


# AHMADIYYA BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2022

FATAH 1401



The new complex of Masjid Baitul Futuh will be inaugurated soon Inshallah.



“Rather than fretting over the way others dress, we should consider how pure we are in our hearts and whether we are caring for one another and respecting each other’s sentiments”

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad ابده الله تعالى  
بنصره العزيز



In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious Ever Merciful



18. Inauguration of  
Masroor Eye Institute,  
Burkina Faso



22. National  
Tabligh Seminar

## 10. Virtual Meetings held with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V

- 10: Virtual Meeting of Lajna Imaillah Belgium
- 11: Virtual Meeting of Atfal From Sweden
- 13: Virtual Meeting of Swiss Majlis Ansarullah
- 15: Virtual Meeting of Nasirat From Ghana

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### DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Sheikh Tahir Ahmad

How to contact  
the Ahmadiyya  
Bulletin

By post:

Ahmadiyya Bulletin, Baitul Futuh Mosque,  
181 London Road, Morden SM4 5PT

By email: [ahmadiyyabulletin3@gmail.com](mailto:ahmadiyyabulletin3@gmail.com)

By Tel: 020 8687 7926 or 07877966387

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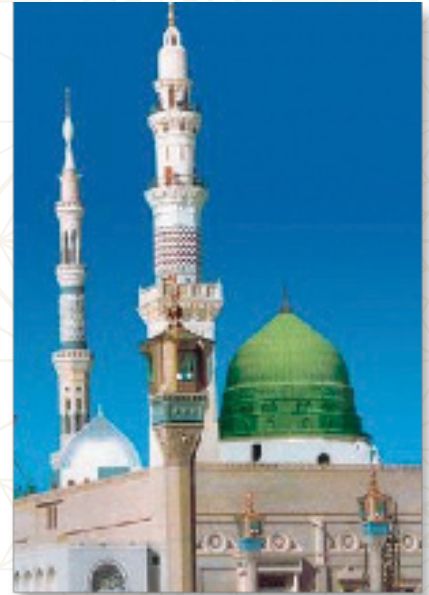
# بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## *The Holy Qur'an*

It is not thy responsibility to make them follow the right path; but Allah guides whomsoever He pleases. And whatever of wealth you spend, it is for yourselves, while you spend not but to seek the favour of Allah. And whatever of wealth you spend, it shall be paid back to you in full and you shall not be wronged.

لَيْسَ عَلَيْكَ هُدَاهُمْ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ يَهْدِي مَن يَشَاءُ وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَلَا نُفْسِكُمْ وَمَا تُنْفِقُونَ إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ اللَّهِ وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يُوَفَّ إِلَيْكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تُظْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

(Al-Baqarah, 2:273)



## *Hadith*

Ibn Mas'ud relates that the Holy Prophet ﷺ, said: Only two persons are worthy of being envied: a person upon whom Allah bestows riches and gives him the power to spend in a righteous cause; and a person upon whom Allah bestows wisdom by which he judges and which he teaches.

(Bukhari and Muslim, quoted in Gardens of the Righteous, P. 116, No. 547)

## *From the Writings of the Promised Messiah ﷺ*

The greatest difficulty that confronts us today is that we require financial support in order to propagate Islam. You ought to bear well in mind that ultimately God Almighty has willed to establish this Community with His own hand and He Himself is the Supporter and Helper of this Community. However, since God desires to make His servants worthy of spiritual reward, the Prophets are compelled to make an appeal for financial support. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), called for assistance, and in the same manner – upon the precepts of prophethood – I too apprise my friends of the Community's needs. In any case, I would like to reiterate that even if we do collect an amount for the propagation of Islam, it is obvious that we cannot match the amount that is at the disposal of the Christian clergy. And even if we do, it is still my faith that victory is only given to those with whom Allah is pleased.



(Malfuzat, Vol 1 p 238, 31 Jan 1898)



## FRIDAY SERMON SUMMARIES

We present summaries of some of Huzoor's Friday sermons taken with thanks from [alislam.org](http://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: 28 OCT 2022

Once, when asked who among the men was most dear to the Holy Prophet ﷺ, he replied saying Hazrat Abu Bakr. On another occasion, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that Hazrat Abu Bakr was the best among people except if there was a prophet.

Once, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that high ranking people are seen by others like a rising star and Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Umar are among those who are seen in this manner.

During his final illness, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that no one had been kinder to him than Hazrat Abu Bakr. If he could have made anyone his Khalil (friend) then it would be Hazrat Abu Bakr. Then, the Holy Prophet ﷺ instructed for all the windows facing the mosque to be closed except the window of Hazrat Abu Bakr.

On another occasion, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that he was from Hazrat Abu Bakr and the latter was from

him and that they were both brothers in this life and the next. It is also narrated that when the Holy Prophet ﷺ would sit with the Companions, none would look directly at him. However, Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Umar would look at him, and the Holy Prophet ﷺ would look at them and smile.

One day, the Holy Prophet ﷺ went to the mosque and Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Umar were on either side of him and he was holding their hands. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that they would be raised just like this on the Day of Judgement.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ is reported to have stated that every Prophet has two governors (wazir) in the heavens and two on earth. He said that his two governors in the heavens were Gabriel and Mikael and his two governors on earth were Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Umar.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ went atop Mount Uhud and he was accompanied by Hazrat Abu Bakr, Hazrat





Umar<sup>r</sup> and Hazrat Uthman<sup>r</sup>. The mountain started to shake and the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, 'Uhud, be calm, for none stand atop you except a Prophet, a truthful one (Siddiq) and two martyrs (Shaheed).

There are ten people known as the Asharah Mubasharah who were given the glad tidings of Paradise by the Holy Prophet ﷺ, among whom was Hazrat Abu Bakr<sup>r</sup>. Huzoor clarified that although these people were very close to the Holy Prophet ﷺ, they were not the only ones to be given glad tidings of Paradise, in fact there are about 25 companions regarding whom this glad tidings was given. Then, there are also those who partook in the Battle of Badr and the oath of allegiance at Bai'at-e-Rizwan who were also all given the glad tidings of Paradise.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ once said that Gabriel showed him the door through which his people would enter Paradise. Upon hearing this, Hazrat Abu Bakr<sup>r</sup> expressed that he wished that he had been there so that he too could see this door. The Holy Prophet ﷺ replied that Hazrat Abu Bakr<sup>r</sup> would be the foremost to enter through that door.

## SERMON: 04 NOV 2022

After reciting Tashahhud, Ta'awwuz and Surah al-Fatihah, Huzoor stated that the Promised Messiah ﷺ stated that in order to complete his objectives, there was a need for believers to make financial sacrifices. Allah Almighty had made it clear that the wealth one spends in the way of Allah becomes a source of blessings in this life and the next. In one instance Allah Almighty states:

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنْبَتَتْ سَبْعَ سَنَابِلٍ فِي كُلِّ سُنْبُلَةٍ مِائَةُ حَبَّةٍ وَاللَّهُ يُضَعِفُ لِمَنْ يَشَاءُ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٦٢﴾

*'The similitude of those who spend their wealth for the cause of Allah is like the similitude of a grain of corn which grows seven ears, in each ear a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies it further for whomsoever He pleases; and Allah is Bountiful, All-Knowing.'* (Holy Qur'an, 2:262)

Alongside financial sacrifices, one must also strive to reform oneself, abstain from vain conduct, and do justice to their worship, otherwise Allah Almighty does not bless one in their wealth from a mere monetary sacrifice.

One should therefore not be satisfied with merely making a financial sacrifice, and must self reflect. This is the sign of a true believer. There are many examples of those who have done so, within the Jama'at, and also those who came before. There is the example of Hazrat Rabia Basri, when once she was sitting at home and 20 guests came, when there were only two pieces of bread at home. Hazrat Rabia, out of the trust in Allah, told her servant to still give these pieces of bread to the poor. The servant was bemused by this, but a short while later a woman's voice was heard. She said that she had brought 20 pieces of bread. Hazrat Rabia said that she sent these pieces of bread having trusted in Allah that he would give back tenfold.

