the path of virtue and righteousness, the more you will seek out goodness and avoid evil because goodness begets goodness, whilst evil begets evil."

Hazrat Amirul Momineen made a special mention of the quality of truthfulness and quoted the words of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) in this respect stating,

"One must leave aside all forms of idol worship and falsehood. In fact, falsehood is also an idol and he who relies upon it is he who abandons trust in God. So, by speaking falsehood a person forsakes God."

Huzoor Anwar mentioned the importance of being kind, compassionate and considerate towards others,

"For a nation or community to be strong it requires its people to be united and to care for one another and to share in each other's joys and sorrows. Regrettably, sometimes very minor things or insignificant quarrels escalate and cause serious issues and fights amongst those who should be like brothers."

"So, always treat each other with love and affection and seek to establish true harmony amongst yourselves. If we wish to enter the shade of Allah's Mercy and Grace, we must show love to one another. We must leave aside all petty grudges and be compassionate and forgiving. This is how we can establish true bonds of mutual love and harmony in order to gain the love of Allah the Almighty."

Huzoor Aqdas spoke about the crucial need for



all those members in education to pay particular attention to their studies and to excel in whatever field they are pursuing. He said,

"All students, whatever their age or level, should work diligently and seek to achieve the best possible results and, as you progress to adulthood, you should strive to reach the apex of your chosen profession. Indeed, our Ahmadi Muslim youths should seek to enter every good profession or career, whether linked to government service or otherwise and to reach the highest levels."

"It should not be that our Khuddam leave education after their GCSEs or A-levels in the pursuit of some easy money, rather they should enter higher education and gain the best possible qualifications."

Motivating the Khuddam members to strive even harder in this endeavour Huzoor presented a challenge to the male members of the Jama'at announcing,

"In recent times, it has generally been observed in our Community that our girls are excelling boys in education. In light of this, I lay down the challenge to the members of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya to strive to redress this imbalance and to endeavour to achieve the very best results in your academic careers."

And added,

"If you are successful, it will not only be to your benefit but it will also benefit the wider society and will be a means of pride for our Community and upholding its dignity and honour. Your success will also, Insha'Allah, prove to be the guarantor for the academic success of our future generations, who will learn from your example. In this way, a perpetual cycle of academic excellence will, Insha'Allah, be established within our youth."

Concluding, Huzoor prayed,

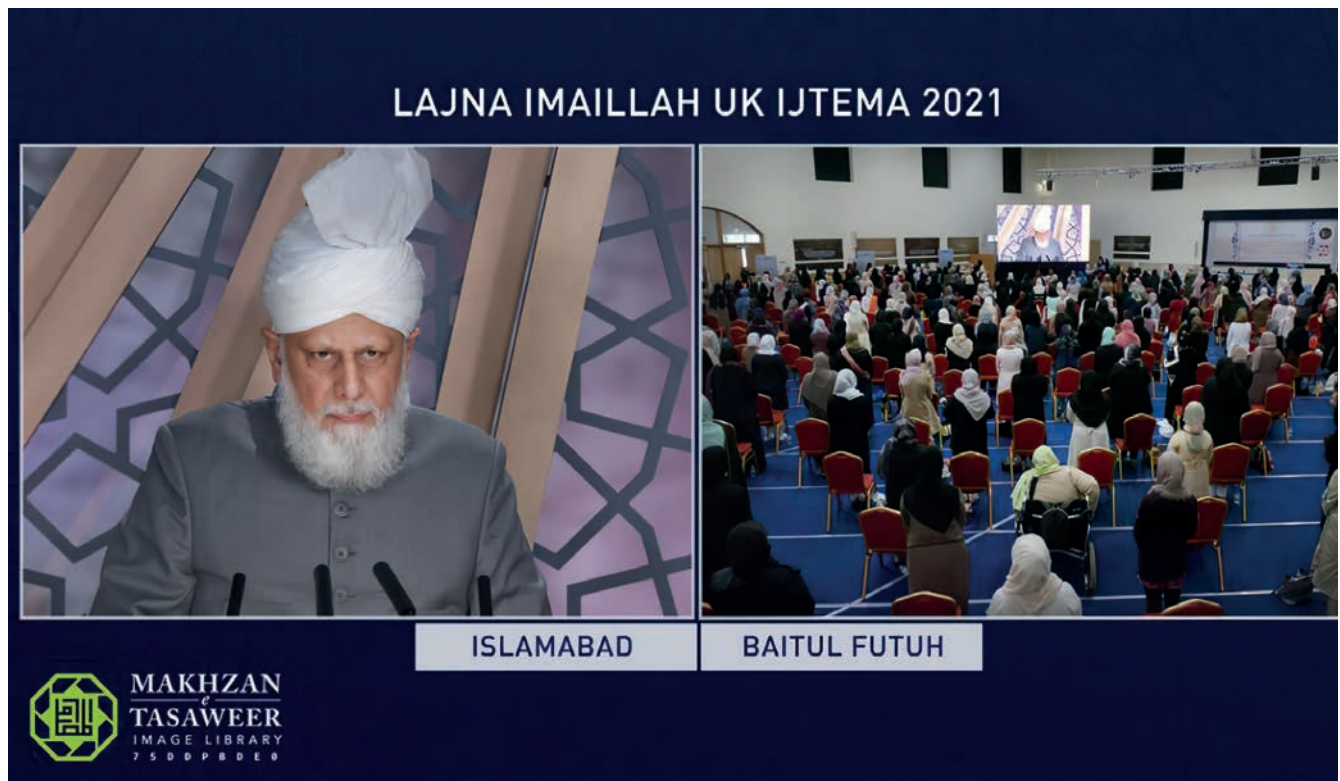
"May Allah the Almighty grant all of you the capability to truly comprehend your immense responsibilities and to fulfil your obligations as members of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya. May you fulfil the rights owed to Allah the Almighty and His Creation and be those who illuminate the name of our Community in the world and who play a distinguished role in fulfilling the mission of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). It is my sincere and ardent prayer that you are successful in this. May Allah the Almighty continue to bless Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya in all respects. Ameen."

Following this address, Hazrat Amirul Momineen launched the brand new 'Salat Hub' web app, designed to make learning the Salat interactive and engaging.

The Ijtema concluded with a silent prayer led by Huzoor Aqdas.

Lajna Imaillah Ijtema UK

2021



The 42nd annual Ijtema of Lajna Imaillah UK was held on the 25th and 26th September at Baitul Futuh. In view of the pandemic, appropriate precautions were taken with temperature checks and lateral flow tests being taken on site. Members were invited to book their attendance on set sessions to help maintain social distancing in the space available. In this way an attendance of 3,794 was achieved.

The theme this year was 'Mercy for Mankind' and this was reflected throughout the programme which included presentations on aspects of the life of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) including the Treaty of Medina and how he is perceived by non Muslims as well as an impressive documentary that was shown to Nasirat charting the life of the great prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). There was also a strong educational focus at the Ijtema with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Research Association (AMWRA) running various activities and there was a planetarium put up as well which drew much interest and excitement. Sessions for self defence were also held during the Ijtema.

The highlight of the Ijtema was the final session. It was presided by Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V from the MTA studios in Islamabad, Tilford while the Lajna were gathered at Baitul Futuh. Tilawat was by Sabiha Khan after which Huzoor Aqdas led the Lajna in their pledge. A nazm by Rizwana Ahmad followed and then Sadr Lajna Imaillah UK presented a brief report of the Ijtema. A short video encapsulating what had taken place during the Ijtema was shown.

In his address, Hazrat Amirul Momineen spoke about several key issues facing the world including the dangers of materialism, social media, freedom of religion, the means of positive integration of immigrants and the role of Ahmadi Muslims to convey Islam's peaceful teachings across the world. Huzoor reflected on the pace at which many technological changes have occurred especially in mass communication and said,

"In today's world, human knowledge and understanding has rapidly progressed in all secular fields and, as a result, communication is

now extremely advanced and easy in comparison to previous eras. Distances have eroded through modern means of travel and through the various means of electronic and digital communication, such as the telephone, radio, television and the internet. This technological revolution that has taken place would not have seemed plausible even half a century ago. The rapid advance of communication, through the development of the smartphone and other smart technologies, could not have been envisaged even ten or fifteen years ago."

Explaining the impact that these advancements have had on society, Huzoor Anwar outlined how in the blink of an eye people living in remote parts can connect with others from around the world and that, this had enabled people to "exhibit and promote their beliefs, values and culture" to people across the globe.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V also explained that such technological advancements have not only been a force for good but have fuelled materialism and aggravated tensions in society.

"When they, who are living the most impoverished of lives, see the precipitous development and the luxuries afforded to those living in other parts of the world, it naturally leads to feelings of restlessness and grief at their own desperate plight. Therefore, where satellite technology and the internet has turned the world into a global village, it cannot be said that it has only proven a force for good."

Huzoor Anwar explained that modern technologies were exacerbating rifts in society between the rich and the poor.

"At a time when mankind considers itself more civilised and developed than ever before, the reality is that majority of people in the world are continuing to live at the base poverty level or even below it. Adding petrol to the fire of their torment is the fact that they are now constantly exposed to images of the affluent lifestyles and immense purchasing power of people in developed countries, whilst buying even the most basic essentials for their families remains a daily struggle for them."

"Thus, instead of bridging the gaps that exist in society, modern technology has served only to shine a glaring light on the inequalities and injustices that exist. In turn, this has naturally fermented feelings



of anguish, anxiety and discontent amongst those who are forced to endure great adversity... So, where on the one hand, rich governments and their people reassure themselves that satellite television and the internet is providing people living in poor countries with entertainment, the reality is that the technology has served to drive an even greater wedge between the haves and the have nots."

Huzoor explained how materialism and all-encompassing consumerism continued to erode the social and moral fabric of society.

"We are living in a time of ever-rising materialism and worldliness where, despite being intelligent and despite having eyes to see with, most people are living a life of spiritual and moral blindness in which they consider anything that shimmers or glistens to be made of gold. They fail to realise how superficial they have become and remain ignorant of the far-reaching consequences and harm caused by rampant materialism."

"They will see how all that they have considered as good and progressive has actually triggered a spiritual and moral malaise the like of which perhaps the world has never seen before. They will be forced to admit that the riches of the world have left them spiritually penniless and morally bankrupt."

Huzoor Anwar mentioned the negative impact on mental health that this spiritual corrosion and seething sense of greed was having. He said,

"Increasingly, people are suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental health issues on a far greater scale than ever before. It is my firm belief that the root cause of this is that they have been trapped by their materialistic pursuits and cravings and, above all, because they have abandoned faith in God Almighty. We are living in a world where no



matter how rich someone is, they always want more. Instead of being grateful for what they have, they are preoccupied by what they do not. Where men have been corrupted by an extreme desire for wealth, women are also certainly involved in this unholy race."

"These vain pursuits serve only to increase frustration and anxiety and are leading mankind towards darkness rather than to enlightenment. If people living in the under-developed world are being adversely affected by what they see on TV or the internet, we can only imagine how much harm is being inflicted on people living here at the very epicentre of materialism, greed and consumer culture."

Huzoor Aqdas spoke about the need for parents to be mindful of what children are watching and consuming through the plethora of available media platforms in the modern day. This, he pointed out, is an "extremely harrowing state of affairs" whereby parents are often wholly unaware of the damaging content their children are viewing on their phones and tablets, all the while hiding this from their parents. Huzoor said,

"It is common knowledge that these [social media] platforms are constructed in a way that makes them addictive and, just like any addiction, the results are

often horrific. For example, very recently, a report by the Wall Street Journal found that Instagram, which is owned by Facebook, tried to cover up its own internal study because it proved that access to its platform was causing huge levels of anxiety and other dangerous mental health issues amongst children and teenagers. It found that amongst those children in the UK who had suicidal thoughts, 13% admitted that it was their use of Instagram that had driven them to consider taking their own life."

Huzoor outlined the need for Ahmadi Muslims to stay true to their identity and objectives, particularly since many Ahmadis living here had migrated here as a result of fleeing religious persecution in other countries. Huzoor said,

"All Ahmadi Muslims living in the comfort of the West, should recognise their good fortune and realise that a great religious responsibility lies upon their shoulders. The very reason for your coming here or your parents or grandparents was so you would be able to practice your religion freely and so it is incumbent upon you to strive to fulfil this objective rather than becoming immersed in the material ways of Western nations."

Speaking particularly about the plight of Ahmadis in Pakistan, Huzoor stated,

"Irrespective of their place in society, whether working as businessmen, professionals, labourers or if they are in education, Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan continue to be the victims of grave persecution and injustice. Even very small Ahmadi Muslim children, in Year 1 or Year 2, are being harassed by other children or their teachers and this is having a damaging effect on them. In terms of higher education, certain professors and members of faculty at Pakistani universities are filled with venomous anti-Ahmadi prejudice and bigotry."

"Remember why you have this chance and never forget who you are, rather take pride in your faith and religion. Where you strive to excel in your studies, you must also remember that your faith should take precedence over all worldly and material matters. If your priorities are in order, you will live your lives in a way to be proud of and you will also prove to be of benefit to this country. Strive to be a good citizen and, to achieve this, you must utilise your capabilities, faculties and skills for the benefit of others and play your role in building a better and more harmonious society."

On the issue of integration, Hazrat Amirul Momineen advised,

"You should seek to integrate but, as I have said in the past, integrating and contributing to your country does not require you to violate your moral compass and forsake your religious values. Rather, the way to successfully integrate into Western nations is to contribute to the success of the nation, whilst maintaining your religious identity. Indeed, this should be the hallmark and distinguishing feature of Ahmadi Muslims living in the West. Sacrificing your moral standards and values is not going to help your country in any way."

Speaking of the damaging long-term impact of widespread immorality, Huzoor Anwar stated,

"The tragic reality is that those who consider themselves the most civilised and progressive people of the modern world fail to understand the immense harm and far-reaching consequences of the immodesty and vulgarity that pervades today's society... God knows better when, but one day, they will surely realise the error of their ways and will admit that liberalism has gone too far but, by then, it will be extremely difficult for them to re-establish higher morals in society. Thus, it is the duty of all Ahmadi



Muslims to ensure that they stand up for what is right and to have the courage of their convictions."