Whilst Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I explained that at times Allah Almighty gives back tenfold, and at others He may even give back 700-fold, according to the

situation and the nature of the virtue. Hazrat Rabia said that this is how Allah Almighty showers His blessings. However, one should not test Allah in this way, but it should be purely for the pleasure of Allah.

Through the Promised Messiah ﷺ who has been sent in this era, service to faith is being carried out around the world. By the grace of Allah, millions of pounds are received and spent on those in need and on poorer countries. Allah Almighty then displays just how He blesses those who make sacrifices, be they rich or poor.

A former Christian, Momin Johnson from Liberia, says that a few months ago after some tabligh efforts in a village which was difficult to reach, and in which there were poor people, we decided not to press for financial sacrifices for *Tahrik-e-Jadid* too much this year. One day the Imam of the village came to the mission house and handed an amount of money saying it was from 21 members of the village. After being asked how he knew about it as they had not gone to ask for anything, he said that he was listening to the radio programme of the Community, and the people themselves decided to make this effort to present financial sacrifices.

Sadr Lajna Niger writes that many women participated in the first National Tarbiyyati Class, where they were also encouraged to donate towards *Tahrik-e-Jadid*. Despite being told that there was still a little time to go before the financial year ended, there and then the women began presenting amounts of money. Consequently, more and more women came forward to make sacrifices.

The Ameer of Indonesia writes, there is an Ahmadi who owns a factory, but the circumstances had become dire. He says that listening to the sermon the previous year about *Tahrik-e-Jadid* had left a profound impression on him. Therefore, he doubled his promise and immediately made this contribution. A week later Allah Almighty blessed him immensely, and his sales began to increase greatly, and in this way his factory which was all but shut, became very successful.

## SERMON: 11 NOV 2022

According to narrations, Hazrat Abu Bakr was proficient in the knowledge of the history of Arab lineages, particularly those of the Qureish. Those who later became experts in this field of knowledge attributed their education in the field to Hazrat Abu Bakr for he had the utmost knowledge on the subject.

It is narrated that once the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that God had given a person the choice between that which is in this world and that which is with Him and the person chose that which was with God. Upon this, Hazrat Abu Bakr began crying, which confused some people as it seemed to them that the Holy Prophet ﷺ was speaking generally about a person.

They would later realise that Hazrat Abu Bakr understood this to be the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

Hazrat Abu Bakr also had great perception and understanding of the Holy Qur'an. For example, when the verse

الْيَوْمَ اكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي

*'This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed My favour upon you.'* (5:4),

Hazrat Abu Bakr began crying, for he felt that this meant the demise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ was near. The Promised Messiah ﷺ explained that Prophets are sent to this world with a mission and when that mission is completed, then comes time for them to depart, something which Hazrat Abu Bakr understood and gleaned from this verse.

Hazrat Abu Bakr also had great proficiency in the interpretation of dreams and he would interpret dreams during the time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Once, a man went to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and said that he saw a dream in which there was a cloud from which oil and honey fell and people were benefitting from it. He then saw a rope hanging from the heavens which the Holy Prophet ﷺ took hold of in the dream and went up to the heavens and then two more people ascended the same way. A third person took hold of the rope but it broke apart, after which it was mended, and then he too ascended using the same rope. After hearing this dream, Hazrat Abu Bakr asked the Holy Prophet ﷺ for permission to interpret it, which the Holy Prophet ﷺ allowed.

Hazrat Abu Bakr said that the cloud was Islam and the oil and honey that fell from it was the Qur'an. People benefitting from these things referred to those attaining knowledge of the Holy Qur'an. The rope going to the heavens represented the truth upon which the Holy Prophet ﷺ was established and taking a hold of it elevated the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

Then there would be those after him established on the same truth then a third for whom it would be broken and then mended. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that Hazrat Abu Bakr was correct in some aspects and mistaken in others with regards to his interpretation, however the Holy Prophet ﷺ did not deem it necessary to elaborate further at that time.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ saw a dream in which he was with Hazrat Abu Bakr at an elevation and the Holy Prophet ﷺ was two and a half steps ahead of Hazrat Abu Bakr. Hazrat Abu Bakr interpreted this to mean that God would call the Holy Prophet ﷺ unto Himself and that Hazrat Abu Bakr would remain alive for two and a half years after that, and this is exactly what happened.

Once Hazrat A'ishah saw in a dream that three moons fell into her room. After the demise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ when he was buried in Hazrat A'ishah's home, Hazrat Abu Bakr told her that this was the first of the three moons that she saw and this was the best.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ recognised the immense sacrifices made by Hazrat Abu Bakr at the outset of



Islam. The sacrifices made at the beginning by Hazrat Abu Bakr were incomparable, even though those who came after also made great sacrifices, such as Hazrat Umar.

Hazrat Abu Bakr was known for freeing slaves. Hence, at the outset of Islam, there were seven slaves who Hazrat Abu Bakr freed with his own wealth for the sake of Islam.

Hazrat Abu Bakr was very kind to his children. Although his eldest son lived separately, Hazrat Abu Bakr would tend to his household expenses.

## SERMON: 18 NOV 2022

Based on the incidents which have been presented already illustrating the Holy Prophet's impression of Hazrat Abu Bakr, it becomes clear that the Holy Prophet wished for Hazrat Abu Bakr to be his successor. Hazrat A'ishah relates that in his final illness, the Holy Prophet summoned Hazrat Abu Bakr so that he may write something down. He said he feared that someone else may consider themselves to have a greater right to being his successor, whereas the believers would certainly reject anyone else aside from Hazrat Abu Bakr being his successor.

According to Hazrat Abu Hurairah, the Holy Prophet saw in a dream that he was sitting by a well and used a bucket to draw some water. Then he saw Hazrat Abu Bakr drawing some water from the well, but had some difficulty in doing so, but God would cover his weakness. Then, the Holy Prophet saw the bucket turn into leather and saw Hazrat Umar drawing water from the well with great strength. This indicated that these two stalwarts would be successors to the Holy Prophet.

At the time of the incident of Ifk (the Great Calumny), Hazrat A'ishah's parents (i.e. Hazrat Abu Bakr) exhibited great love and respect for the Holy Prophet. Over the course of this incident, they followed the Holy Prophet's example in their treatment and demeanour towards Hazrat A'ishah. During this time when, with the permission of the Holy Prophet, Hazrat A'ishah went to her parent's home and explained to them that she had come to learn of the allegations raised against her, Hazrat Abu Bakr began crying and advised her to return to the Holy Prophet's home.

Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad, said that by raising this calumny, the opponents wished to cause harm to her husband, the Holy Prophet and her father, Hazrat Abu Bakr at the same time. Otherwise there was no benefit for them in defaming Hazrat A'ishah. It also cannot be said that the other wives of the Holy Prophet wished to join in defaming Hazrat A'ishah so that she fell out of favour with the Holy Prophet; in the words of Hazrat A'ishah herself, she said that Hazrat Zainab was the fiercest in defending her and denouncing the calumny. Similarly, when asked about Hazrat A'ishah, other wives of the Holy Prophet had only positive things to say about her. Hence, there was no

one with any vendetta against Hazrat A'ishah, and raising this calumny was only an attempt against the Holy Prophet, or to hinder Hazrat Abu Bakr from becoming his successor.

Once, a Bedouin went to the Holy Prophet and asked him to fulfil a certain need of his. The Holy Prophet said that he should return later for the fulfilment of his need. Seeing as the Bedouin was not practised in manners and decorum, he asked the Holy Prophet what he should do if the Holy Prophet was no longer present when he returned. The Holy Prophet said that if he was no longer in this world, then he should go to Hazrat Abu Bakr for the fulfilment of his need.

The chief of the hypocrites, Abdullah bin Ubay bin Sulul sought to hinder the growth of the Muslim empire, or to stand at the helm after the demise of the Holy Prophet. He saw that Hazrat Abu Bakr was the most virtuous follower of the Holy Prophet and was very dear to the Holy Prophet. He saw that if the Muslims needed to resolve a matter or have a question answered and were unable to ask the Holy Prophet, they would turn to Hazrat Abu Bakr. It was clear that the successor after the Holy Prophet would be Hazrat Abu Bakr. This however dampened Abdullah bin Ubay bin Sulul's dreams of leadership. Thus, he attempted to have Hazrat Abu Bakr's stature diminish in the sight of the Holy Prophet and subsequently the Muslim people.