And continued,

"If we are successful in achieving this then, when others come to realise their mistakes, we will be ready to guide them and to present them an alternative and better system of morals. Certainly, I hope and pray that our Community will be there to protect society and to arrest its moral decline before it reaches the point of no return."

Speaking about the attainment of true contentment and inner peace, Huzoor referred to the Qur'anic verse where Allah says,

"Aye! It is in the remembrance of Allah that hearts can find comfort."

Based on this verse Huzoor Aqdas explained,

"Certainly, the glitz and glamour of the world can never provide true and lasting contentment, no matter how attractive it appears at first sight. As we ponder over this verse, we know that it is not just a claim of the Holy Quran, rather the lived experience of the righteous and God-fearing members of our community testifies to the fact that true contentment and inner peace is attained through the worship and remembrance of Allah and not through worthless forms of recreation or superficial means of entertainment."

His Holiness outlined that whilst recreation and exercise were certainly of benefit to living a healthy lifestyle, however advised that those activities that 'increase a person's lust for material things' must be avoided. Likening such fruitless activities and engagements to 'salty seawater,' Huzoor Aqdas explained,

"Indeed, superficial and ostentatious pursuits are

akin to salty seawater, which instead of quenching one's thirst, serves only to increase it. A person lacking intelligence and wisdom will keep drinking from the cup of salt-water expecting that it will eventually satiate his thirst. Needless to say, it can never quench a person's thirst, rather it will slowly poison him and ultimately cause his death."

"Alternatively, the best water is that which comes down from the heavens in the shape of rain and which is the means of our life and existence. That fresh water gives life to the soil beneath us and is the means of sustaining all forms of life. We should seek to immerse ourselves in that heavenly, spiritual water that is life-giving and which purifies our soul. It is that sweet water that will sustain us and grant us peace of mind and it can only be attained through the nearness of Allah and by following His commands."

Huzoor Anwar also gave guidance on the importance of modesty explaining that it was a core tenet of Islam stating,

"Ahmadi Muslim women and girls should always remember that, in the name of fashion or following the latest trends, they should not sacrifice their modesty. Ahmadi Muslim women should pay careful attention to protecting their modesty and chastity. Failing to do so is to violate the commands of Allah and those limits established by Islam for the sake of protecting the dignity and virtue of Muslim women." "Keep in mind, that any limits placed upon you by Islam are a means of guarding your honour and protecting you from the everyday risks that exist in society, where women are constantly harassed, abused and exploited."

Huzoor emphasised on the importance of dressing modestly and that Ahmadi Muslim women should never feel any form of complex or insecurity as a result of this.

Huzoor Anwar counselled,

"You should set an example of modesty for others to learn from and demonstrate your power, confidence and self-worth through the manifestation of your faith."

"Certainly, if you have self-confidence and are free from all complexes about your religion it will cast wide open the doors to Tabligh and the spread of Islam in this part of the world, Insha'Allah."

Hazrat Amirul Momineen further advised,

"Always remember that you must not only shield yourselves and your children but you must also play a great and prominent role in conveying the message of Islam throughout the world. It should be your lifelong objective to win the hearts and minds of humanity so that one day, Insha'Allah, the people of the world will all join as one under the banner of the Holy Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)."

"This is the great task given to the Community of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) by Allah the Almighty and it is the foremost duty of Ahmadi Muslim men and women to serve wholeheartedly in this cause. If we want to rise to this challenge and to bring about a spiritual revolution in the world, we must first start by reforming ourselves."

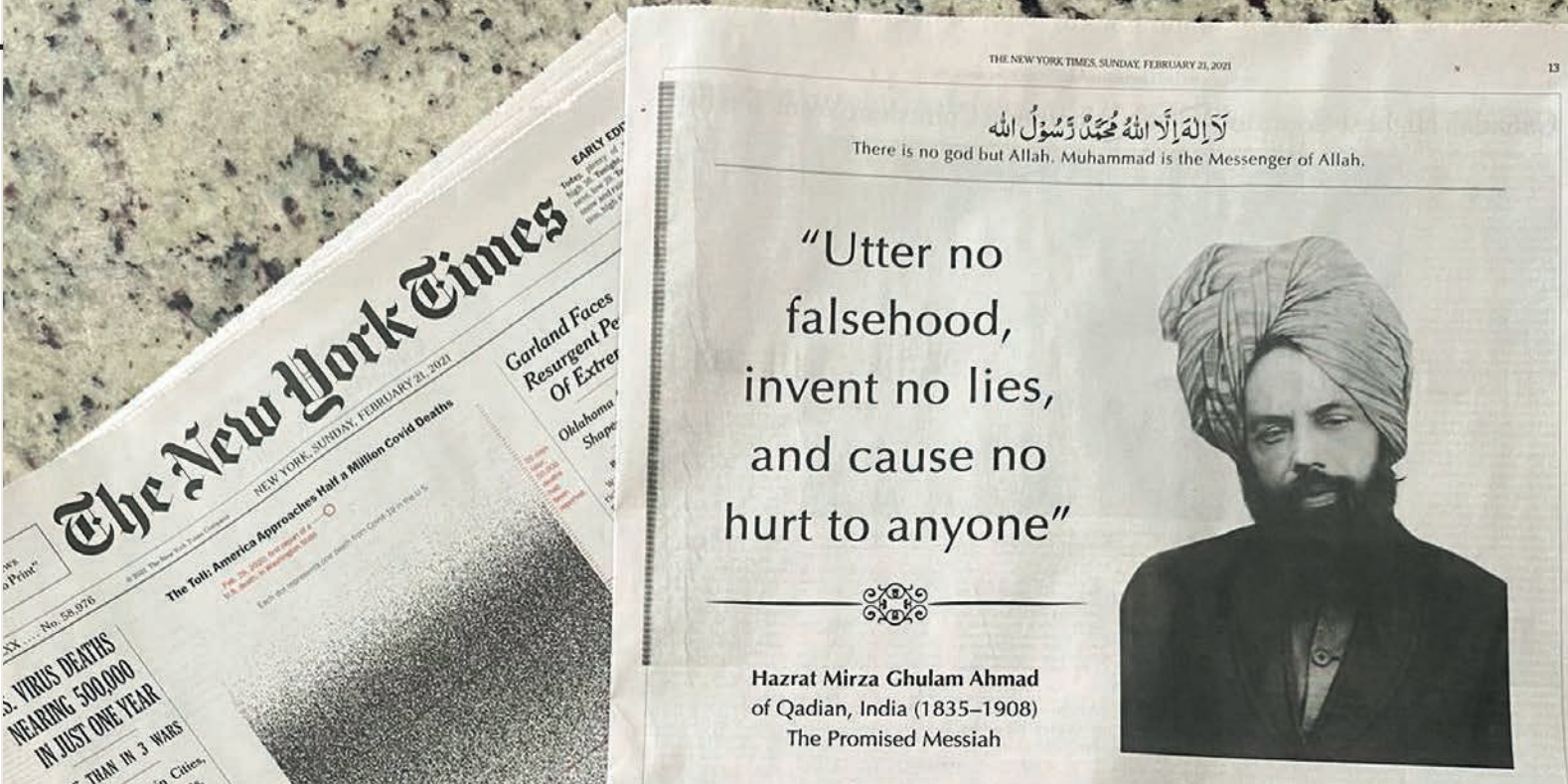
Concluding his inspiring address, Huzoor stated:

"It is up to us to bring about a moral and spiritual revolution in the world and so train your children so that they grow to be ready to take up the mantle of serving the mission of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). May Allah enable all of you to fulfil your duties in the best way and may you all prove to be shining stars of the Jama'at. May Allah the Almighty continue to bless Lajna Imaillah in all respects. Ameen."

Huzoor then led everyone in a silent prayer to bring the Ijtema to a close.

We owe a great deal to the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, for his having grafted in our hearts an unbounded Love for the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

**HAZRAT KHALIFATUL
MASIH III (RH)**



ELEGANCE & SPLENDOUR NATURALLY INFLUENCE MAN

The Promised Messiah (as) said:

"In short, human nature has been instilled with the characteristic that it desires to pursue every form of perfection. You may observe how in the case of modern British craftsmanship, for example, even things like the needle and knife, etc., are held in high regard. These items are preferred immensely over domestic products, even though not few, rather most of these foreign products, are artificially glossed. But even so, their apparent splendour and sheen is so alluring that they dazzle the eyes, and their glow is so captivating that they draw in one's attention. Do you not observe how quickly the sale of gilded artificial jewellery continues to increase? If this merchandise is placed next to genuine goods, the genuine appears to be artificial, while the artificial appears to be genuine. The lustre and glow of these items shines so brightly that our native craftsman are unable to produce a similar likeness. Therefore, even though people are perfectly aware that these goods are coated artificially, this fabrication does not bother them in the least. Observe any of the things they produce, whether domestic clothing or shoes, the educated gentleman expresses an aversion to these things. Why? Only because British goods possess a distinct, outward grace and elegance. These folk process a piece of leather to such an extent that they are able to achieve a softness and glow. Leaving this aside, even something as insignificant as a thread manufactured by these people is immensely attractive. In short, these items have reduced all domestically produced goods to nothing. In fact, I have even heard that certain local chiefs are so averse to domestic products that even their clothes are sent to Paris to be cleaned and they even have their drinking water sent to them from abroad.

What is the hidden cause that underpins such consumer decisions? The fact is that the British produce goods that possess an apparent beauty, lustre and charm. This is why people have turned to them. Although there are other honest people as well, yet people are inclined towards the disbelievers, due to their apparent elegance and splendour. This is the case with morals and deeds as well. Until their splendour and radiance is elevated to such a degree, humankind cannot be influenced. Those who are weak themselves cannot attract others who are weak".



Virtual Meetings held with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V

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

Virtual Meeting of Khuddam From North England and Scotland With Hazrat Amirul Momineen



On 11 September 2021, Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V graciously granted a virtual audience to Khuddam aged 16 to 19 from the North of England and Scotland.

Huzoor Aqdas presided over the virtual session from his office in Islamabad, Tilford and the Khuddam joined from the Darul Amaan Mosque in Manchester. After a formal session beginning with recitation of the Holy Quran, Khuddam were given the opportunity to ask their questions to Huzoor Anwar.

One Khadim enquired from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V about recreational activities during his time in Ghana to which Huzoor replied,

"There was no (time for) recreation. Though, every moment I spent there, whether sitting or standing, moving or doing some work, that was all recreation for me, and I enjoyed every moment there. As you find things here, you could not see those things at that time there. We did not have television, we did not have even a radio and we did not have light most of the time. So the only thing I enjoyed would be that, after coming home from my work, spending

some time with my family and spending some time reading books."

Huzoor was asked if persecution of the Jama'at is going to continue in the future, when Ahmadiyyat spreads in Western countries. Huzoor Aqdas stated,

"When the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community spreads in the Western countries or in any of the rich countries from whom the Pakistani government or the poor countries are getting help and aid, they will stop doing all those atrocities that they are committing nowadays against Ahmadi Muslims. There was a persecution of Christians till the time the Roman king accepted Christianity and after his acceptance of Christianity, all the persecution and atrocities against Christians stopped. So in the same way, if by that time Muslims in some of the Muslim countries – either in Pakistan or somewhere else – did not accept the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community before the Western countries accept it, then they will have to [stop their persecution]."

Hazrat Amirul Momineen explained further,

"Even now, they [the Muslim majority countries persecuting Ahmadi Muslims] are dependent on these Western countries. And at that time [when the Jama'at spreads in the Western countries] they will also be dependent on these Western countries.



As long as they are dependent on these countries, they will have to follow what these countries are saying. Their god is not the One and Omnipotent God. Though, they claim that they believe in One God, but in reality, their god is these Western countries they are following."

Another Khadim from Scotland asked about Huzoor's thoughts on whether Scotland will become independent as a nation and also what His Holiness' favourite place is to visit in Scotland. Huzoor responded,

"I am not a politician. What I believe is that in this present day world, the safety and security of Scotland, England, Wales or Ireland is in joining together and living together to make one country under one banner, one flag. That will be better."

Regarding the question related to his favourite place in Scotland, Huzoor Aqdas said,

"There is one place in the highlands of Scotland which is Portnellan where I have visited and stayed for some time. I like that place. There is Pitlochry where you have a river and the boat and the Falkirk Wheel. Even beyond that on the highlands, the lakes, there are so many things there. Scotland is quite a beautiful place. Wherever I have visited, the places which I have seen, all of them are very beautiful places."

One Khadim asked about Huzoor's analysis of the current state of the world to which Huzoor Anwar said,

"Everywhere you see, there are atrocities, there are cruelties and brutalities that are happening – whether they are being done by the big powers to the poor nations or whether it is within nations or within the Muslim Ummah or within smaller countries. So everywhere there is chaos. We have to let the people of the world understand what are their duties (to God and towards one another). This is the duty of an Ahmadi Muslim and it is a great responsibility on our shoulders. This is why I have been constantly telling people of the world – to the politicians and leaders – that they should change themselves and try to establish true and absolute justice in the world and discharge their duties towards their Creator and their fellow beings. Otherwise, there is no guarantee of what is going to happen and what we can see is a very dark, bleak end of this world."

Virtual Meeting of Khuddam From The South of UK With Hazrat Amirul Momineen



On 4 September 2021, Hazrat Amirul Momineen held a virtual online meeting with students from Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya aged between 16 and 19 from the southern parts of the United Kingdom.

Huzoor presided the meeting from his office in Islamabad, Tilford whilst the students attended from the Baitul Futuh Mosque in London.

Following a formal session starting with recitation of the Holy Qur'an, Khuddam had the opportunity to pose their questions to Huzoor Aqdas regarding their faith and contemporary issues.



One Khadim enquired how one can remain attached to the Jama'at and loyal to the institution of Khilafat. Huzoor said,

"Whenever you hold interactive programmes or discussions, you (Khuddam) should discuss that, being an Ahmadi Muslim, who we are and how we should act and what are our responsibilities? Why did we accept the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him)? The purpose of his advent was to revive the true teachings of Islam and so we should strive to find out what are those true teachings. You should read the Holy Qur'an and find out what are its commandments and instructions and what it has forbidden."

"In this way, you will come to know and recognise the purpose of your life and this should encourage you to remain close to the Jama'at, to fulfil the purpose of your being and also to be close to Khilafat as well, because Khalifa of the time constantly informs you of the true teachings of Islam and what the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) wanted from us. So, this is how you can become closely attached to the Jama'at."