The Promised Messiah said that Hazrat Abu Bakr had a deep understanding of God, he was very kind, humble, very forgiving and forbearing and had a strong relationship with the Holy Prophet.

## SERMON: 25 NOV 2022

It is recorded that even before accepting Islam, Hazrat Abu Bakr was regarded as the best among the Quraish and people would often go to him for help in their difficulties. He was also very kind to the poor and needy. He would purchase quilts during the cold weather and distribute them among the poor and needy.

Before he became Khalifah, he used to milk someone's goats. After he became Khalifah, the person's daughters thought that he would no longer carry out this duty. However Hazrat Abu Bakr continued to do this even after becoming the Khalifah, continuing so for six months until he moved from the outskirts to Madinah.

After Hazrat Abu Bakr's passing, Hazrat Umar asked one of his workers the various virtues which he saw in Hazrat Abu Bakr. Among the things he said was the fact that he went and fed a certain poor person daily.

Hence, Hazrat Umar went to the same cave where the poor man, who was blind and had no limbs resided, in order to feed him. When he was given food, he began crying, realising that Hazrat Abu Bakr had passed away. When asked how he knew this, he said that he had no teeth, and so Hazrat Abu Bakr used to

chew the food and then put it in his mouth in order to make it easy for him.

During the Battle of Badr, when it was being decided who would guard the Holy Prophet's ﷺ tent, Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ was the first to step forward and protect him. Similarly, on other occasions like the Battle of Khaibar, Treaty of Hudaibiyah, Expedition of Taif, Battle of Tabuk, Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ showed great bravery. After the demise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, when Muslims were becoming apostates, Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ showed great bravery and faced this challenge head on.

Once, some people asked the Companions who the bravest Companion was during the lifetime of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. They responded by saying that the bravest among them was considered to be the one who stood by the Holy Prophet ﷺ the most as especially during battle, this would be the most dangerous place to be in terms of threat of enemy attack. Hence, only the bravest person and often, it was Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ standing next to the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and so the Companions said that they saw him to be the bravest.

After the demise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, when there was a dispute as to whether the Khalifah should be from the Muhajirin or Ansar, Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ called a meeting. Hazrat Umarؓ thought that this task would require someone brave, not tender hearted and so he began thinking of various arguments to make. However, when the time for this meeting arrived, Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ conducted it with such courage and presented all the points which Hazrat Umarؓ had planned to present, had he conducted the meeting. Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ also bravely stood firm when people refused the payment of Zakat. He said that no matter what, even if a piece of rope was given in Zakat during the time of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, he would ensure that it was still offered. He said that to this end, even if there was an attack and he had to fight on his own then he would.

It is recorded that when Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ accepted Islam, he had one million dirhams, according to one narration. It is said that he spent so much on the poor and needy that at the time of migration he only had about five thousand or so dirhams left.

Once the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that no one's wealth had benefited him like that of Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ. Hazrat Umarؓ said that once, the thought occurred to him that Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ always excelled him in financial sacrifices and he resolved to surpass him. So he went home and took half of all that he owned and presented it. However, later he learned that Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ sacrificed all that he possessed at home. He then realised that he would never be able to surpass Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ in financial sacrifices.

## SERMON: 2 DEC 2022

Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ was beloved and considered best among all people. It is recorded that the Companions would discuss among themselves as to who was the best of them, and it would unanimously be agreed that after the Holy Prophet ﷺ, Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ was

considered to be the best.

Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ narrated that while he was in the cave along with the Holy Prophet ﷺ he expressed that if the disbelieving Makkans who had followed them looked down at the mouth of the cave, they would surely see them. However the Holy Prophet ﷺ asked him, 'What do you think about two people with whom the third is Allah?' It was thus that Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ also had the title of 'One of the Two' (Thani Ithnain)

A 20th Century Algerian author commended Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ for his strength and steadfastness. He said that he possessed unwavering faith and complete conviction, a reflection of the qualities possessed by the Holy Prophet ﷺ. He remained steadfast even when there was enmity all around him.

Another author named J. J. Saunders, said that though the reign of Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ was relatively short, he achieved great feats. The worst of storms could not waver his faith. His steadfastness helped combat the rebellion of apostasy and re-establish Islam within Arabia and lay the foundations of the Arabian empire.

Some authors do not understand the rank and status of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and thus exaggerate the status of Hazrat Abu Bakr or Hazrat Umarؓ. For example, one author said that Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ would be the Holy Prophet's ﷺ shield. However, history clearly bears testament to the fact that the Holy Prophet ﷺ was unwaveringly steadfast, and if anyone was a shield, it was the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmadؒ said that the likes of Hazrat Abu Bakr, Hazrat Umar and Hazrat Abu Hurairahؓ are remembered by great kings and leaders and with their names they say the salutation, 'may Allah be pleased with him'. These great kings and leaders wish that they could have had the opportunity to serve these great Companions. Can it then be said that by living very simple lives, giving up all their worldly wealth, they have lost out on anything? Although from a worldly standpoint they brought about a sort of death upon themselves, however this death proved to be a source of life. These were people who are not remembered because of their family names or filial associations, rather they are remembered for the great sacrifices that they rendered for the sake of Islam. Similarly, one would be hard pressed to find the progeny of Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ today, and so it is not because of his progeny in the world today that he is remembered but he and other stalwarts are remembered for the sacrifices that they personally made.

Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmadؒ said that it is due to the great services and sacrifices made by Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ that he is so highly regarded even today. There is no king or leader today who has the same rank or honour possessed by Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ. Even the workers of Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ are regarded in higher esteem, only because he devoted himself to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the service of Islam. Some say that Ahmadis dishonour the Holy Prophet ﷺ, yet these are the true views of Ahmadis.



The Promised Messiah ﷺ said that Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ possessed the intrinsic qualities required for enlightenment, which is why upon hearing the message of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, he accepted it immediately without hesitation. Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ and Abu Jahl were born in the same place, both saw the same signs, and the Holy Prophet ﷺ conveyed the message equally to everyone. However, those who were pure natured like Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ obtained guidance, and those who were influenced by Satan like Abu Jahl remained bereft.

The Promised Messiah ﷺ further said that even the Shias do not deny that Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ accepted the Holy Prophet ﷺ at a time when he faced great opposition and supported the Holy Prophet ﷺ in times of great difficulty, enduring great hardships. After his demise, he was buried beside the Holy Prophet ﷺ and so even in his life and in his death, he never left the Holy Prophet's ﷺ side.

## SERMON: 09 DEC 2022

The Promised Messiah ﷺ said that Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Umarؓ were leaders of the caravan which climbed great heights for the sake of God and they invited people far and wide to Islam. Both their eras of Caliphate saw great victories and achievements. The qualities of Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ shine bright like a star.

The Promised Messiah ﷺ said that Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ prayed with great fervour and would wholly devote himself to the devotion of God. His nature was closest to that of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and it was thus that he was at the forefront of accepting him.

Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ was so closely attached to the Holy Prophet ﷺ and emulated him so closely that no swords could separate them. Truth, loyalty, steadfastness and piety were ingrained within his being.

The Promised Messiah ﷺ said that during his illness, the Holy Prophet ﷺ appointed Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ to lead prayers. He also said that aside from the door of Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ, all other doors into the Mosque should be closed, for there was no one with greater favours upon him than Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ. It is recorded that upon the demise of Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ, he was carried on the same cot as the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and he was buried beside the Holy Prophet ﷺ, such that his head was aligned with the Holy Prophet's ﷺ shoulders.

The Promised Messiah ﷺ said that in all his pondering, research and study he found with great certainty that Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ certainly was Siddiq, he found him to be the Imam of all Imams and a lantern for the faith and Muslim people.

The Promised Messiah ﷺ said that people should always bear the example of Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ in

mind. The world has never seen an example of true friendship, the like of which was displayed by Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ, who remained by the Holy Prophet's ﷺ side no matter the excruciating opposition and torment he endured. It is people with true faith who remain by one's side during hardships. It is during tough times that the true fabric of people possessing faith comes to be known. The fact that the Holy Prophet ﷺ chose Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ to be his closest companion and to accompany him especially in the most difficult of circumstances is a great stamp and testament to Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ as Siddiq. A Prophet looks through the lens of guidance received from God, and so it was God who made clear to the Holy Prophet ﷺ that the best Companion to accompany the Holy Prophet ﷺ was Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ, and so it was he who remained by the Holy Prophet ﷺ even as they were in the Cave of Thaur. It was there that the Holy Prophet ﷺ told him, 'fear not, for God is with us', including both of them in 'us'. This was the trust he had in God. When the opponents were right at the mouth of the cave, the Holy Prophet ﷺ could have merely made an indication towards Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ, but he trusted God so much that he had a conversation with his most devoted Companion and assured him that there was nothing to worry about. It was the same confidence instilled in Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ that enabled him to stand before the Muslims after the demise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and assure them that Muhammad ﷺ was not but a messenger and all messengers before him had also passed away.

The Promised Messiah ﷺ said that after the demise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, many became apostate, but it was through Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ that God ensured that Islam remained and in a way was re-established and affirmed in the world. This challenge was faced by none other than Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ.

The Promised Messiah ﷺ said that Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ was like the shadow of the Holy Prophet ﷺ in his morals and he had a perpetual connection with the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

This was Hazrat Abu Bakrؓ, who had completely devoted himself to God and His Messenger ﷺ.

That this brings an end to his series of sermons on the Companions who took part in the Battle of Badr.

'My concept, for that matter of peace, in view of the Islamic teachings is that be in peace, let others live in peace and spread the message of peace and that, of course, by winning the hearts and not by dictating or imposing our conditions.'

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V,  
Peace Symposium, 25th April 2004



## 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 Lajna Imaillah Belgium With Hazrat Amirul Momineen



On 6th November 2022, Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V held a virtual online meeting with members of the National Amila of Lajna Imaillah Belgium. Huzoor Anwar presided the meeting from MTA Studios in Islamabad, Tilford, whilst the Amila members joined from the Baitul Mujeeb Mosque in Brussels.

During the meeting, Huzoor Aqdas emphasised the importance of conveying the peaceful message of Islam to the public and instructed that Lajna Imaillah should set ambitious targets in this regard.

Speaking about the importance of conveying Islam's message to the people in Belgium, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said,

*"Try to find some pockets [of people to convey the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat to] from among Arabs, from among local Belgians, and Asians who are migrants here. So, try to focus on different ethnic groups. Form specialist teams for conveying the message of Islam to different groups... This is how you can achieve your target or at least enable you to spread the message of Islam."*

Advising the Secretary Tarbiyyat about the training of their children, Huzoor exhorted,

*"Converse with your children on religious matters so that they learn the faith. Ask the mothers to hold discussions on religion at home."*

The Secretary mentioned that they wish to create awareness about the issues mothers are facing in raising their children in the modern environment. Advising her on how to do so in an effective way, Hazrat Amirul Momineen stated,



*"It is good to do so and you should create a list of the issues they face. Solutions to almost all the issues have been explained in various speeches and sermons, and in the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) and in the Holy Quran. Find the answers to the issues from there and make them accessible for the mothers so they know how to reply to the questions of their children. Between the fathers and their children and between mothers and children, there ought to be a real friendship so that the children share their issues with them. Unless the children develop a habit of sharing their problems with their parents, there will continue to be problems that arise in the upbringing of the children. Ask the daughters what their concerns are and then also speak to the mothers. Also ask boys under the age of fifteen. Those above the age of fifteen, ask them too with the help of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya."*

A Lajna member asked about how to motivate older girls to participate in the activities of the Jama'at, given the fact that some girls become less inclined towards participating actively as they enter their teens. Huzoor responded,

*"They become less engaged because their mothers are not so interested in religion. I have already mentioned the importance of mothers developing a bond of friendship with their children and conversing with them about religious matters from a young age. In addition, you should make programmes which are truly of interest for the girls of that age. When the girls come to the events, of course tell them about the teachings of the Holy Quran and the sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) but also ask them what they would like at the events so that they become more interested. You can make your programmes in a way that they are religious and they also cater for the needs of such girls."*

The secretary responsible for arranging Waqf-e-Ardhis asked how Lajna can do Waqf-e-Ardhi. Huzoor Anwar explained,

*"Just as you are able to do all your other work and go out, you should also do Tabligh and Waqf-e-Ardhi. If you do not wish to go out of your home city then you can distribute literature to propagate the peaceful message of Islam to the general public within your own city. Take your son or daughter with you and distribute literature and tell people how you have freedom as a Muslim woman and you also wear the hijab and what it means for you. Do not get into areas which are unsafe, however. Also make personal contact with people and expand your circle of contacts and tell them about the true peaceful message of Islam."*

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V added,

*"Similarly for Waqf-e-Ardhi you can present your services for teaching the Holy Quran to Ahmadi Muslims and for other Tarbiyyat related tasks... Men also do this and so you should serve just like men do. What is the difference between men and women in achieving this task? Just as the men carry out their*



*tasks, so should you. Find out what the men do and women can serve in a similar way. On the one hand you speak of the rights of women and that men and women are the same. So when men and women are equal then you should serve just as the men do. You should not harbour any fear or reservations."*

### Virtual Meeting of Atfal From Sweden With Hazrat Amirul Momineen



On 20th November 2022, Hazrat Amirul Momineen graciously granted Atfal from Sweden an audience on line. Huzoor presided over the meeting from the MTA Studios in Islamabad, Tilford, while the Atfal joined virtually from the Nasir Mosque, in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Proceedings began with a recitation of the Holy Qur'an, after which Atfal were given the opportunity to ask questions. One Tifl enquired why Muslims adopt different postures during their prayers whereas Hindus and Christians sit still to worship. Huzoor explained,

*"Allah the Almighty has taught Muslims the perfect way to worship. He has taught us to firstly stand and fold our arms in front. Whenever you go in front of someone who is respectable and of influence, you show them respect by standing... When you wish to seek something, your inner state changes and you bow down and that is the position that is reflected in the 'Ruku' position. Then you stand straight again when you become restless in yearning for what you desire. When you become extremely anxious when asking for something, you again straighten yourself in desperation and ask your heart's desire. When your anxiety increases further still, you suddenly fall in prostration and weep in front of Allah the Almighty. You then sit up and fall in prostration again. Then you stand and then again pray whilst sitting down and eventually you finish your prayer. So these are the postures Allah the Almighty has taught us to adopt in prayer."*

Huzoor Anwar added,

*"When infant children really want their parents to give them something, they strongly insist and wail and whilst doing so, sometimes they sit down and then stand... So this is a natural way to adopt different postures. During the obligatory prayers, Allah the*



*Almighty has taught us that when we go in front of Allah, we should adopt the different postures and adopt the appropriate internal state. He has even taught us the words of prayer we should use. He has also commanded us to worship with fervency in our prayers. Thus, Allah will accept our prayers if we do so. So our way of worship is perfect. It is not that way of worshipping where you just sit down and relax. It is a method that is very natural and is in line with our nature. There is no greater being than Allah the Almighty. So when we turn to God then we must adopt all the appropriate postures."*

One boy asked His Holiness if those people can be forgiven by God Almighty who do not believe in the Promised Messiah<sup>(peace be upon him)</sup>. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V replied,

*"Whether someone will be forgiven or not is entirely up to God Almighty. Allah the Almighty has said that you should believe in His prophets as per the statement of the Holy Qur'an. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) prophesied as well that in the latter days the Messiah and Mahdi will appear. We say that he was to be from amongst the Ummah, from amongst the Muslims. So the Promised Messiah<sup>(peace be upon him)</sup> came and we accepted him... The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) has said that the dealings of Allah the Almighty with regards to the judgement of people is for the Hereafter. He will decide regarding punishment and reward and whether someone who has done a good deed, their deed is worthy of acceptance in the sight of God and how He shall punish anyone who is deserving of chastisement. Allah the Almighty punishes those people in this life who create disorder and carry out injustices and they will face His punishment in the Hereafter too."*

Huzoor further stated,

*"Nations are not destroyed because of the mere rejection of a prophet. They are punished because they transgress by committing cruelties. Today, people*