Another student asked how they can attain true and permanent love for the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him),

Huzoor stated,

How can you attain the love of your loved ones? By remembering them. By keeping them in your mind. By doing good for them. By accepting their demands or whatever they say. This is how you attain the love. In the same way, this is how you can attain the love of the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). In the Holy Qur'an, Allah the Almighty instructed the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to tell the people that if they want to attain Allah's love then they must follow his teachings, commandments and injunctions as revealed to him by Allah the Almighty in the Holy Quran. Further, offer Durood upon the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). In this way you will attain the love of the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and Allah will also love you because of this."

Another student asked for advice for young Ahmadi Muslims who live away from home for study at University to which Huzoor said,

"Even if you are in the University you should not just leave your five daily prayers or forget them. You should not become casual in reading and reciting the Holy Qur'an. Rather, make it a point that you recite the Holy Qur'an daily. In University, try to also befriend those boys who are good in nature and pious. Although some of them may not be religious-minded but they are still good in nature and have



good morals. Make them your friends and ensure your company is always good. Always manifest your own good morals to your fellow students. So these are your duties. In this way, alongside your studies you will also be showing people the true teachings of Islam and showing a good example of a good Muslim."

Another Khadim asked about Islam's take on climate change and how it should be tackled. Huzoor Anwar stated,

"Allah the Almighty says that excess of everything is bad. If we are not following what the law of nature requires from us, then the ultimate result will be that we are going to ruin our future, we are going to doom ourselves and our generations."

"[There is pollution] because of the competition between nations, such as between China, India and America. So, every country has their own vested interest. They are not thinking about their future generations. So apart from properly planning how much fuel emission should be allowed and how can we control it – alongside it we should encourage and even enforce countries to plant more trees so the air pollution becomes less and in this way, it will help us to reduce climate change."

Virtual Meeting of Khuddam From Midlands of UK With Hazrat Amirul Momineen



On 5 September 2021, Hazrat Amirul Momineen granted students from Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya aged between 16 and 19 from the Midlands a virtual meeting.

Huzoor presided the session from his office in

Islamabad, Tilford whilst 60 students joined from the Darul Barakat Mosque in Birmingham.

Following a formal session starting with recitation of the Holy Qur'an, participants were offered the opportunity to ask their questions regarding their faith and contemporary issues.

One student asked Huzoor Aqdas to share one of his own cherished moments from his time as a member of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya. Huzoor Anwar replied,

"My every moment from Khuddamul Ahmadiyya I cherish. When you get old, you cherish every moment from when you were young. I remember when we used to hold our Ijtema, it used to be in the open air and we would erect our own tents. They were not properly-made tents as you get here in Europe or elsewhere, but rather, we used to use our bed sheets. So when there was rain, the rain drops would enter into the tent since it was not waterproof. So, we used to cherish those days and enjoy that camping."

Huzoor explained further,

"It was just a make-shift arrangement in an open field. The Ijtema marquee erected (in Rabwah) was also not waterproof as it is here. If there was rain, you were properly soaked! So, this is how we enjoyed our days. They would cook food on site and we would collect our food in our buckets. A group of 10 people would stay in one tent. These were the days I still remember and cherish."

One of the questioners mentioned that they were very much inspired by the Friday Sermon Huzoor Aqdas had delivered on the life of Syed Talay Ahmad and asked how he too can be like Syed Talay and



become the beloved of Huzoor. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih answered,

“Try to achieve the love of Allah, and if you try to achieve the love of Allah, then you will also be from amongst those whom the Khalifatul Masih loves. To achieve this, Allah the Almighty has said to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in the Holy Qur’an that he should tell the people that, ‘Say, ‘If you love Allah, follow me: then will Allah love you.’ Here ‘follow me’ means to follow the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). So you should try to learn what the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said and what were his actions and deeds and what was his practice and what he has commanded and what the Holy Quran says in order to become a true Muslim. So, when you achieve the love of Allah, then you will be loved by Khalifatul Masih and by everyone even in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. So try to follow the true teachings of Islam and try to attain the love of Allah the Almighty.”

Another Khadim enquired if there will ever be peace for the nation of Pakistan, as its people are continuing to brutally persecute Ahmadi Muslims. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V responded,

“If Pakistani ‘Ulema’ or so-called clerics do not change their attitude, there will never be peace in Pakistan, until and unless they behave well, practice good morals and change their attitude and try to be human. If they are doing inhumane activities,

Pakistan can never be at peace. We have been seeing this since 1953, when there was so much hue and cry and protests against Ahmadi Muslims. Ahmadi Muslims were martyred at that time in 1953. But at the same time, Pakistani Ahmadi Muslims were free to hold the status of citizens of Pakistan. But now, after the constitutional amendment in the 1970s and after Zia-ul Haq’s further amendments, Ahmadi Muslims have even been prohibited and stopped from naming their children as the Muslims name their children. They cannot say ‘Bismillah’ and cannot say ‘Assalamo Alaikum’. And since then, they have further reinforced the laws against Ahmadi Muslims.”

Huzoor added,

“If you see the history of Pakistan, since [the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims began] there is no peace in the country. Whenever any political or military government comes, they are shaking and they cannot control (the country). They do not have control over their citizens. The clerics have taken over... Until they repent, I do not think there is going to be any change in Pakistan with regards to its peace.”

Another question related to the sacrificial animals slaughtered on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. The student wondered if instead of sacrificing an animal, people could donate money to the poor to which Hazrat Momineen explained,

"Should we introduce our own Shariah and Sunnah or follow what the Holy Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did? He used to sacrifice sheep. There are quite a number of people in the world who do not even get to eat meat. Here in Europe you cannot realise this. The people living here in Europe or in western countries or in rich countries, they can carry out their [Eid] sacrifice of an animal in the poorer places."

"Once when I asked someone to sacrifice some goats somewhere in the African villages, I received the feedback that people who received the meat said that, 'We have seen meat and eaten meat after three or four years!'... If you have enough money, then apart from your sacrifice on Eid-ul-Adha, you can give money as charity to poor people. But for Eid, you have to follow the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)."

A student mentioned that the Promised Messiah(peace be upon him) had prophesied that majority of the people will one day accept him as the true Imam of the age and so, he asked when such a time is likely to occur. Huzoor stated,

"The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has said that the acceptance of the Messiah of Moses took almost 300 years or more – when the Roman King accepted Christianity. But the Promised Messiah(peace be upon him) has said that, you will see that 300 years will not pass or come to an end, before majority of the people in the world will accept the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community as the true Islam."

In explaining the prophecy further Huzoor said,

"But all these things are dependent on our deeds and actions; if we are good in our deeds and actions; if we are following the commandments of Allah the Almighty; if we are praying to Allah the Almighty; if we are a true Muslim, then it can happen earlier than that.. So what are you doing for this? See your own self. I should see my own self and see what we are doing for the spread of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and true Islam in the world. If our deeds and actions and duties towards Allah the Almighty are up to the mark and our duties to our fellow beings are being fulfilled then we shall achieve the target even earlier than that."

Virtual Meeting of Lajna Imaillah USA With Hazrat Amirul Momineen



Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V graciously granted a virtual meeting to Lajna Imaillah USA. The session took place on 29 August 2021 which Huzoor presided from this office in Islamabad, Tilford while the Lajna joined from the Baitur Rahman Mosque complex, in Maryland, USA.

During the meeting, Huzoor Anwar outlined various responsibilities assigned to the respective Amila members and gave guidance on improving the activities of their departments. Emphasising that Amila members should lead by example, Huzoor advised,

"In all respects the office bearers should set their own good example. If they are active in offering their daily prayers, if they are regular in following the instructions of the centre, including your own Amila members in the centre, then you will achieve good results. If Amila members are active from the grassroots level up to the national level, it will mean that at least 50% or more of your membership will be active in participating in your activities and programmes. So, start from your 'home' first and your home is the Amila."

Huzoor further instructed the Nasirat Secretary, to accurately monitor the number of Nasirat offering their five daily prayers and reciting the Holy Qur'an and said that programmes should be made to encourage them to regularly read and better understand the Holy Qur'an.

Speaking to the Secretary responsible for public affairs, Huzoor Aqdas instructed,

"You should try to hold seminars and conferences on women's rights in Islam through the Lajna public affairs department and invite non-Muslims to these events. Then they would know what the true Islamic teachings are and the efforts of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community."

Speaking to the Tarbiyyat Nau-Mubaiyat Secretary, Hazrat Amirul Momineen instructed :

"You should see the backgrounds of different people and try to cater for their moral and religious training and education according to their backgrounds. You

cannot just make one plan and programme for each and every new convert. Those who have Christian backgrounds, tell them what is the Holy Qur'an, Hadith and history of the Holy Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and many other things... There are some from amongst Buddhists or Hindus too. From amongst Muslims, some of them have Arab backgrounds and some are Asian and others of Indo-Pakistani backgrounds. So you will have to make your plan according to their individual conditions."

Huzoor instructed the Secretary responsible for engaging with the media, that they should make personal contacts with female journalists so they can better understand the message of Islam.

As the meeting concluded, the President of Lajna Imaillah asked how they can ensure that Ahmadi Muslim youth remained attached to their faith and religion to which Huzoor Anwar replied,

"Your duty is to just keep on reminding people and advising them and pray for them as well. It should not be that after some time you give up. Since they claim themselves to be an Ahmadi Muslim, then it is our duty to use all means to keep them in the fold of the Jama'at according to the way that has been prescribed in our literature and most importantly in the Holy Qur'an. So tell them that these are the instructions of the Holy Qur'an. The Holy Qur'an tells us to wear modest dress. There are many other instructions too; reciting the Holy Qur'an, offering the five daily prayers."

And Huzoor further stated,

"Keep on reminding them gently with love, with care. They should also realise that you are their sympathisers and that whatever you are doing is for their betterment and you are trying to save them from the wrongs of the society. Once they realise it, then they will one day follow you. And pray for them and never give up. You have to be very much persuasive, that is your duty. Indeed, that is the commandment given in the Holy Qur'an that, "Admonish, therefore, for thou art but an admonisher." That is the injunction given to the Holy Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that, keep on advising them, keep on guiding them. Try to explain to them the good teachings of Islam."



Virtual Meeting of Nasirat From Midlands & South-West UK With Hazrat Amirul Momineen



On 12 September 2021, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V held a virtual online meeting with Nasirat aged between 13 and 15 from Midlands and South-West of England.

Huzoor presided the virtual meeting from his office in Islamabad, Tilford and the Nasirat gathered at the Darul Barakaat Mosque in Birmingham.

Proceedings began with a recitation of the Holy Qur'an after which the floor was opened for questions to be posed to Huzoor Aqdas.

One girl said that in the past, Prophets and Caliphs have been religious leaders that have also held political authority. She asked if the Khulafa-e-Ahmadiyya would ever accept political authority. Huzoor replied,

"In the past not all the prophets were given political authority. In Islam, the Holy Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was the prophet who had religious authority, he was the final of the prophets. He was the head of state as well after migrating to Madinah, but not before then. When he was in Makkah, he was persecuted and tortured very brutally – both him and his companions. Then, after his demise, the four rightly guided Caliphs, the 'Khulafa-e-Rashideen' also had political authority. But now, in the time of the Promised Messiah(peace be upon him), neither the Promised Messiah(peace be upon him) nor his Caliphs will have that political authority."

Speaking of a time in the future, when, God Willing, the populations of certain countries become majority Ahmadi Muslim, Hazrat Amirul Momineen opined,



"Governments in each country will continue to run their affairs and the Khalifa of the time will be the spiritual head of those countries. In the Holy Qur'an it is written that if two Muslim countries or two Muslim parties fight with each other, then try to (peacefully) settle their matters and if they stop fighting then well and good. Otherwise, the person who is committing cruelty, who is unfairly attacking the neighbouring country or the Muslim country, then stop his hands by force. (In such circumstances) the Khalifa of the time will ask the other governments to act accordingly. Anyway, the Khalifa of the time will only be the spiritual leader. He has nothing to do with the politics of the countries. But the head of the states will seek guidance from the Khalifa of the time."

Another Nasira asked if he can share a moment where he faced hardship and how he dealt with it. Huzoor responded,

"Hardships are part of your life. Why should I mention them? If I say I faced any hardship, that means I did not understand the spirit of my Waqf. So, I cannot mention. I never faced any hardship. I always saw Allah's blessings on me."

Another Nasira mentioned that she had heard that before being elected as the Khalifa, Huzoor was a shy person and did not deliver speeches. She asked how Huzoor Anwar manages all his tasks now as Khalifatul Masih. Huzoor Aqdas replied,

"It is God's work. I did not with my own will and wish come on this position (of Khilafat). It is Allah the Almighty who has brought me to this position. So, when Allah the Almighty brought me to this position, now it is Allah's work. He made me speak and deliver speeches and to talk to the people and even silence the people with arguments. If I myself see what I am, then I cannot say I can answer any person. It is Allah the Almighty who gives me the strength to do all these things."

Another girl asked how important it is for Ahmadi Muslims to fight in respect of climate change. Hazrat Amirul Momineen responded,

"It is very important. You should try to avoid using cars whilst travelling short distances. Either walk or use a bicycle. Cycling is good for your health as well. Every Ahmadi Muslim should make it a point that he should plant two trees every year. This is how you can fight climate change. If not possible here, then those who travel to other countries, they can plant trees there. So in this way we can help control the climate change."

Another question related to the incident of Prophet Jonah^(peace be upon him), whereby he survived being in the belly of the whale. The question was how was it possible, given that many scientists consider it impossible for someone to survive in such conditions. Huzoor said,

"He was swallowed but the Holy Qur'an does not say that he was kept in the fish belly for three days. That is in the Bible. As soon as he was swallowed by the fish, the fish brought him out. He did not stay there for a longer period. Even then, the Holy Qur'an says that when he came out of the fish, he was sick. He was unconscious and he was injured and after some time he became conscious and survived. So the scientists say that because the Bible says that he remained there in the fish belly for three days, so he cannot survive it. That is right. But we do not believe he remained there for three days. As soon as he was swallowed, he was also brought out."

Another person asked that the standards of expression of speech had changed and that some older people find younger people's expressions to be offensive. She asked for guidance in this regard. Huzoor Aqdas advised,

"We have to learn good morals. Whether you are speaking to your parents, siblings or other relatives, you should not leave good morals. Good morals require that you should pay regard to the other person, regard your elders and regard your siblings as well. Be polite and kind to your siblings, to your friends, to your parents. So if you are showing good morals then it is the Islamic way."

Speaking generally about the topic of freedom of speech, Hazrat Amirul Momineen stated,

"Freedom of speech does not mean that you start abusing somebody or, as it is said in the West, that because here there is freedom of speech and freedom to express your views so you can print the caricatures and cartoons (e.g. of the Prophets). These are not good morals. They have double standards. When the caricatures of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) were printed they (French political leaders) said there is freedom of speech and expression here so nobody should stop them. But when they printed the cartoon of the French President, then there was a hue and cry. Why? It means they themselves believe these are not good things but for themselves they have different level of morals and for others."

SEEK REPENTANCE

The Promised Messiah (as) said:

Hence, before divine punishment arrives to close the door of repentance, seek repentance. When worldly laws arouse such fear, then why should people not fear the law of God Almighty?

A person is left with no choice but to taste a calamity once it has arrived. Every one of you ought to strive and wake for Tahajjud prayer; and also offer special supplications in your five daily Prayers when you stand after the ruku. Repent from anything and everything which displeases God.

Repentance is to abandon all the evil deeds and situations which cause the displeasure of God, and to bring about a sincere change; to move forward and adopt righteousness.

One ought to hold morality in high regard, for this too brings the mercy of God; refine your habits; be free from anger and replace it with humility and meekness. Along with the reformation of your morals, give charity to the extent of your means as well. Allah Almighty states: ⁽¹⁾

وَيُطْعَمُونَ عَلَىٰ حَيْهٖ مَسْكِينًا وَيَتِيمًا وَأَسِيرًا

i.e. they feed, for the pleasure of God, the poor, orphans, and prisoners, and they say: 'We give you only for the pleasure of Allah Almighty, and fear a day that is most terrifying.' In short, engage yourselves in prayer and repentance, and continue to give charity so that Allah the Exalted may treat you with grace and compassion".total destruction for

Malfuzat vol.1, pp. 208
References
1 - Ad-Dahr, 76:9

ZIRA'AT EFFORTS IN BLOOM AT BAITUL FUTUH



The Zira'at team under Secretary Zairat UK Mr Mujeeb Mirza work all year round to maintain the plants and flowers at various Jama'at locations. Using their expert knowledge and experience, they painstakingly plan for the most appropriate foliage to be set both inside and surrounding these premises.

Their efforts come into bloom during the summer and this is when the Baitul Futuh Mosque is entered into various competitions run by the local and London horticultural organisations often winning them outright. Among these was the London Gardens Society which saw Baitul Futuh win the Gold Medal





LtoR: Messrs Shabir Ahmad, Nasir Badel (Asst Sec Zira'at), Respected Rafiq Hayat (Amir UK), Mujeeb Ahmad Mirza (Sec Zira'at UK), Aslam Langa

for 'stimulating pride in London, more especially by the cultivation of flowers and home gardens'.

This is the second year that the Jama'at has won this trophy. It secured the same in 2019 and the competition did not run in 2020. May Allah bless all those involved in the upkeep of these gardens and enable them to continue to excel in this way in the future.



HGV DRIVING EVENT AT BAIT-UL FUTUH



Following the recent shortage of HGV drivers in the country that was leading to queues at petrol stations and fear of widespread scarcity at supermarket shelves, Huzoor Aqdas urged the UK Jama'at to step up and do what it could do to help the nation. As a result, the Amir UK, set up a committee under Mr Naseer Dean to spearhead an initiative to generate HGV drivers from the Community.

Much planning took place in order to maximise a positive result. Members were informed through letters, telephone calls and the social media. Many meetings took place. The first was on the 21st of September and there was extensive consultation with those in the field included the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the National Driving Centre (NDC), the Government Approved Test Centre. Meetings with doctors and driving schools were also convened during the planning stages. Guidance from Huzoor Aqdas was received throughout and his prayers proved to be invaluable in the success that was achieved.

Some 550 members had registered and were invited to attend the event at Baitul Futuh on Sunday 17th

October to start the process. Proceedings began at 11am. Members received help in completing their forms and then paid a £50 fee for their medical examination. If the candidate was successful then the forms were deposited with Umur e Ama who took the documents and the driving license before issuing a receipt.



In view of the urgency of the situation, the Jama'at negotiated with the DVLA to quicken the process. The agency sent representatives to the event and promised to turn the application forms for Provisional License around within a week instead of the normal 6 weeks.



There was a formal session during the day after Zohr prayers when Amir Sahib UK chaired a meeting with MPs who had come to lend their support. They included Paul Scully, Chris Grayling and Fleur Anderson. During this session Maulana Naseem Bajwa recited a portion of the Holy Qur'an. There was a minute silence in respect of David Amess MP who had been tragically murdered only two days before. Each of the 3 MPs then spoke for a few minutes each, followed by the keynote address from respected Amir sahib UK.

Instructions around DVLA form filling and medical examinations as well as a briefing on the driving school process and job opportunities were provided by Mr Naseer Dean Naib Amir UK.

This formal session concluded with silent prayers after which the procedures continued in earnest.

The event was a huge success and plans are afoot to hold similar recruitment initiatives in other regions of the UK.

Attendance Analysis:

In total over 365 members were scanned of which 210 were Ansar and were 155 Khuddam.

Out of the 365 of those scanned, 209 were able to progress further to completed the application and took the medical examination.

Total Attendance:

Members scanned for HGV	365
Helpers from the 4 London regions	80
External guest	30

Grand Total **475**

TWO KINDS OF PROVISIONS WEALTH

The Promised Messiah (as) said:

"The fact of the matter is that provisions are of two kinds. There is one form that serves as a trial and the other is by way of anointment. Provisions by way of trial are those which have no relation with Allah; in fact, such provision continues to move man away from God, until it destroys him completely. It is to this that Allah Almighty alludes in the following verse: ⁽¹⁾ Laa tul-hikum amwaalukum, i.e. let not your wealth ruin you.

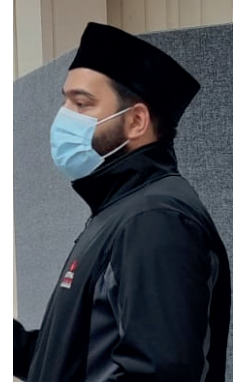
Provision by way of anointment is that which is devoted to God. God becomes the Guardian of such people. Such individuals consider all their possessions to belong to God and they demonstrate this through their action. Consider the state of the companions—when faced with trying times, they sacrificed whatever they had in the way of Allah Almighty. Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) was the first to don the garb of poverty. But how did Allah the Exalted reward him for this? It was he who became the very first Caliph.

Therefore, in order to be blessed with true merit, goodness and spiritual pleasure, only that wealth can be of use which is spent in the way of God".

(Malfuzat vol.1, pp. 210-211)

References
1- al-Munafiqun, 63:10

VOI – BREAKFAST SHOW TRAINING



By the Grace of Allah the Voice of Islam radio station is making good progress since its inception over 5 years ago. Its 2 hour live shows including the Breakfast, Drive Time and Weekend World have grown and developed. Leading scholars, politicians and academics have featured on these broadcasts. Contributors have included Chief Medical Advisor to the US President Anthony Fauci, author and Associate Professor at University of McGill, Vrinda Narain, Secretary of State and Cop26 President Rt Hon Alok Sharma, and Leader of Lib Dems Mr Ed Davy to name just a few. Their participation has helped give that added gravitas to a non-Muslim audience for a station that is dedicated to the promotion of Islam and contextualises its teachings within the framework of contemporary news.

Its presenters and production staff remain volunteers and continued efforts are made to improve the quality of the programmes being presented. Training sessions are held from time to time. Among these was one convened for the presenters of the Breakfast Show on 2nd October 2021 at Baitul Ehsan. This had been planned for weeks and anticipated sufficient changes to Covid restrictions for participants to attend in person.

Proceedings began just before 11 am, after the serving of a good breakfast, with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Murabbi Zawar Butt. In his welcome, head of the Breakfast Show and chair for the session Mr Jonathan Butterworth highlighted the importance of refining our efforts as outlined by our Khulafa particularly with the introduction of such practices as the inclusion of a Red Book to help identify and eliminate our mistakes in future.

The training which was jointly organised by head of presenters Mr Ali Khan and head of producers Mrs Christine Sharif was thoughtfully crafted. It featured scenarios being played of teams conducting their work incorrectly followed by a scenario where teams performed their work properly in accordance with best practice. It was a useful means to demonstrate the pitfalls to be avoided by the various responsibility holders within the teams and serve as a reminder of the way in which high standards could be maintained. A brief collective review was taken with members giving their take on what was featured.

The final session was chaired by Mr Mohammed Akram Ahmedi Naib Amir UK and senior Board Member of VOI. Mr Butterworth appraised him on what had transpired during the training after which Naib Amir Sahib spoke to the audience.

In his address Mr Akram Ahmedi reminded participants of what Huzoor expected of this radio station when he said that the Voice of Islam will manifest that Islam is a religion that teaches Muslims in all countries and in all ages to join together with different groups in their societies in an effort to unite mankind in peace and to help nations to prosper and flourish. Islam is that religion which calls on Muslims to integrate in the best possible way into their local societies. Naib Amir Sahib also gave guidelines as to how we could best improve our broadcasts.

The training session was brought to a close with a silent prayer led by Mr Akram Ahmedi. Lunch followed after which members joined together in offering Zohr prayers.

Humanity First UK Telethon 2021

Humanity First UK held its annual fundraising and awareness Telethon on 5th September 2021. The event was a virtual livestream which was broadcast on the charity's YouTube channel (YouTube.com/HumanityFirstTV). There were simultaneous Telethons in several other countries that took place.

The programme lasted five hours and was broadcast from the MTA International Studios in Baitul Futuh and highlighted the humanitarian work on the ground which Humanity First has been carrying out. Interviews and videos were shown from countries around the world such as Ghana, Uganda, Ivory Coast and Palestine.

A call centre was set up to take donations and pledges over the phones set up in Tahir Hall. Donations were also made online and at the new contactless Donation Point which was launched on the day.

Amongst the special campaigns that were promoted were the Ivory Coast Hospital which, Humanity First is attempting to build, Water for Life Project, which is providing clean drinking water in remote villages

in Africa, UK Foodbanks and Gift of Sight which is restoring peoples sight with free eye operations. Feedback was also given on the recent Palestine Response campaign by partners who Humanity First have been working with in Gaza.

Special guests in the studio were Amir Sahib UK, a trustee of Humanity Fst International, who talked about the humble beginnings of Humanity First



twenty-six years ago and the impact that it has had ever since. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon also joined the Telethon in his capacity as Minister of State for the Commonwealth & Development Affairs. Lord Ahmad discussed the importance of the role of faith based NGO's and the responsibilities that organisations like charities and governments have towards humanitarian support and development needs.

By the Grace of Allah, the HF UK Telethon campaign raised over £119,000. Globally, Humanity First was able to raise a total of over \$3.5 million dollars.



MAJLIS ANSARULLAH CHARITY WALK FOR PEACE (CWFP)



On Sunday 19th September 2021 the CWFP hosted a national day of synchronised, all-region charitable events. In line with ongoing COVID-19 precautions, the participation was carefully managed and limited at all events. Social media platforms were used to create worldwide awareness. The national event was held at Baitul Futuh Mosque and chaired by the National Naib Sadr, Mr Akram Ahmedi. It commenced with a recitation of the Holy Qur'an,

يَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا يُنْفِقُونَ قُلْ مَا أُنْفِقْتُمْ مِنْ خَيْرٍ
فَلِللّٰهِ الدِّينَ وَالْآقْرَبِينَ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسْكِينِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ
وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ

They ask thee what they shall spend. Say: Whatever of good and abundant wealth you spend should be for parents and near relatives and orphans and the needy and the wayfarer. And whatever good you do, surely Allah knows it well.

Naib Amir UK, Mr Akram Ahmedi, chaired the event. He said,
'The Charity Walk for Peace and its activities are

very important and a dedicated spiritual work. The founder of the community, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (peace be upon him), mentioned that there are two purposes in life. One is to serve God and worship Him, and the second is to look after His creation. So these charitable works are within the second part – looking after His creation. And it's not only to look after mankind but to look after all His creation, including animals, and looking after our environment such as climate change.

'It gives us great pleasure this year to sign the Armed Forces Covenant – that is also very important to us. May God continue to support the Royal British Legion and the wonderful work they have done for the last 100 years and we shall also support them in all the ways we can.'

Many special guests were present including Rt Hon Dominic Raab – MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice. He stated he was aware that the walk for peace this year will be in memory of all those who lost their lives to Covid and congratulated the Jama'at for its efforts. Among the several guests present were,

- Councillor Michael Brunt, the Mayor of Merton
- Councillor Edith Macauley MBE, The Deputy Mayor of Merton
- Mrs Lynn Cooper, High Sheriff of Greater London
- Mr Paul Scully, MP
- Stephen Hammond, MP
- Jonathan Lord, MP
- Councillor Trish Fivey, The Mayor of Sutton
- Councillor Annie Moral, The Deputy Mayor of Sutton
- Councillor Mark Allison, Leader of Merton Council
- Brigadier Paul Evans OBE, DL, President Royal British Legion
- Mr Graham Ferris, Royal British Legion
- Durdana Ansari OBE, Honorary Captain, Royal Navy

Vice President Majlis Ansarullah, Dr Mansoor Saqi, addressed the participants stating,

"The religion of Islam teaches us to serve humanity and to promote peace, understanding and goodwill. The founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, has written:

'Be kind and merciful to humanity for all are His creatures. Do not oppress them with your tongue, your hands, or in any other way. Always work for the good of mankind.'

"And further the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has written:

'Each day every person should analyse himself and see to what extent he is concerned for others and to what extent he shows love and compassion to his brothers. Compassion for others is a huge demand and responsibility that weighs heavy on mankind.'

"The Charity Walk for Peace captures the spirit and brings people together for a common cause of helping those in need."