*think Muslim nations are doing very well – they have oil wealth, and Muslims rule very rich countries and there are individuals that are very wealthy but this is not the true reality. They are actually in a terrible state. This is true for Muslims and for others. If you reject prophets and go further to mock them and commit injustices against those who believe in them, it is then that Allah the Almighty punishes the people and such people shall most certainly be punished in this life and the Hereafter."*

Continuing Huzoor added,

*"With regards to how Allah will deal with those who do not accept a prophet, the good deeds that they carry out, Allah the Almighty will reward them for it and punish them for their wrongdoing. Every individual is to go through some form of hell, either in this life or the next. Some people go through it in this life whilst others will do so in the next. However, it is a statement of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) that a day shall come when hell will become empty and everyone will enter paradise."*

Huzoor Aqdas went onto mention that as Ahmadi Muslims we must ask ourselves how we have benefitted from believing in the Promised Messiah<sup>(peace be upon him)</sup> and try to improve as individuals. Otherwise there is no benefit we will have derived from a belief in the Promised Messiah<sup>(peace be upon him)</sup> if our actions and deeds are not reformed as a result. A child asked about why Ahmadi Muslims pray when there is a solar or lunar eclipse. Huzoor clarified,

*"We do so because there is a change that comes about in the circumstances and so the Holy prophet Muhammad<sup>(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)</sup> instructed that it should instil a fear of God within us and we should pray because even on the Day of Judgement, the entire system will be upturned and this life will end. We should pray that Allah the Almighty protects us from its harms. There are negative effects the solar and lunar eclipses can have on people. For example, pregnant women can face difficulties as a result. So*





we should pray that Allah protects us from the harms and grants us all that is good of it. Whenever there is a change in the routine of things, it should instill a fear of God within us. When it rained and the clouds formed and there was thunder and lightning, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would seek forgiveness of Allah the Almighty that He may protect people from its negative impact. Nations and peoples were destroyed as a result of rain and thunder too. So we should always pray with a fear of Allah in our hearts whenever there is a change in the routine of circumstances.”

## Virtual Meeting of Swiss Majlis Ansarullah With Hazrat Amirul Momineen



Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V graciously gave an on line audience to Majlis Ansarullah from Switzerland. The meeting took place on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022 which Huzoor presided from MTA Studios in Islamabad, Tilford, whilst the Ansar joined virtually from the Nuur Mosque, in Wigoltingen, Switzerland.

After a formal session which began with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, the gathering was given the opportunity to ask any questions.

One Nasir enquired which country would be the first to become Ahmadi Muslim and how would that country be governed? Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V replied,

*“It is the blessing of God Almighty that the Jama'at is spreading around the world. God Almighty knows which country would first accept the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). Even if it is a small country, we certainly wish that majority of the people of a country join the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. May Allah the Almighty enable our missionaries and those who take the message of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to the people around the world that they spread its peaceful message and people's hearts open up to its truth so that they accept the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and enter the fold of Islam under the flag of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). I certainly do not know which country that shall be and*

*what will take place; only Allah knows the unseen.”*

Replying to the question of how the country will be governed, Huzoor Aqdas explained,

*“The system of governance will continue to run as it is. Khilafat will not become a monarchy and nor will it run a system of governance similar to that of the Khilafat-e-Rashida. Khilafat is going to remain separate and secular governance will be running independently. This is what the Holy Qur'an points to as well. In Surah Hujurat of the Holy Qur'an, Allah the Almighty states that when two Muslim parties are at conflict with each other, you should make peace between them with justice and that those governments that bring about peace, they should then not resort to any vengeance or injustice. So, what this means is that there will be numerous Muslim governments and each one will be managing their own affairs. When it comes to the system that is Islamic and where there are Islamic rulings and on matters of obedience [to Khilafat] and in affairs of spirituality, those countries will turn to the Khalifa of the time for his advice.”*

Another questioner asked how Huzoor envisions the Russo-Ukrainian war developing and will it spread to other countries and how the message of the Ahmadiyyat will spread after a world war.

Hazrat Amirul Momineen stated,

*“What we currently see is a beginning of the war. To presume that Russia has vacated a city and thus Russia has been defeated is not correct. Even Ukraine has warned against making such assumptions and that this is only temporary. It could even be a strategic move from Russia. So, to think that now Russia will withdraw from other places is not wise. This war is spreading and blocs will be formed – in fact they are forming already; Iran and Russia are increasing their alliance, China and Russia are also increasing their relations. So, blocs are forming. The issue of South Korea and North Korea is flaring too and so is the tension in Taiwan. So, the way the affairs around the world are developing, they are becoming increasingly dangerous. So, to say that one city has been vacated and so the situation is improving and the war might come to a stop and people may come to their senses, is not correct. The apparent circumstances show that*





*this war is going to spread and only Allah knows how many years it will take.”*

Huzoor added,

*“When we look at the first two World Wars that took place, it was not the case that a World War began from the first day of conflict. Initially some blocs were formed and then they changed whilst the war continued raging. Germany and Russia were in one situation and later that changed in the second world war. So a similar situation can occur again. I have been warning repeatedly and if they do not pay heed and do not turn to God and people do not come to their senses then the situation will worsen. Allah the Almighty has mentioned in the Holy Quran that the prophecies concerning warnings can be averted if people pay heed. If people amend their ways and they turn to God and use their intellect in the right way to serve mankind and follow the commands of Allah the Almighty, then they will save themselves. They will certainly then have a realisation that we were protected because of this reason. The people of Prophet Yunus (peace be upon him) were saved because of the fact that they cried and wailed to God and amended their ways.”*

Huzoor Anwar continued and advised,

*“So it will be the responsibility of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community that we increase our efforts in propagating the true peaceful message of Islam. We should tell the people that they were saved from calamity because they sought forgiveness and in doing so they have fulfilled one aspect of their responsibilities, which is to seek forgiveness. But if they wish to truly save themselves in the long run then they should turn to the Imam of the age and accept the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) and form a living relationship with God Almighty and that will give them the true salvation. Otherwise they will repeatedly find themselves in the same situation and disorder and wars will continue to rage. So, that will be the time to preach the message of Islam. Otherwise this present war seems as though it will spread if they do not mend their ways. Whether it*

*is within a year or a few years, only Allah knows best.”*

One participant asked how to get Ahmadi Muslims to come together again like they did before the pandemic. In his reply Huzoor highlighted that several major events of the Jama'at have now taken place where a large number of people have come together and so people need to realise that they should begin to come to the mosques again. Huzoor Aqdas gave the example of the Jalsa Salana UK and his own tour of America where people came together in large numbers whilst also observing appropriate Covid protocols and mentioned that they should serve as examples for the various Jama'ats around the world to also hold their events and functions. Huzoor emphasised,

*“It is the responsibility of Majlis Ansarullah to inform their families at home that they should go to the Mosques. It is also the responsibility of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya and Lajna Imaillah. So, if Ansarullah, who are the elders, tell their families and they go to the Mosques themselves then the situation will improve. It is down to the effort you put in.”*

One Nasir mentioned that some people show interest in the Jama'at but they do not join it and so, how should they convince more people to join. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V answered,

*“Allah the Almighty has not said to you anywhere that when you preach to people they will certainly accept your message. Allah the Almighty commanded the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) that ‘convey to the people what has been revealed to thee.’ So, He has commanded us to convey the message. Allah the Almighty has said that it is not your responsibility to guide the people, it is to convey the message and it is up to Allah to guide the people. So, you should convey the teachings and pray. The passion with which you preach the message and distribute literature and speak to people, with the same zeal you should also pray for those people you approach. If you are praying with the same passion and bowing down before Allah the Almighty and offering voluntary prayers then Allah the Almighty*

*will place blessings in your efforts."*

Another member enquired what they can do to help the environment and reduce global warming. Huzoor Anwar mentioned that he has already highlighted to the children's and ladies' auxiliaries of the Jama'at that they should plant more trees and not make short journeys on cars and should develop the habit of walking and cycling more. Further speaking about the role that governments can play, Huzoor said,

*"It is the job of governments that they should organise tree plantations and run their industries in a way that it reduces carbon emissions. China is now saying that Europe and America benefitted economically from the previous fifty or sixty years of using fossil fuels and so, China is going to catch up and then take action on carbon emissions. So everyone is after their own interests."*

Huzoor Anwar stated the issue of climate change has been politicised and gave the example of how Pakistan blames the West and Europe for causing climate change which has caused heavy flooding in the country. However, Huzoor said that Pakistan did cut down its own forests and so they too must take responsibility. Huzoor Aqdas explained,

*"A selfishness has taken root. Wherever industrial development is taking place, for instance in India, then India is saying that why should they reduce their carbon emissions and so too is China and so too are other countries which are developing. Because the West has developed and reached a better place, they are telling others to reduce their carbon emissions whilst also refusing to face any downsides themselves of reducing carbon emissions. They wish to stay as developed as they are... So, it is all highly politicised."*

Huzoor also highlighted that wars are having a negative impact on the environment and contributing to global warming.