On the same day, a huge effort of simultaneous nationwide events was made by all regions of the CWFP. A brief summary is as follows:

Scotland Region

This was a well planned event at which Mr Ahmed Owusu-Konadu Regional Coordinator for CWFP Scotland welcomed all the participants. The programme was streamlined live on YouTube and Facebook along with a dedicated social media campaign. Deputy coordinator Mr Naeem Sattar presented a slide show

covering the activities of the Jama'at. A video message from Hon Kaukab Stewart MSP was viewed. Rt Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow City, Cllr Philip Braat was also played later in which he expressed his deep admiration and appreciation for the work done by the Jama'at echoing the sentiments of many who spoke that day. Cheques were presented to charities through various officials. Mr Zaheer Ahmad, Chairman of CWFP joined the event virtually. Donations for CWFP Scotland included,

- Ronald MacDonald House - £1,000
- Beatson Cancer Charity - £1,000
- Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity - £1,000
- Aberlour Children's Charity - £800
- Erskine Charity - £700
- Amara B.J.O. Charity - £500
- Poppy Scotland - £5,455
- (Collected During Poppy Collections Week)

Among the special guests present were

- Rt Hon Kirsten Oswald MP
- Hon Linda Fabiani MSP, Former Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament
- Rt Hon Alison Thewliss MP

East Region

Representatives from different charities were received by Regional Co-ordinator for CWFP by Mr Saad Saud and Acting Regional President of CWFP Mr Rana Wadood Khan. The 3-mile walk was formally started by Cllr Ann Easter cutting the ribbon and completed by mid-day. A packed lunch box was prepared and distributed to all participants.

Hertfordshire Region

The Mayor of Peterborough, Councillor Stephen Lane & the Mayoress Margaret Lane were welcomed by the Local President of Peterborough, Mr Hasib Zafar. The Mayor & Mayoress of Peterborough were presented with a copy of the Holy Qur'an and the book - Life Of Muhammad. The Walk was attended by 13 guests, 18 CWFP members and 6 young persons, making the total attendance of 37.

Muqami Region

This was held in Petersfield on Saturday 4th of September and was attended by a number of Councillors, Charities, and members from the local community. The MP for East Hampshire, Damian Hinds attended as the chief guest. Covid precautions meant numbers were limited to approximately 60 participants. In addition to the

very successful regional walk, two additional 'local' walks were held on the Sunday 19th September in Farnham and Frimley Lodge.

Nasir Region

4 local CWFP Walks were held at 4 different locations. 3 of the selected locations were hosted at beautiful mosques. These were held at Hounslow, Hayes and Southall. 132 CWFP members including external guests and duty workers attended these walks.

Special Guests included:

- Ms Ruth Cadbury - MP Hounslow
- Cllr. Mr Bishnu Gurung - Mayor of Hounslow
- Cllr. Hanif Khan - Hanworth Park
- Mr Bob Slater - President RBL Burnham &
- RAF Association Burnham, Councillor Burnham Mrs Jackie Slater Parish Council & Secretary RBL Burnham
- Mr Shin Dother - Founder of Slough Outreach

North East Region (2-Walks)

One of the walks was at Greenhead Park, Huddersfield and the second at Ward Jackson Park, Hartlepool. The following charities received £300 cheques, presented by the guest speakers and then spoke briefly about their charities.

Chief Superintendent of West Yorkshire Police, Julie Sykes presented the cheques to:

- Daisy Mankee, Martin House Children's Hospice
- Georgia Lane Forget me Not Children's Hospice
- Deputy Mayor of Kirklees Council, Cllr. Mahmood
- Akhtar presented the cheques to:
- Myriam Barker - Leeds MIND
- Angela Vyas - Yorkshire Air Ambulance

John Hammond, Deputy Lord Lieutenant presented cheques to:

- Amanda Warrant Marie Curie
- David Durrans - Spen Valley Civic Society

Guests included: Councillor Mahmood Akhtar - Deputy Mayor of Kirklees Council.

John Hamond - Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

In Hartlepool, Mrs Jill Mortimer, MP attended along with the Mayor of Hartlepool, Councillor Brenda

Loynes. Charities supported were:

- St Aidan & St Columbian Food Bank
- The Annexe Centre Food Bank

North West Region

This was held at Worsley Wood Park, Eccles, Manchester. Short addresses were made by the Ceremonial Mayor of Salford, John Mullen. Local Councillors and representatives of Charities highlighted the efforts of the CWFP in providing support to local charities, fund raising & other charity work.

South Region

This was held at Wilford Road Recreation Ground, Croydon. Short addresses were delivered by the local police PC Colenutt, local Army Reserves Capt. J Macrory and the Mayor of Croydon, Cllr. Sherwan Chowdhury. 29 guests attended, including the Fire Brigade, Local Police, Army Reserves & Police Cadets. St Christopher's.

Wales & South West Region

This took place in Cardiff. Cllr Stephen Cunnah of Cardiff Council in his speech mentioned that he is attending a CWFP event for first time and appreciated the efforts for the service to humanity. Cllr Jim Higginson, the Mayor of Caldicot also attended with 27 participants taking part in the walk.

East Midlands Region

The walk took place at the National Memorial Arboretum in Burton on Trent. Local Councillors, Members of Staffordshire Fire Wildlife Trust, Burton Conservation Volunteers, Community Police officers were present. Money was raised for the local charities:

- Royal British Legion Derbyshire
- Burton Conservation Volunteers
- East Staffordshire fire Fair Trade
- Branston Friends
- Langar Aid
- Staffordshire Network For Mental Health

West Midlands Region

Guests included: Mrs Ann Elizabeth Fisher Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Chairperson Walsall Sea Cadets & Royal Marines Cadets Paul Perry & Chris Harris, Marcus Lapsa Royal Navy Engagement Team, Commander Felicity Campbell and around 32 Charity Volunteers mainly from Association of Jamaican Nationals, Walsall Sea Cadets, Birch Thompson Memorial Fund, Migrant Empowerment Fund, Nishkam Divine Service, Millies Foundation and Royal British Legion.

Cheque Presentation in the Scotland Region

The following cheques were given to the charities:

- Ronald MacDonald House - £1,000
- Beatson Cancer Charity - £1,000
- Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity - £1,000
- Aberlour Children's Charity - £800
- Erskine Charity - £700
- Amara B.J.O. Charity - £500
- Poppy Scotland - £5,455

What Our Guests Said

'It's an incredible and positive expression of peace and the wider sense of justice. I hadn't realised but the Walk for Peace has been going for I think 36 years now and you've raised millions upon millions of pounds for over 500 charities. But again I think particularly in this moment in time for the country to find you all coming together from such diverse backgrounds is a incredibly positive, fantastic expression of a community coming together and our communities coming together. I think there could never be a more important time for us to have that.'



Deputy Prime Minister Rt Hon Dominic Raab addressing the audience

'This year again my understanding is that the walk for peace will be in memory of all those who lost their lives to Covid and I guess as we think back over what has been a really gruelling 18 months I personally I think many people will find a source of solace that we're coming together that you're doing it is all for Peace and bring the community together and bring the country together and because it is that sense of community and national spirit that has seen us through the dark days of the pandemic so in many ways I think your optimising and galvanising a sense of community spirit in in an absolutely fantastic way.'

Rt Hon Dominic Raab, Deputy Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice

'It is an absolute pleasure to host the National Charity Walk for Peace in association with a community that does so much not only in Morden, but nationally in every corner of the UK. Their work is exemplary, and we are proud to have the Mosque - the largest in Western Europe, here in our Borough, where each and every worshipper is spreading the message of Love for All Hatred None.'



Mayor of Merton Councillor Michael Brunt

'I was invited to a really wonderful dinner a month ago in Newham, where one of the first charity walk for peace receptions were held. I learned more about the fantastic work that is done in the name of peace in the broadest sense but peace in our communities bringing help to the suffering as we've heard but also providing much needed help that would have been undoubtedly extremely difficult time for virtually all of us but for some even more so. The money that has been raised over the years I think is truly phenomenal for all sorts of local charities and also national and international and I think never more is it necessary for us to join together to provide help and relief and succour and encouragement to us all....Finally, if I may say. my mother when I first met her used to use words "noble work" and I'm not sure I quite understood that then but I do now and I think you do truly noble work and I'm delighted to be here to support and thank you all.'



Mrs Lynn Cooper High Sheriff of Greater London

'It is so lovely to see so many friends after building up our relationship over so many years. I want to say thank you to you for the work you have done for your community - the Ahmadiyya community, and for all communities, reaching out supporting them through their hour and months of need.'



Mr Paul Scully, Member of Parliament

'I have attended many of your events over the last 20 years, that your community realises that charity is at the heart of everything you do. And you also recognise is that home is not only where you live, or the country you live in or indeed continent, home is the whole world in which we live in and to look after one another.'



Stephen Hammond,
Member of Parliament

'It came as no surprise to me that when Covid struck that your community played a very important role in terms of supporting people in need. I visited a hugely successful vaccine centre run entirely by your community. I am also here today to thank you for supporting our Royal British Legion.'



Jonathan Lord MP

'On behalf of the Surrey Royal British Legion I would like to thank you all for your generous invitation to attend the National Charity Walk for Peace; the really important signing of the Armed Forces Covenant and the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the formation of the British Legion – the royal element added in 1971. The previous speakers have spoken about the history of the Legion and the importance of the Armed Forces Covenant..... We have been really fortunate that the Royal British Legion boundaries place Morden within the Surrey Royal British Legion area. This has provided for us a unique opportunity to develop such a strong bond and effective relationship with the Mosque and with the Association. It is a genuine partnership of two organisations that have strong values and a deep commitment to support those who are less fortunate than ourselves..... You can all be proud of your achievements as we in the British Legion are very proud of you.....The commitment you have made today is impressive and a demonstration to all the importance you attach to the wonderful work of the legion and your partnership with the Surrey Royal British Legion. Thank you so much.'



Brigadier Paul Evans OBE

'It is so wonderful..... to be back amongst our friends at the place we have always been so welcome and they have supported us over many many years....Back in 2019 we launched the east Surrey Poppy Appeal from the mosque.....I would like to take this opportunity to thank those in the community here that support the Poppy Appeal. I've seen at least two Poppy Appeal organisers here that go out in all weathers they organised their volunteers they support the Poppy Appeal they raised hundreds of thousands of pounds every year and I would like to sincerely thank everyone here.'

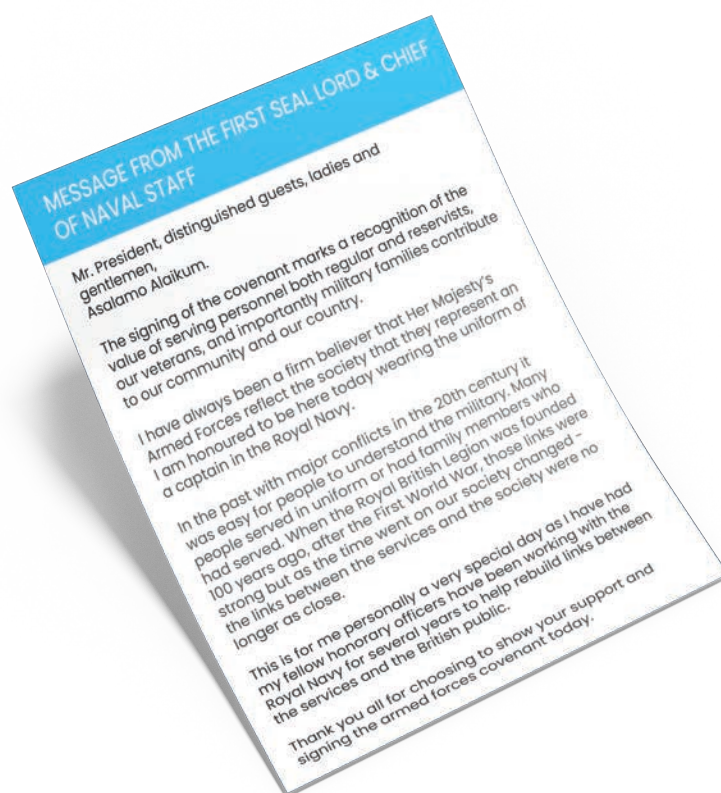


Mr Graham Ferris Royal
British Legion

'...I am delighted to be here today as the first Muslim woman to be serving in the royal navy representing the First Sea Lord and chief of naval staff at the signing of the armed forces covenant by charity walk for peace organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Elders Association.'



Durdana Ansari OBE,
Honorary Captain, Royal



TABLIGH IN GILLINGHAM

Based on a report by Mohammed Azhar Ahmed



Members of the Gillingham Jama'at have been active in setting up tabligh stalls to propagate the message of Islam. Interesting conversations are held and literature distributed. The towns and cities covered include Gillingham itself plus nearby places like Chatham, Rochester, Gravesend, Maidstone, and Canterbury.

Rochester and Canterbury are major tourist centres, because of their historic cathedrals and for Rochester additionally, its Castle.

During most weeks Canterbury is visited on Wednesdays as it is Market Day. Some people come simply to browse our books and pamphlets. This gives those on the stall to break the ice with some conversation. Given below is a glimpse of the kind of exchange that takes place.

A GERMAN STUDENT TRAINING TO BE A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

German: I like your slogan: Love for All.....

Ahmadi: Yes, one aspect of this love is Islam believes in the truth of all religions, not only the Abrahamic religions but also Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism etc..

German: Oh that's wonderful

Ahmadi: The Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) has said that the proof that God Almighty sent his noble prophets to all continents, to every people is the sun which when it rises shines on every corner of the globe, so what you find in the natural world is a reflection of the spiritual world.

German: That's very profound.

He was impressed and given the contact details of our Jama'at in Germany on the internet.

A SIKH LADY IN GRAVESEND

Gravesend has one of the biggest Sikh temples in England and a large Sikh population.

Ahmadi: We revere Hazrat Baba Nanak as a noble Muslim saint. He used to say the five daily prayers, read the Holy Qur'an, fast in the month of Ramadhan. This is verified from Sikh literature.

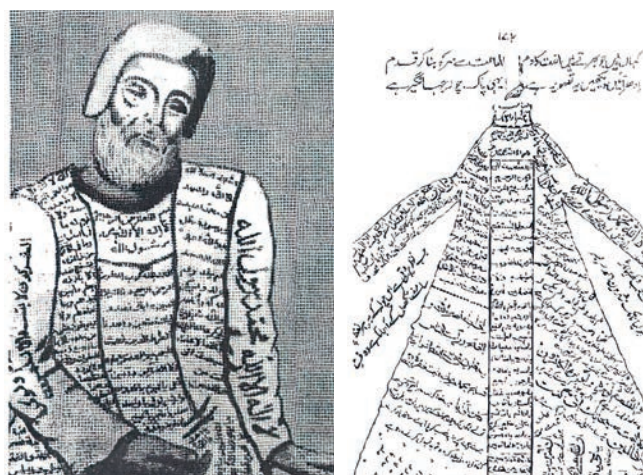
Sikh Lady: Really, I didn't know that.

I presume he changed to white clothes as pilgrims do on arriving at Makkah. And his holiest relic, his chola which is safely kept in Dera Baba Nanak, not far from Amritsar, is full of Qur'anic verses and the Muslim



A Christian Evangelist in conversation at the tabligh stall

Kalima. Here is a pictorial representation of it drawn by a Sikh artist.



Ahmadi: And he also performed Hajj twice. The Sikh book which I picked up from Gillingham Gurdawara says he travelled in blue clothes to Makkah.

Sikh Lady: you are so well informed ! Yes Guru Sahib respected all faiths

Ahmadi: Very true. But his holy Chola does not contain anything from Hindu or Buddhist books. Nor did Guru sahib visit any Hindu shrine for pilgrimage. In fact, he visited the mausoleums of Muslim saints in India. It's all mentioned in Sikh literature.

A CHRISTIAN EVANGELIST

Christian: Yes sir, we believe in Love Jesus

Ahmadi: Well, we are Muslims; you might have heard we do not eat pork. Would you know why? Well, it's because Jesus Christ(peace be upon him), noble

prophet of God, never ate pork. He ate fish, lamb, bread. But he was a Jew and the Jewish Law forbids it. Jesus also said, "I have not come to change an iota of the Law." So, we follow Jesus Christ(peace be upon him).

Christian: Ah but St. Paul allowed it.

Ahmadi: But St. Paul was not a Prophet. How can the Colonel's commands overrule the General's? The scriptures are clear as to what Jesus(peace be upon him) said.

A CHRISTIAN EVANGELIST LADY

Ahmadi: Welcome to our stall. Why do you think Muslim women dress in purdah?

Christian: Of course this is modesty of dress

Ahmadi Muslim: Quite right. The Holy Qur'an says to Muslim women that Holy Mother Mary was very righteous and is an example for you. So Muslim women cover their arms, legs and hair as a mark of respect and to follow her example.. You may know that until a hundred years ago all the churches and cathedrals in Christendom practised segregation of the sexes

A JEWISH GENTLEMAN IN CANTERBURY

Ahmadi: Welcome to our stall. Please see if anything interests you.

Gentleman: I'm not sure I would be welcome. I'm a Jew.

Ahmadi: Jews and Muslims are brothers. We are both monotheists, as are many Christians. Well, all the prophets taught monotheism, but sometimes with the passage of time, the message gets corrupted. As you know Jews and Muslims have always lived in peace, and the Jews found sanctuary in Muslim Spain for hundreds of years, and when both were expelled from Spain in 1492, Jews found safe havens in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Turkey and Iran

Gentleman: But currently there is a lot of strife between us.

Ahmadi: The current problems started in 1947, but that is a political conflict, not a religious one. We do not blame religion for that. We have our mission in Israel from before the partition of Palestine; our objective is to spread peace, harmony and understanding

amongst our communities, and to condemn violence

Gentleman: All very true, and good work

Ahmadi: Of course we know Jews suffered greatly in Europe and we abhor the holocaust. We show full solidarity with the Holocaust Memorials which take place in January at various locations. I have attended two - one at Chatham Synagogue and the other at Rochester Mathematical School.

Gentleman: What you have said is very reassuring. I think you are good people and will go to heaven. If you do not mind, I shall not leave my name as I sit in the House of Lords

AN AGNOSTIC IN CANTERBURY

Agnostic: I do not think religion makes sense when pitted against science.

Ahmadi Muslim: Unfortunately, the Christians and Muslims have not interpreted the scriptures correctly. The Holy Qur'an speaks eloquently of the Big Bang, the expanding universe, the evolution of the physical universe and the evolution of man from water or rudimentary organisms. Let me show you where exactly in the Holy Qur'an these phenomenon are mentioned so, all this was mentioned in the Holy Qur'an 1,500 years ago, when people believed the earth was flat. Of course the Holy (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was not a scientist, and even if he had been one, there was no way he could have figured out the earth's roundness, or the origins of the universe. So, for us this proves the Divine authorship of the Holy Qur'an.

Agnostic: This is fascinating stuff! Thank God you're here. At this same corner we have a Christian Evangelist group, who even deny the theory of evolution!!!

A ROMAN CATHOLIC LADY AT CANTERBURY

Lady: I like your message and slogan. I am a Catholic...I go to Church regularly, so please don't give me a lecture ...

Ahmadi: Haha!. No lectures today except this - You revere Mother Mary. I have seen the icons and statutes in Churches and Cathedrals all over Europe. So, here's a thought. Muslim women cover their bodies and heads because the Holy Qur'an says Mother Mary is a model for you. So, for us Muslims

we must follow the example of Mother Mary

Also, we believe in the truth of Jesus Christ, a noble Prophet of God, and the truth of the Bible.

Lady: Really. This is so fresh and reassuring; it seems when we look at each other's faiths, we have so much in common.

By the Grace of Allah the Jama'at has managed to make many contacts through these stalls. It is usual that e-mails are given as people tend to be reluctant to give out their phone numbers or addresses. A lot of these contacts have attended our Mosque and Open Days in Nasir Mosque in Gillingham.

DEDICATE YOURSELVES

The Promised Messiah (as) said:

"A true Muslim is he who devotes the whole of himself (all aspects of his life) for the pleasure of God and hands himself over to Him. His beliefs and his actions, his target and his ambitions are all directed towards the achievement of His pleasure. All the good deeds that he performs are a matter of pleasure for him and he feels a sort of sweetness by doing them; he finds no difficulty in those good and virtuous deeds. These good deeds of his turn every difficulty into comfort.

A true Muslim loves God the Almighty taking Him to be his beloved and his Master who is all benevolence.

It is for this reason that he puts down his head at His doorstep. If a true Muslim is told that he would get no reward for these good deeds of his and also that there is no Paradise and no Hell, nor is there any comfort or pleasure, he would never abandon his good deeds and he would never do away with his love for God, for, he does not worship God nor obeys Him in the hope of any rewards from Him. He does all these things because he thinks that his very existence is aimed at the recognition of God and His love and obedience, and that there is no other aim of his life than this. When he uses his powers in doing good and appropriate deeds, he sees God before his eyes, he does not mind paradise or hell.

If I am told that I would be severely punished for my love for God and my obedience to Him, I would bear all the hardships and I would take the pains of the punishment as a great pleasure and I would never leave loving or obeying Him. Even one step away from obedience to God is tantamounts to a thousand rather innumerable deaths and collection of all the difficulties and hardships. It is as if a king were to announce that a mother who would give no suck to her baby would be rewarded; no mother would abandon giving suck to her baby in the hope of the reward from the king. Likewise a true Muslim, whatever the promises of reward and comforts for him, would never go even one step away from obedience to God; he would deem it a total destruction for himself".

Malfoozat, Vol. III, pp. 182

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ISLAM

A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE HELD BY THE GLASGOW, JAMA'AT

Report By Arshad Mehmood Khan



The Glasgow Jama'at organised a virtual Tabligh event on Sunday 3rd October 2021. Its theme was "Women's Rights in Islam".

The event commenced with the recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Master Abdul Shafi Owusu-Konadu, followed by the English translation read out by Mr Ahsan Safdar.

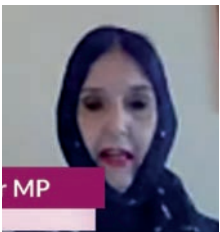


Next, a welcome address was delivered by the local missionary Rawahuddin Arif Khan. Bait-ur-Rahman Mosque in Glasgow. An introductory clip followed, that gave a very brief outline of the Jama'at and its activities throughout the world.



The event was held on Zoom and streamed live on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, along with social media campaigns.

The conference was addressed by Rt. Hon. Margaret Ferrier MP, Member of Parliament for Rutherglen and Hamilton West. She said,

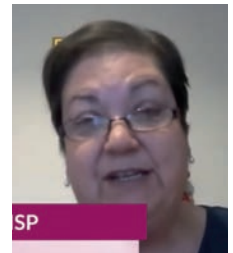


"It is vital to raise our voice concerning women's rights, not only in Islam but in the modern time where we live now. We condemn the recent incidents of the murder of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa. I was much obliged to attend the Jalsa UK a few years ago and learnt so much about the rights of women in Islam from his Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (May Allah be his helper) in his address to the ladies. The Ahmadiyya Community always tries to bring all faith, race and communities together to discuss many topics like today, which helps create a tolerant society"

During the course of the event a short video was

shown in which the hijab (veiling) was well explained by the Lajna. It was highlighted, that every woman should have the right to freely chose to wear the hijab, not only in Islam but in Hinduism and in Christianity as well.

Hon. Jackie Baillie MSP, the member of Scottish Parliament for Dumbarton, who attended an event of the Jama'at for the first time, expressed how pleased she was, hearing the point of view of the Ahmadiyya Community regarding the rights of women.



In addition, another short clip was played, in which an Ahmadi woman spoke about the segregation in her daily life and how this concept can be beneficial for every woman when adopted.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Zahid Khan – Chairman Qadha Board UK.

He presented a slideshow as he spoke covering all controversial topics like the hijab, polygamy, the age of Hazrat Ayesha at the time of her marriage, segregation, the role of women in a modern society, right of getting education, inheritance, acquiring a job and looking after their families, to mention a few.



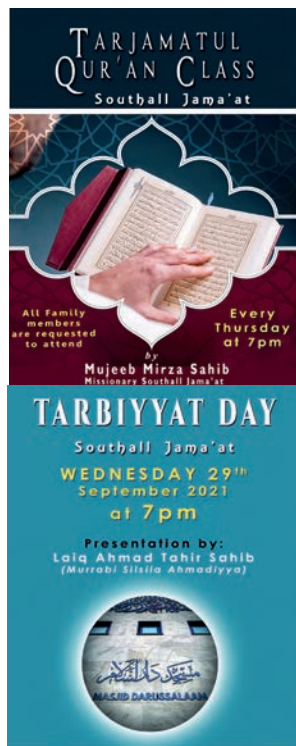
Finally, an interesting question-answer session was held, where questions regarding the status of women and their rights in Islam were asked by the audience and answered by the local Murabbi and the keynote speaker.

The event was successfully concluded with a silent prayer led by Murabbi Rawahuddin Arif Khan.

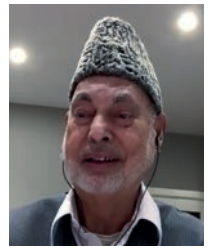
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_4slfO9nf6M

TALIM AND TARBIYYAT ACTIVITIES SOUTHALL

The Southall Jama'at has continued its efforts throughout the lockdown and beyond in conducting various Tarbiyyat and Talim activities. Its weekly Tarjamatl Qur'an Class is convened with regularity every Thursday evening and attracts an audience of over 50 participants. In addition to this the Jama'at held a special Tarbiyyat Day on 29th September via Zoom. Maulana Laiq Ahmad Tahir, part of the national Tarbiyyat dept UK, was invited to deliver a short presentation. The programme started



with recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Hafiz Muhammad Ahsan Ahmad after which Maulana Laiq Tahir Sahib delivered his presentation. In this mention was made of the importance of Obedience "Uli al-Amr", as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an verse 59 of Surah An-Nisa (O you who believe! Obey Allah, and obey the Messenger, and those vested with authority among you).



Laiq Sahib then stated that the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has said that wherever the Jama'at is established in the world, they should obey the government of the country. Laiq Sahib further highlighted the importance of salat in congregation, as on the day of judgement, the first question will be about salat, and only those will be successful who have offered their prayers with complete devotion and sincerity. A total of 105 members of the Jama'at attended the event via Zoom.

SOUTHALL ACTIVITIES DURING TRANSITION OF COVID RESTRICTIONS



As Covid restrictions began to be relaxed, activities resumed in Jama'ats with renewed vigour. In Southall a general meeting was held on 29th August where a presentation was given by Mr Zeeshan Khan on "Why should we serve the Jama'at". Some Qur'anic verses and sayings of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) were presented to show the blessings one can attain by sacrificing one's time serving the Jama'at in various capacities. Later the worldly benefits of service to the Jama'at were stated, with examples being given of Hazrat Chaudhary Zafarullah Khan Sahib and Dr. Abdus Salam Sahib, and how they first focused on the services for the Jama'at and thereby with the grace of Allah achieved worldly benefits and high status as well.

In a speech by Mr Mubashar Khan, mention was made on how we can develop many transferrable skills by serving in various Jama'at departments,

such as attention to detail, teamwork, adaptability etc. All these have the potential to be applied to our careers with good effect. Through his own personnel experience he explained how he has developed skills such as communicating, data analysis by serving in the finance department UK. He also narrated 8 points



from Hazrat Musleh Maud^(Allah be pleased with him) on how service to the Jama'at helps us in real world as well as in spiritual world. In the final speech, the local Murabbi Mujeeb Mirza mentioned the experiences of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him), as how he found peace in the service of religion, and how he expects the members of his Jama'at to also sacrifice their time and life. A total of 114 Jama'at members attended the event via Zoom.

The Atfal were not left out from the meeting. They were invited to make their presentations and did not disappoint producing some impressive work.

Less than a month after, and following clearance



from the Centre, a face to face Southall Amila meeting was convened on 24th September 2021. This was the first such Amila meeting since the lockdown and the first since the inauguration of the Darus Salaam mosque.

OPEN HOUSE EVENT AT BAITUL FUTUH MOSQUE

The Baitul Futuh Mosque is always featured in the Open House event that takes place every year. It was suspended last year but resumed with appropriate precautions on the 4th and 5th of September, 2021.