## Virtual Meeting of Nasirat From Ghana With Hazrat Amirul Momineen

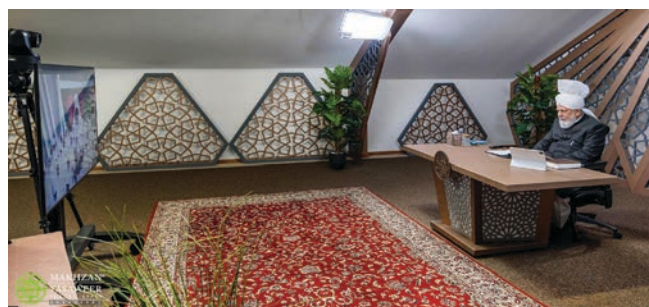


Hazrat Amirul Momineen graciously granted Nasirat from Ghana an on-line audience on 27th November 2022. Huzoor presided over the meeting from MTA Studios in Islamabad, Tilford, whilst the Nasirat joined virtually from the MTA Wahab Adam Studios in Accra.

Following a formal session which began with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, the Nasirat took the opportunity to ask Huzoor some questions.

One Nasira asked how children can develop a good relationship with their parents to which Hazrat Amirul Momineen explained,

*"Your parents always want good for you. They do not want anything bad for you. So, whenever they give you any advice or they ask you to do something, that is for your good. So, you should obey them. If they ask you to go to school and study hard and get good marks, that is for your betterment. If they ask you, when you come back home, that you complete your homework first, then it is for your good. If they ask you to keep*



*yourself clean, it will benefit you because this is how you can have good health. If they ask you to offer your five daily prayers then it is for the betterment of your spiritual level. So, you will get closer to Allah the Almighty in this way. Always think that your parents are the people who are the best people in the world, who love you, who care for you and who desire good for you. So, always obey them."*

Another young lady enquired why the first chapter of the Holy Qur'an, Surah Al-Fatiha has several names. Huzoor clarified,

*"Because this is the chapter which contains the gist and the summary of the whole of the Holy Qur'an. This is why it has different names and this is the basic Surah that asks you to praise Allah the Almighty and to seek His Refuge. Then it also has so many other Attributes of Allah the Almighty which it contains. [Surah Al-Fatiha is called], 'the Cure' because it gives health to your spiritual diseases. You recite Surah in Al-Fatiha, 'All praise belongs to Allah, who is the Lord of the world, He is the Provider and Sustainer of everything and He is Merciful and Ever Gracious', and...there are so many other things written in it. So, it has been given the [various] names because it is the Surah which contains all the subject matters which are given in detail in the other parts of the Holy Qur'an."*

A Nasirat member asked what Islam says about applying make-up and nail polish, braiding hair and wearing wigs. Huzoor stated,

*"Islam says that you can wear make-up. But always remember that there are some other duties of a Muslim; you have to offer your daily prayers. When the time for prayer comes, then you should not bother that you are wearing make-up that you should not perform ablution. You should do ablution and offer your prayers and you should not bother about your make-up then. If you only care for your make-up and leave your prayers, and do not fulfil all the requirements which are needed in the prayer, then you are committing a sin, you are doing wrong. Otherwise, there is no harm in doing make-up. You can also use nail polish. It covers your nails, so there is no place between the nails and the nail polish. So, you can perform your ablution with nail polish. There is no harm in it. And also, the way African women braid their hair, there is no harm in it. And using the wigs also, there is no harm in it. So, Islam permits all these things but with the condition that it should not stop you or hinder you from offering your daily prayers or worshipping Allah the Almighty."*

One 9 year old girl enquired what was the best way to build a strong relationship with Allah for children. Huzoor Aqdas advised,





"Allah the Almighty says that from age seven to ten you should try to observe your daily prayers. So, the first thing is, if you want a good bond with Allah the Almighty, you should offer your daily prayers and also read the Holy Qur'an. And if possible, you should try to learn the meaning of the Holy Qur'an, or at least the meaning of some chapters of the Holy Qur'an which you recite in your prayers. So, in this way you will strengthen your relation with Allah the Almighty and if you keep on doing it, as you grow up you will get better knowledge and better relation with Allah the Almighty.

During the meeting, a participant asked the kind of subjects young Ahmadi Muslim girls should study and the career paths they should pursue to which Huzoor Anwar replied,

"Whichever subject you like, you can study. You can be a doctor, you can be a teacher, you can study law, you can study some other subjects. So, whichever you wish, you can study, and they are all beneficial for you. Always see that you study those subjects which are beneficial for your fellow countrymen, your nation and for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. If you can help your nation and if you can help the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community after studying, then all those subjects are good for you."

Another Nasira asked why there was a division in Islam after the demise of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V said,

"It was not immediately after the demise of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). There was a Khilafat-e-Rashidah [Rightly Guided Khilafat] for 30 years and during the time of Hazrat Usman the rift started between Muslims and it was because of the hypocrites of that time who did not want Islam to flourish. It was also prophesied by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings

of Allah be upon him) that, "after my demise, there will be a true Khilafat – that is Khilafat-e-Rashidah – for some years, and then there will be a rift and division among Muslims." There is a narration of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that then there will be a rift for a longer period, for almost a thousand years. And after that, the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) will come and he will again try to unite the Muslims. So, this is what we Ahmadi Muslims have been doing, that we are trying to unite the Muslims, and this is the prophecy of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that after the demise of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him), the institution of Khilafat will start and that is what we are saying, that now there is no Khilafat among other Muslims, only among Ahmadi Muslims there is a Khilafat and people are coming to join us day by day. Every year hundreds of thousands of people come to join the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. So, this is how we are increasing and others are decreasing."

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad further said:

"So, this was the prophecy of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that whenever there will be some worldly desire among Muslims, there will be a division, and that is what we saw. There were kings after the thirty years of Khilafat-e-Rashidah. Although it is called 'Khilafat,' it was not [true] Khilafat. It was a sort of kingship. So, there were kings and the Khilafat was inherited Khilafat, whereas there is no concept of inherited Khilafat in Islam. But now, since you have accepted the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, you have joined the Community of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and you are the person who has fulfilled the prophecy of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). You have accepted the desire of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). So, you are a lucky person."



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## Inauguration of Masroor Eye Institute, Burkina Faso

In accordance with the instructions of Hazrat Amirul Momineen Khalifatul Masih V, the inauguration of the Masroor Eye Institute, took place on 19th November 2022. This was a project developed and funded by Majlis Ansarullah UK under the guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih who instructed Sadr Ansarullah UK to inaugurate the facility as his representative.

Distinguished guests at the event included His Excellency, a former President of Burkina Faso, and Dr Esaie Meda a representative of the Health Minister as well as the Amir of Burkina Faso, along with members of the local and international faculty. The aim of the facility was to advance eye care in Burkina Faso in West Africa by creating a centre of excellence. This vision was greatly appreciated by the representatives of the local government.

To conclude the session, Sadr Ansarullah UK delivered a message from beloved Huzoor. Huzoor prayed that Allah the Almighty enable all the doctors and staff, who will serve in this Institute, to work with great passion, to serve humanity and to apply their skills and expertise in the noble desire to alleviate the suffering of mankind; and to bestow upon those who are suffering, the greatest gift possible, the ability to see the world around them. The guests were given a tour of the Institute where they saw the state of the art facilities and medical equipment, followed by

interviews with members of the press and media.

The Amir of Burkina Faso commented that this Institute further confirmed Huzoor's vision for the future where he charged Majlis Ansarullah UK not just the responsibility for establishing it but also staffing and running it in the future thus expanding the role of Majlis Ansarullah.

The establishment of the Institute was welcomed by all as expressed in the following comments.

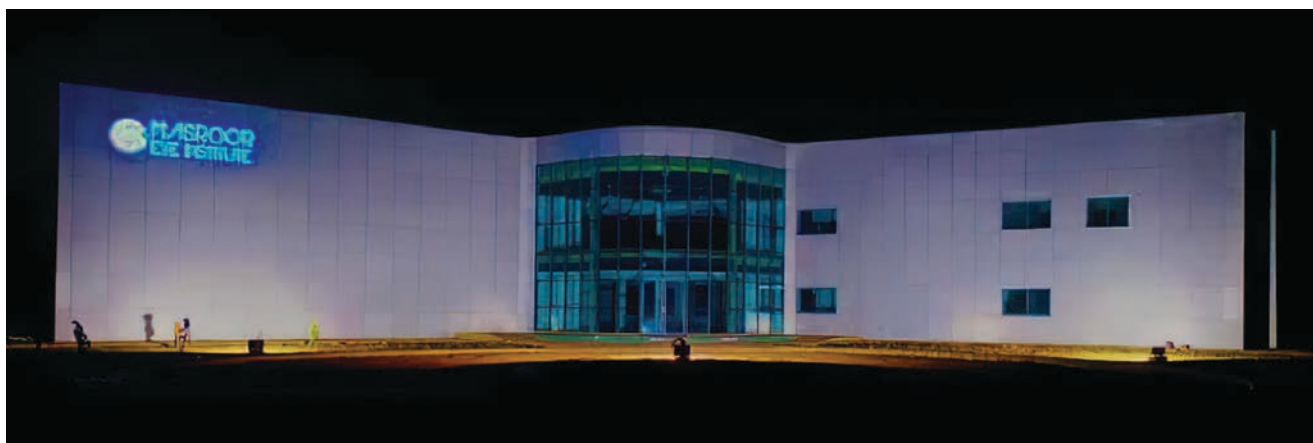
Dr Esaie Meda, Representative of the Minister of Health, Dr Esaie Meda stated,

*"This medical centre has expanded the range of eye care in Burkina Faso because in our country, the infrastructures that provide eye care are not widespread enough."*

*"The donors have set us a challenge, so the Ministry of Health and the staff who will work in this centre, must take on this challenge."*

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon Dr Ahsan Khan commented,

*"In the end of his message Huzoor talked about us as Physicians, as medical staff who will be serving this hospital. Huzoor said that it was a desire of the Promised Messiah for the community to serve*



humanity.”

Salif Congo, Health officer in Ophthalmology opined,

*“His Holiness has given a good message, a message of peace, a message of cohesion, and it is welcome at this time especially in this country, which is in turmoil, because I believe that the Ahmadi motto is “Love for All, Hatred for None”. There is no better message than this.”*

And Dr Imran Masood, Consultant Ophthalmic surgeon Dr Imran Masood, acknowledged,

*“I am actually seeing some of the poor patients here and some of the problems that they run into, because of the lack of adequate facilities. So really that’s the main message. We have to serve humanity.”*

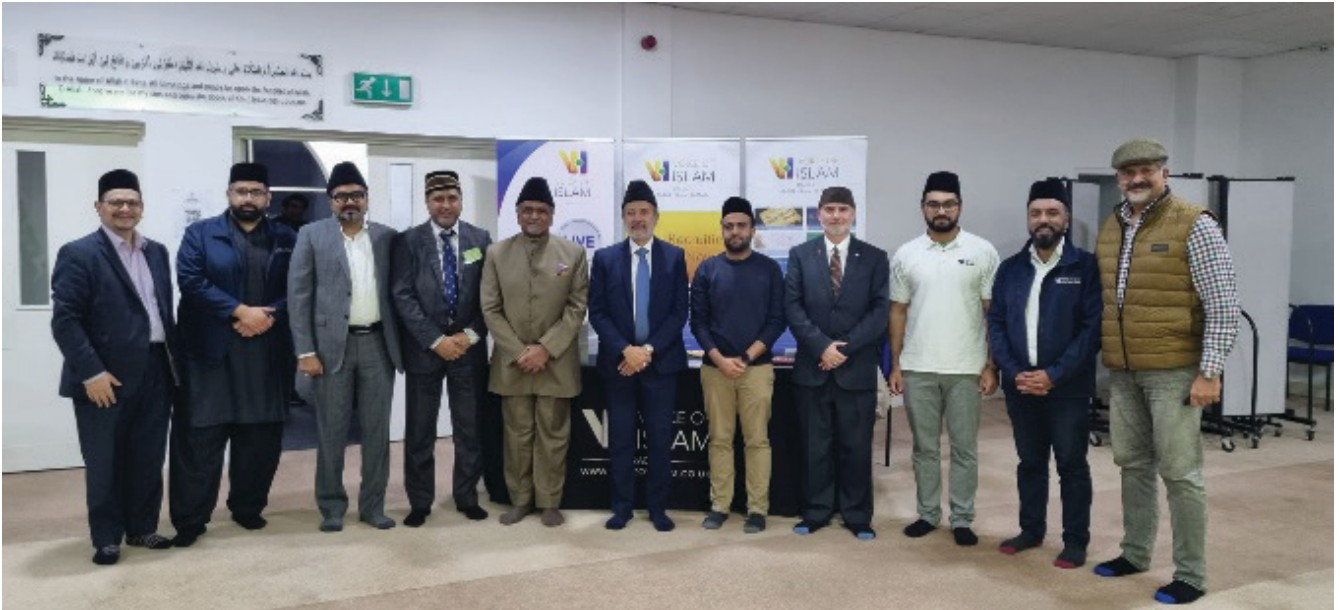
*“Indeed, I have listened to the message of his Holiness. When you build something in life, do not do it for yourself, do it for humanity. Do not think on the scale of your life, think on the scale of humanity. So, you will build something eternal.”*

Professor Jean Diallo, Medical Director Masroor Eye Hospital





# RISHTA NAATA MEET & GREET AT THE AL MAHDI MOSQUE



By the Grace of Allah, the Northeast Region was given the opportunity to host a National Rishta Nata meet and greet event at the Al Mahdi Mosque in Bradford.

Around 5-6 weeks before the event a flyer was sent to all the Jama'ats in the UK through General Secretary's Office, and also through Regional Amirs/Heads of the auxiliary organisations and Rishta Nata networks-with a link to register.

Registration was kept open to all families until 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022. However for those wanting pre-arranged meetings a deadline of 4 Nov 2022 was set up. This allowed the preparation for "Registered Profile Decks" which could be sent to those who wanted to make their own selections on who they wanted to meet when they arrived at Al Mahdi. Male and female facilitators were allocated 2-3 individuals each so that they could help and facilitate communications/meetings between individuals.

Prior to the event several meetings were held by Dr Mohammed Iqbal with the Presidents and local/regional heads of auxiliary organisations to ensure that the event ran smoothly. Plans were made to ensure that "private cubicles" (a total of 17-20) were made for meeting rooms, and refreshments were available on arrival and also on departure. Regional Sadr Lajna Mrs Razia Amini was given the responsibility to make sandwiches for over 200 people for the RN event (plus additional 150 for North East Meeting of NE Region with Amir sahib). For departure a biryani meal was prepared for over 200 people by the Ziafat Secretary of Bradford North, Mr Shahzad Qaiser and his team.

A letter was sent to Hazoor for prayers for success of the event.

A letter of invitation had been submitted to Amir UK

to preside on the day which he kindly consented. On the day a total 23 registered individuals came (11 ladies/12 men) and around 15 ladies registered as "Adhoc candidates" on the day. A total of around 90 individuals and parents came to the event.