The organisers of Open House set a weekend aside each year for the general public to visit landmark buildings and sites that they consider would be of interest to them. Among these they invariably include Baitul Futuh and it has remained a site of great attraction every time.

However this year the numbers were decidedly low and did not reach the hundreds achieved in previous years. It meant that our tour guides had far greater time to spend with visitors and this led to a much better impression that was left on those that attended. One visitor wrote that this was *'much better than expected - we didn't expect to get a "real" tour!'*

Another described their visit as *'phenomenal'*.

The tour guides used have now years of experience behind them. This was reflected in the quality of what they were able to deliver.

'An excellent tour guide - very clear, concise and open. Highly recommended...!!' was one comment.

Another wrote, *'Fantastic tour, great guide, very informative. Thank you,'* while a further comment received typified the impressions of many. It read,

'Really interesting - very personal. Our guide encouraged us to ask questions. Fabulous! Thank you again!'

One couple had travelled all the way from Southampton specifically to see the Mosque and said that it was a trip that was well worth the effort.



Apart from one individual who found finding the car park difficult, there was not a single negative comment, by the Grace of Allah, and all those who came went away pleased and thoroughly impressed.

Clearly it was the Mosque itself and the ambience it evoked that was so striking for the visitors. This was brought out in the substantial discussions that took place over refreshments immediately after the tour. It further stimulated a genuine interest in Islam and a flurry of questions was often posed as each group was brought back into the Library for tea and coffee. A number left their contact details to be informed about future events held at Baitul Futuh which have been passed on to the Tabligh department.

Three Jamia students were taken around with our designated tour guides on the tours. They found this experience useful particularly in the manner knowledge is imparted to the public and the way their interest is further developed.

Children's Stories:

The Truthfulness of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him)

Telling lies is a great sin, and the Holy Prophet^(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has taught us that Muslims must always tell the truth, no matter what. The Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) gave a very excellent example of how to put this into practice.

Once, he had prepared an article about Islam which had to be published. He sent the article by post to the press, which belonged to a Christian, who was an enemy of Islam. The article was in packet, and in the same packet the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) gave some instructions to the printer in the form of a letter. Since it was not permitted to send a letter inside a packet, the printer took the letter to the postal authorities so that they can take the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) to court for trying to avoid paying the extra postage. According to the law, this was a criminal offence.

Therefore, the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) was required to appear before the District Court on this charge. His lawyers advised him that he should deny that he had put the letter in the package, as otherwise he would be in trouble. But the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) insisted that he would tell the truth regardless of the consequences. The judge asked him if the packet and the letter were his. He replied Yes, and said that he had put the letter in the packet as the letter was related to the printing of the article which was in the packet; and he did not think that he was doing anything wrong. He said that he was not aware that this was a serious criminal offence.

The judge was so impressed with the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) that he discharged the case completely and no further action was taken against the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him).

Debate between the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) and Christians

In order to present the beautiful teachings of Islam, the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) used to have debates with other Muslims, Christians, Hindus etc. During one such public debate with Christians, they suddenly introduced a group of blind and disabled people. They said that since the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) claimed to be the Second Coming of Jesus, and the first Jesus used to cure the blind and the disabled, then he should be able to cure these unfortunate people. If he can do that, the Christians will believe in him.

The Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) thanked them for bringing these people to the debate. He reminded them that it was the Bible of the Christians which said that Jesus^(peace be upon him) cured sick and disabled people by simply touching them. It is also written in the same Bible that if his followers had just a tiny amount of faith in him, they would be able to perform greater miracles than Jesus^(peace be upon him). Therefore, if they believed in Jesus^(peace be upon him), they should be able to cure these people just by placing their hands on them. If they were cured, the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him) said that he would be convinced that their faith is true. But if they failed to do that, then no one could believe in their truth. The Christians were dumbfounded and had no response to this argument of the Promised Messiah^(peace be upon him).

Answers:

Matches

1. 14 (9 squares of 1 match long; 4 of 2 matches long and 1 of 3 matches long)

2. From the big square, remove the middle match-

es on all 4 sides.

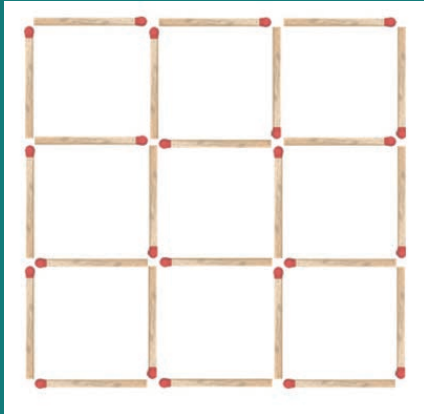
3. Remove all the inside matches the except four in the centre, leaving one square of 1 match long, and one of 3 matches long.

4. Remove inside matches to leave one square of 1 match long, 1 square of 2 matches long and 1 square of 3 matches long.

Riddles and Head Scratches

1. Keyboard; 2. Clock; 3. Rock; 4. Towel; 5. Key

Fun with Matchsticks (no fire involved)



Look at the pattern on the right and try to answer the questions below:

1. How many squares are there in this set up?
2. Remove 4 matches so that only 5 squares are left.
3. Remove 8 matches so that only 2 squares are left.
4. Remove 6 matches so that only 3 squares are left.

(Answers below, but don't peek!)

Jokes and Head Scratchers:

What kind of pet did Aladdin have?
A flying car-pet!

Why did Aladdin's lamp hum?
Because the genie inside it didn't know the words!

Teacher: When you yawn, you're supposed to put your hand to your mouth!
Pupil: *What? And get bitten!*

Teacher: You aren't paying attention to me. Are you having trouble hearing?
Pupil: *No teacher, I'm having trouble listening!*

Teacher: Why were you late?
Pupil: *Sorry, teacher, I overslept.*
Teacher: You mean you need to sleep at home too!

Teacher: Class, we will have only half a day of school this morning.

Class: *Hooray*
Teacher: We will have the other half this afternoon!

Teacher: That's quite a cough you have there, what are you taking for it?
Pupil: *I don't know teacher. What will you give me?*

Son: I can't go to school today.
Father: *Why not?*
Son: I don't feel well
Father: Where don't you feel well?
Son: In school!

Pupil (on phone): My son has a bad cold and won't be able to come to school today.
School Secretary: *Who is this?*
Pupil: This is my father speaking!

Teacher: You missed school yesterday, didn't you?
Pupil: *Not very much!*

Riddles

1. Can you find something which has keys that open no locks, with space but no room and allows you to enter but not go in?
2. What has two hands and a face, but no arms and legs?
3. I smash scissors and paper covers me, what am I?
4. The more I dry, the wetter I become, what am I?
5. I'm bigger than a flea, I'm bigger than a bee. You can unlock a door with me. What am I?





HISTORICAL SESSION

26 NOVEMBER 1994, PART 1

KHUDDAMUL AHMADIYYA

MAJLIS-E-SHOORA MEMBERS

YOUTUBE LINK: <https://youtu.be/nU2hApJMmR8>

What is the reality behind the concept of “Evil-Eye”?

Questioner: What is the reality behind the concept of “Evil Eye”, or as is said in *Urdu*, *Nazr lag jana*?

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (Allah have mercy on him):

I have been speaking on this subject on different occasions in depth and at length. To say that the human mind can work on other human minds is not only true but is well supported by the Holy Qur'an. In the case of the bout between Hazrat Musa and the magicians of the pharaoh, this is exactly the inference drawn by the Holy Qur'an that it was the eyes of the people who were spellbound. What was it that bound their eyes and made them see things which were not there? They saw things which were imaginary. This is hypnotism.

If an evil person who has this faculty either by practice or by nature, of influencing others just by exerting his mind upon somebody, then such a person can bring about some evil on the object of his mental concentration. So far as the institution of influencing

others through mental concentration or through the specific stare of one's eyes is concerned, this is established scientifically and it is also supported by the Holy Qur'an, as mentioned earlier. There is no doubt about it.

But to live always in fear and in a state of superstitious atmosphere where everyone thinks that whenever a child falls ill, they think that maybe he's had the evil eye cast on him, that is stupidity. The incidence of inflicting some harm on others through the mental power is far less than the possibility of somebody being inflicted harm otherwise. There are so many ways that a child could fall ill, such as making a misstep and breaking a bone, eating something poisonous, or breathing polluted air and getting asthma – the possibilities of harm reaching people and children are so many and this one is one small possibility which is very small and very rare. Because we say it is possible, people should not start that every time they fall ill or something befalls them, that they have been influenced by an evil eye. Life



will become superstitious if you do that.

If, suppose every time your child becomes ill, and people suggest that this child has been the target of an evil eye, then the answer should be that if it is the evil eye which has produced some physical effect, we will try to overcome it by medicine, by treating the child. When that is done, the child will be cured. That will prove that it was not an evil eye which caused the problem, but a mishap which resulted in the child's illness.

If you are convinced that it was after all the effect of an evil eye, and not caused by any physical instrument, or physical means, then what is the answer in this case? The answer is that you should pray and say *"La hawla wa la quwaata"*, seek refuge with Allah, say *"Aouzo billahi minashaitwane nir rajeem"*, and the evil thoughts will be dispelled.

Of this also we have a proof in the Holy Qur'an, the same incident which I have referred to, of Hazrat Musa and the magicians. He did not exert any mental pressure upon them, he did not try to influence them through the power of his mind. He himself was so scared – how could he counter that influence through his superior will? Every time he threw his staff, it turned into a snake, he ran away – that was his mental power. When such a person as weak as Hazrat Musa was, in his resolution and bravery, every time God had to tell him not to run. So what worked for him? It was God's superior power.

God has already shown you that: *"if I can do it for one person, I can also do the same for others, but you have to beseech Me, and come to seek My help, and seek My refuge"*.

That is the only thing which is permissible to a Muslim, to seek Allah's refuge and to forget about the other things, otherwise you will live in a world of superstition from which you will never be able to extricate yourself.

The institution of Islamic prayer is a highly developed one, where the individual is required to pray five times a day, both individually and in congregation with others. Islamic prayer thus plays an important role in the life of a Muslim and in the spiritual and moral upbringing of the individual.

**HAZRAT KHALIFATUL
MASIH IV^(RH)**

Why is Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem counted as the first verse?

ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY MURABBI FARHAN IQBAL



The Holy Quran which is published by the Jama'at counts Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem as the first verse. However, the Qur'an which is published by non-Ahmadi Muslims does not count Bismillah as the first verse. This can sometimes lead to confusion and makes it important to indicate which numbering is being followed. This is because the numbering which counts Bismillah as the first verse would always be one verse ahead of one which does not count it.

For instance, in the Qur'an which counts Bismillah as the first verse in Surah Al-Baqarah, the following verse would be quoted as 2:2:

However, the Qur'an which does not count Bismillah would reference the above verse as 2:1. The position taken by the Jama'at is justified for several reasons.

Firstly it needs to be acknowledged that Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem is a revealed verse of the Holy Qur'an. When we are counting verses of the Qur'an, what is it for? It is meant to take note of and give a number to each revealed statement from God Almighty.

The Jama'at's position on this matter is quite straightforward: Alif-Laam-Meem is a revealed verse of the Holy Qur'an just like Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem. To count one and not the other has to be based on some solid reasoning. The burden of argument is then on the publisher of any Qur'an where Bismillah is discounted, not on those like the Jama'at who count it.

We know for a fact that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not distinguish

between Bismillah and other verses of the Qur'an. They were all treated as equal in their status of being revealed by God. In fact, Bismillah was the indicator in letting the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) know that a new Surah of the

Holy Qur'an has begun to be revealed:

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ، قَالَ كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لَا يَعْرِفُ فَضْلَ السُّورَةِ حَتَّى تُنْزَلَ عَلَيْهِ { بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ }

Hazrat Ibn Abbas (Allah be pleased with him) narrates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would not distinguish between two Surahs until the words, "In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful" were revealed to him. In this Hadith, the word *tunazzila* is used to refer to the actual revelation of Bismillah at every occasion when a new Surah began to be revealed.

Discussing this Hadith, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (Allah be pleased with him) writes, "This Hadith proves that the Bismillah which is written at the beginning of all Surahs is based on revelation of God and a part of the Holy Qur'an, not outside of it."

Refuting the beliefs of those who do not consider Bismillah a part of the Holy Quran, he quotes the following Hadith narrated by Hazrat Abu Hurairah (Allah be pleased with him):

قال رسول الله ﷺ إذا قرأتم الحمد لله
فاقرأوا بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم إنها أم القرآن
و أم الكتاب و السبع المثاني و بسم الله
الرحمن الرحيم إحدى آياتها

"The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, 'When you recite Al-hamdolillah [i.e. Surah Al-Fatiha], recite Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem first, because it [i.e. Surah Al-Fatiha] is the mother of the Qur'an and the mother of the Book and (it consists of) seven oft-repeated verses, with the inclusion of Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem as one of the verses".

At this point, some people give the reasoning that this only proves that Bismillah is part of Surah Al-Fatiha but it should not be considered a part of all Surahs of the Qur'an.

Countering this kind of thinking, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (Allah be pleased with him) makes the argument that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did not say that Bismillah is only a part of Surah Al-Fatiha. Instead, he gave an argument and a reasoning for the inclusion of Bismillah in the recitation of Surah Al-Fatiha. As such, the same reasoning is applicable to all other Surahs of the Qur'an which in turn means that Bismillah is a part of every Surah of the Holy Qur'an.

This is further proven from the following narration where the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) clearly began the recitation of the Surah with Bismillah and made no distinction between it and the other verses:

سَمِعْتُ أَنَسَ بْنَ مَالِكٍ، يَقُولُ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ
صلى الله عليه وسلم "أُنْزِلَتْ عَلَى أَنْفَا سُورَةٍ
فَقَرَأَ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ
الْكَوْثَرَ حَتَّى خَتَمَهَا

Hazrat Anas bin Malik (Allah be pleased with him) said, "The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, 'A Surah has just been revealed to me'. He then recited, 'In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful. Surely We have given thee abundance of good' till the end of the Surah."

There are some scholars who continue to insist that even though Bismillah is a part of the Qur'an and should come at the beginning of every Surah, it should still not be counted as the first verse. One reason for this, as discussed by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (Allah have mercy on him), is that the non-Ahmadi Muslims like to distinguish between the different Surahs. Their argument is that Bismillah is common to all Surahs and does not need to be

counted. The first verse of every Surah should in fact be the one after Bismillah so that it is easier to distinguish between the Surahs.

Regardless, it should be noted that even with this argument, it does not mean that Bismillah is not a part of every Surah. It is admitted by all that Bismillah is in fact the first verse of every Surah. If a distinction is to be made, it should be based on the Qur'an itself or the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). We find evidence in neither for making any distinction between Bismillah and the rest of the Quran. As a result, the Ahmadiyya Muslim position is only more logical in counting Bismillah as a verse just like all other verses.

Why does Surah Taubah not start with Bismillah?

The only question that needs to be answered at this point is that if the above rule holds true, why has an exception been made for Surah Taubah? If Bismillah is the means to distinguish between one Surah from another, why is it missing from the beginning of Surah Taubah?

Here it should be noted that this question was posed to Hazrat Usman (Allah be pleased with him) as well. He explained that there was no instruction given by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to add Bismillah at the beginning of Surah At-Taubah in order to distinguish it from Surah Al-Anfal. Hence, Surah Al-Anfal and Surah At-Taubah should not be seen as two separate Surahs. Instead, they should be seen as two sections of one longer Surah. Surah At-Taubah is a section of Surah Al-Anfal.

It is noted in the Detailed Commentary of the Holy Quran,

"The truth is... that Anfal and Taubah or Bara'at both make one Surah and Taubah is called a Surah, which literally means a piece, because it has been treated as a distinct portion of Anfal, otherwise it is not a Surah in the sense in which other Surahs are known by this name".

Commenting on this matter, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I (Allah be pleased with him) states,

"This Surah [At-Taubah] is not a separate Surah. Instead, it is a portion of [Surah] Anfal. It is pointless to argue why it does not begin with Bismillah. It is true that there was a purpose in distinguishing this portion. After the victory of Makkah, Hazrat Abu Bakr (Allah be pleased with him) was sent by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to take care of certain duties. After that, Hazrat Ali (Allah be pleased with him) was sent with these verses [given as an instruction]. They constitute a declaration of war which has been identified as a separate section for the sake of remembering it better. In this declaration of war, the reasons for engaging in war are laid out".

In light of this Surah Al-Anfal and Surah At-Taubah should be seen as one Surah with two portions. The second portion is named At-Taubah as it pertains to a specific subject matter.

A Balanced Diet For Good Health

BY SALMA S. KHAN (NUTRITION CONSULTANT)

There is a growing concern about the rising rate of obesity in the UK and its repercussions on the nation's health and the impending stress on the National Health Service. The Government commissioned a report in 2019 under Henry Dimbleby which published its initial recommendations in July this year. While the report is focusing on what manufacturers, advertisers and government can do, this article by Nutrition specialist



Maintaining a balanced diet is important for health, since a good diet helps humans to live healthily and longer, especially when combined with regular physical activity. Research shows that consuming a balanced diet may help prevent conditions such as Obesity, Type 2 Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, Osteoporosis, and certain types of Cancers.

A balanced diet is one that includes the right amounts of vitamins and minerals, as well as a variety of food produce from each of the following food groups; carbohydrates, fats, protein and fibre. A well balanced diet also includes the consumption of adequate amounts of water which varies from person to person, depending on factors such as levels of exercise, waste elimination and the weather.

Carbohydrates: These are the body's primary source of energy. Foods rich in carbohydrates include items such as bread, pasta, rice and potatoes. Eating too many carbohydrates can lead to being overweight and obese. On the other hand, eating too little of this food group may cause symptoms such as lethargy and low mood.

It is best to opt for unrefined carbohydrates (e.g. wholemeal bread, wholemeal pasta, brown rice, starchy vegetables and legumes) as opposed to refined carbohydrates (e.g. white bread, white pasta, cakes, pies and biscuits). This is because unrefined carbohydrates keep a person feeling fuller for longer by minimising insulin from spiking. Consequently this helps keep hormones in balance, and reduces the urge to binge on junk food.

Fat: Fat is another energy source for the body, but is a more concentrated form of energy than carbohydrates - this is the reason why the body does not require large amounts of fat. Eating too much fat can lead to becoming overweight and obese, whereas consuming too little fat can affect the body's ability to absorb certain vitamins such as vitamin A, D, E and K.

There are two main types of fat; saturated fats otherwise known as 'bad' fats and unsaturated fats otherwise known as 'good' fats. The unhealthy or saturated fats are linked to diseases such as heart disease and certain cancers. In contrast, unsaturated fats that are known as the healthy or 'good' fats are



needed for healthy skin, hair and nails, as well as for the prevention of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease.

It is best to opt for unsaturated fats (polyunsaturated and monounsaturated) in the form of oily fish, avocados, olive oil, nuts and seeds as opposed to saturated fats. Although small amounts of saturated fat are still required for good health, they help build a healthy immune system - healthy sources can be obtained from lean meat, dairy and eggs. However saturated fat in the form of pastries, cakes and biscuits should be kept to a minimum since the high intake of saturated fats has been linked to heart disease and elevated levels of cholesterol. There is also another type of fat that should be avoided or kept to a minimum, this fat is a modern day artificial fat known as hydrogenated or trans fats - These fats have been found to increase the risk of heart disease. Further, research reports that hydrogenated or trans fats (e.g. found in margarine) can block the process of healthy or essential fats in the body.

Protein: Protein rich foods include food produce such as meat, fish, eggs, beans, lentils, nuts and seeds. Protein is essential for the growth and repair of the body - however eating excessive amounts may cause kidney problems and increase the risk of osteoporosis. One early sign of excessive consumption of protein is bright yellow urine. Eating too little protein on the other hand can lead to poor wound healing and poor growth in children.

Thus it is essential that protein intake is not neglected, protein rich foods are divided into two groups; incomplete proteins and complete proteins. Complete proteins include foods such as meat, eggs and fish; these foods contain all of the 8 essential amino acids that are necessary for the body. With regards to incomplete proteins that include grains, nuts, seeds, legumes, and vegetables; these would have to be combined with other food in order for the body to receive all 8 essential amino acids, for example lentils would need to be combined with rice.

Fibre: This is a source of roughage that is best known for its ability to prevent constipation. Further, it has been shown to lower the risk of heart disease and diabetes. However, very high fibre diets are thought to hinder the absorption of several minerals.

Governments worldwide have recognised that not enough fibre is being consumed, thus it is recommended that the consumption of fibre should be increased. There are 2 types of fibre; these are

soluble and insoluble forms of fibre. Soluble fibre is found mainly in fruit and vegetables, as well as in oats, barley, rye, nuts and pulses. Soluble fibre breaks apart easily in water and coats the lining of the gut wall helping to buffer the absorption of sugars. When the gut lining has such a coating it is much harder for harmful microbes to take a hold in the gut.

Insoluble fibre is found mainly in wholegrains, especially wheat, corn and rice, but also in pulses and vegetables. This type of fibre binds water and bulks up the stool, helping to give a good transit time through the gut, thus minimising the likelihood of constipation.

However, the majority of researchers believe that it is better for health to focus on mostly soluble fibre which includes vegetables and fruit, rather than consume a diet too high in grains (insoluble fibre). This is because there are substances called phytates in raw bran that may inhibit the absorption of some important minerals. Although phytates are not all bad, research indicates an antioxidant role and claims that phytates may play an important role in cancer prevention. Further, insoluble fibre in the form of oats has been shown to help lower cholesterol by binding the cholesterol in the gut and allowing it to be eliminated in the stool.

Vitamins And Minerals: Together these are also known as micronutrients, these are required in much smaller quantities than all of the macronutrients already mentioned (e.g. carbohydrates, fat, protein and fibre). Vitamins and minerals are essential components of a healthy diet and chronic deficiencies may be linked to a number of health conditions. There is now substantial evidence to suggest that optimising intake of certain vitamins and minerals has a role to play in preventative and therapeutic healthcare. Each vitamin and mineral has a different role to play. Most of these have to be provided in the diet, as we cannot make them ourselves with the exception of a few vitamins such as Vitamin D. Interestingly, vitamins and minerals work best in certain combinations rather than alone, this is known as the synergy of nutrients. For instance Vitamins A, C and E work best in combination with the minerals Zinc and Selenium. This is an example of how eating varied and balanced meals helps to ensure a synergistic blend of nutrients throughout the day.

It is not difficult to eat a healthy balanced diet. In summary, research suggests that the healthiest way to eat is in moderation, as is the Islamic way.

Summer: Insect Bites

By Atiq Ahmad Bhatti, Homeopathic Practitioner. The www.nhs.uk website states that insect bites or a sting from a bee/wasp causes small red lumps on the skin, which can be painful and itchy.

Wasp or Hornet Stings

A wasp or hornet sting causes a sudden, sharp pain at first. A swollen red mark may then form on our skin, lasting a few hours with some pain.

Bee Stings

A bee sting feels similar to a wasp sting, but the sting will often be left in wound. This type of sting can cause pain, redness and some swelling.

Mosquito Bites

Bites from mosquitoes often cause small red lumps on the skin and be very itchy.

Homeopathic medicines offer effective alleviation for all the above, especially if taken at the onset of an insect bite or sting, helping heal the sting or bite.

Common Homeopathic Remedies used to help combat insect bites and

- **Aconite** (monkshood, wolfsbane | plant based)
- **Apis Mellifica** (honey bee | isopathic)
- **Cantharis** (spanish fly | isopathic)
- **Ledum Pal** (wild rosemary | plant based)
- **Urtica Urens** (stinging nettle | plant based)
- **Calendula Ointment or Cream** (marigold | plant based)

Key Indications for Use

Aconite

- Panic or fear after a sting or bite
- Cutting, stabbing or burning pain
- Numbness, tingling, swelling

Apis Mellifica

- Swollen skin – main remedy for bee stings
- Itching and/or burning skin

Cantharis

- Intense burning
- Scalding pain – as if burnt by hot oil
- Blistering

Ledum Pal

- Swelling and itching
- Ideal for mosquito bites

Urtica Urens

- Reddish blotches that burn and itch (like a nettle sting)
- Ideal for insect bites
- Excellent for hives that sting and itch

Calendula

- Effective at healing and cooling the skin.
- Known to contain antifungal, anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties.
- Used as an antiseptic.



A few people may experience an allergic reaction such as anaphylaxis, causing breathing difficulty. If so, dial 999 and seek medical assistance immediately.

The above Homeopathic remedies may be mixed depending upon the symptoms, or individual remedies may be used.

Experience shows however that a mixture (combination) of selected remedies above (based on the symptom profile) can often provide better, stronger and lasting results, Insha'Allah.

For more information on Homeopathy, please visit the alislam website to download the book

Homeopathy – Like Cures Like

by His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy upon him).

<https://www.alislam.org/library/books/homoeopathy.pdf>

The above is not a comprehensive list, and for further information and guidance, please speak to a qualified Homeopathic Practitioner.

The information above does not replace medical advice from a qualified medical practitioner. Always seek help if symptoms are of a serious nature.

WEALTH IS NOT DIMINISHED BY GIVING TO CHARITY

By Fahim Anwer, Secretary Waqfe Jadid UK

Waqfe Jadid – A Source of Allah's Blessings

The blessed and noble scheme of Waqfe Jadid will be completing its 64th year at the end of December. Last year, in 2020, the total amount contributed for Waqfe Jadid was just over £10.5 million pounds, Alhamdulillah. This is made all the more profound considering it was the year the Covid-19 pandemic almost ground the majority of the world to a halt. Concerns were high that chandas would drop due to member's loss of income and business closing down however the outcome was to the contrary.

In a "This Week with Hazoor" segment from 15th January 2021, a week after the Waqfe Jadid sermon, Hazoor Aqdas was visibly and wonderfully happy over the huge achievements of the UK and Germany Jama'ats in Waqfe Jadid contributions. The fact that Jamaat Ahmadiyya, in year of so much disruption, moved closer to Allah the Almighty rather than away from Him was evident from an unprecedented amount contributed by members to this scheme. And this was done by the members in order to win the Mercy and Protection of Allah The Almighty upon them during this period of uncertainty and anxiety.

We are once again approaching that time of year in this country where many people will be celebrating the festive season. This would typically be celebrated in parties and fun nights out in clubs. A lot of money would typically be spent on these events and even by the individuals attending, glamming themselves up and spending huge amounts on food and drink. Adults and now many teenagers and youngsters would participate in decadent and debaucherous activities purely to gratify their own pleasures.

Contrast this with how Jama'at Ahmadiyya conducts itself. The Waqfe Jadid sermon is always given at beginning of the New Year. Millions of members would be glued to the sermon of Hazoor Aqdas in which Hazoor would typically tell our members to fulfil the rights due to Allah The Almighty and that of His Creation. Hazoor would relate the accounts of

ordinary members making extraordinary financial sacrifices towards this blessed scheme. And it is important to highlight that while a large part of the world is celebrating and fulfilling its own personal needs, Jama'at Ahmadiyya, under the guidance of the Khalifa of Islam, is fulfilling the needs of millions of impoverished people served by this blessed scheme.

By the Grace and Mercy of Allah the Almighty the Waqfe Jadid scheme has been growing from strength to strength every year but there is still much room for improvement. Members should know that this blessed scheme was initially setup to serve the talim and tarbiyyat needs of Ahmadiis living in the remote parts of Pakistan which were not under the direct gaze of the Markaz. It was also to preach to the non-muslims in these areas. Today this scheme has grown into serving the poor communities in the remote parts of the Indian Sub-continent as well as in East and West Africa with not only mosques and religious education but also secular educations and schools, medication and hospitals, clean water and wells, electricity and MTA.

And it is not just adults that participate in this scheme to better the lives of those less well off than them but our children and newly initiated members to Jama'at Ahmadiyya are also encouraged to participate. In 2020, 1.45million members participated in this noble scheme. And everyone that participated did so purely to win the pleasure of Allah by spending in His Cause. They are reaping the rewards of their financial sacrifice.

The Holy Prophet *(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)* said "Wealth is not diminished by giving to Charity" (Sahih Muslim) so there is nothing to fear and everything to gain by participating and contributing more this year. May Allah enable us to excel in our financial sacrifices and meet the expectations of our Beloved Hazoor.