The programme started with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an and English translation by Hud Anwar-one of the registered individuals. This was followed by a welcome address and a brief introduction to the Meet & Greet event by Dr Mohammed Iqbal (National Rishta Nata Sec/ Acting Regional Amir for North East). Individuals then went off to their scheduled meetings with their allocated facilitators. When the Amir UK arrived from London he kindly addressed the Rishta Nata Forum and all the North East Region Presidents and their Amilas on the important role of the Meet & Greet events. Amir Sahib had been accompanied by many of his National Amila and his wife, and this was greatly appreciated by everyone.

A total of 46 meetings took place, with most individuals having 2-3 meetings. All the male and female candidates gave very positive feedback that they were well looked after by the team and also the smooth running of the meetings. However, the majority requested if they were given more time for these meetings. All candidates and parents were very pleased with the outcome and were happy to be contacted for follow ups. All were provided packed lunches at the end.

At the end of the event, National Secretaries thanked Amir Sahib for his support and guidance and for travelling all the way to be with us. They also thanked all those who made this event a great success including the local organisers and all the facilitators.

# NATIONAL ISA'AR FORUM 2022



On 26th November 2022 Qiadat Isa'ar Majlis Ansarullah UK held the Third National Isa'ar Forum at Baitul Futuh, London. This was following a successful Isa'ar Forum earlier which focused on brotherhood, community and service to humanity

The aim of this Forum was to discuss the achievements of the past year, effective ways of working and future strategies. It was also an opportunity to receive feedback from the regional and local teams. The Forum was attended by 180 representatives from the local regions.

The opening session was chaired by Mr Zia ur Rehman, Naib Sadr Majlis Ansarullah, who highlighted the responsibility of a Nasir and how this fits into the work of the Isa'ar department. This was followed by Mr Ashfaq Khan, National Qaid Isaar welcoming participants and encouraging all to share their experiences so all could benefit from one another.

The first session was hosted by Mr Adil Zafar, Naib Qaid Isa'ar. In this, regions were given an opportunity to share their experiences, activities and what could be done better to serve our elders and brothers. This was followed by a discussion on the department's focus going forward. With the current economic climate, the focus will primarily be on our internal members, building relationships and supporting those that need it.

Dr Ghazanfar Sheikh hosted an informative workshop on medical issues. This covered the rise in anxiety, stress and depression. The workshop discussed how to avoid them and how to support others. It highlighted



that elders in our community have become isolated and the importance of regular contact and activities for them.

This was followed by an inspiring discussion with Maulana Naseer Ahmad Qamar. It combined everything discussed throughout the day from a religious perspective and responsibility. In particular it covered the significance of community service and building relationships.

Following light refreshments and prayers a Mushaira session was hosted by Mr Mubarak Siddiqi. The participants also came prepared with their own poetry. This was an enjoyable session to end the Forum on.



# NATIONAL TABLIGH SEMINAR



By the Grace of Allah, the National Tabligh Seminar was held, in person, after a two year break at the Baitul Futuh Mosque complex on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Prior to the event the Tabligh department held numerous meetings planning for it. Presidents, Tabligh secretaries, Regional Amirs and Regional Missionaries were all contacted with information about the programme and workshops and encouraged to register for the event. As some delegates had travelled great distances from all across the United Kingdom, provision was made for a heartening breakfast, served from 9am, prior to the commencement of the main seminar programme.

Proceedings commenced, as is customary, with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Maulana Naseem Ahmad Bajwa.

Naib Secretary Tabligh UK, Mr Usman Ahmad introduced the day's events wherein he highlighted the importance of the seminar and its objectives, before Maulana Naseem Bajwa inspired the delegates with his personal experiences of Tabligh, the importance of setting objectives as well as examples of the interventions of Allah Almighty in relation to his Tabligh activity.

The welcoming address was given by National Secretary Tabligh UK, Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Ikhlaf who focused on the importance of being diligent in the performance of obligatory prayers. He also reiterated the objectives of the seminar and emphasised the importance of individual tabligh activity as well as the need to help neighbours, the poor and vulnerable, especially in these current challenging economic

times. He continued by elaborating on the key points included in the Tabligh handbook to bring people to Allah Almighty and not to argue solely on the basis of dry logic.

Of particular note in the welcoming address were verses cited from the Holy Qur'an and life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Examples included where Allah Almighty had outlined the destructive consequences of those who in the past had neglected prayer. The example of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to remain steadfast and courageous when faced with trials was referenced to when Abu Talib requested that the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) refrain from inviting people to Allah Almighty, with the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) responding that he would happily die in this cause and would not abstain from the expression of the truth by fear of death and then going further, in the full knowledge that Allah Almighty was his protector, suggested that his uncle remove his protection if this was more expedient for him.

The opening session concluded with prayers for the success of the event.

Training during the seminar was provided in relation to four key areas, namely:

1. Tabligh Handbook
2. Social Media



3. Brainstorming on your training needs
4. Engaging Jamaat members in Tabligh

207 delegates attended the Seminar and the training was organized to ensure all delegates had every opportunity to attend each of the four training sessions at some time during the day. This was achieved by running two workshop streams in the morning as well as in the afternoon.

Zohr and Asr prayers were held at the prescribed time in the early afternoon followed by lunch. Following the afternoon training session, Maghrib prayer was held at 4.15pm followed by a Question and Answer session after which Naib Amirs Attaul Qudus and Naseer Dean addressed the delegates.

The keynote address was given by the National Amir UK, Mr Rafiq Ahmed Hayat from 5.15pm. Amir sahib

set out in detail the responsibility of each Ahmadi in relation to participating in tabligh activity with wisdom. He stated that this was best done through setting an example that went above and beyond acting with honesty and integrity as these principles are already well embedded within society. He stated that Ahmadi have a special attraction and are distinguishable through their manner and this quality should be used wisely to draw people towards the purpose of their existence which was to know their Creator. Amir sahib recounted how the early Ahmadi missionaries were, despite limited means, able to positively influence large numbers of the indigenous population and that we should look to the example that they had set. Amir sahib then concluded the programme with prayers for the success of Tabligh in the UK.

By the Grace of Allah the event was considered to be a huge success.

## AMSA RETREAT

This month the Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association re started its retreat at Jamia Ahmadiyya UK in Haslemere after four years. The retreat is intended for University and A- Level students and was scheduled this time for the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of December and planned to finish for the Sports Day on the last day of the year.



# INSIGHT EVENT BY THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



The Ahmadiyya Muslim Lawyers Association organised an Insight Event on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The venue was the Exhibition Hall next to the Aftab Khan Library at Baitul Futuh and catered for both men and ladies. Proceedings began just after 10 am with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an with the concluding session taking place after Zohar and Asr prayers at 2.00 pm.

The aim of the event was to help understand the application processes in law and how to maximise one's chances of success in progressing through the profession. It was aimed at aspiring lawyers and those already in the field wanting to get ahead. Speakers were sourced from the Essex Court Chambers and from Shearman and Sterling, a leading global law firm. It included an Ahmadi Barrister who described the difference in the roles played by solicitors and barristers and then how it was possible to carve out time for Jama'at work while pursuing one's career goals.

Shearman and Sterling provided the core advice. They were represented by their head of recruitment, a new member who had gone through the process and was now part of the firm and another senior executive. These speakers broke down the recruitment process into its 4 components of application, interview etc and explained what was critical in each in order to be successful. Those listening in on the event found it to be exceptionally useful and praised its organisation.

Amir Sahib UK was not able to join the event but Naib Amir UK Mr Mansoor Ahmad Shah presided over part of the proceedings. The Amir UK did send a highly encouraging message which was conveyed to all the participants and is reproduced below.

## Message from Amir Sh UK to Ahmadiyya Muslim Lawyers Conference 5 November 2022

*Assalamo alaikum Wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu*  
May Peace and Blessings of Allah be on you all.  
I am sorry that am not able to be with you today but I congratulate you on this excellent Insight Event organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Lawyers Association UK.  
One of the key pillars of any society is an independent and impartial judiciary. It is a function that provides stability and a genuine sense of fairness in society, by ensuring that all are equal before the law.  
It is a vital check in our social system, and the burdens of those charged with delivering justice weigh heavy indeed.  
Where these burdens are discharged well then the whole of society stands to benefit and in particular it provides a rock for even the weakest in society to stand on to uphold their rights. However along with rights the law also notes the responsibilities of society, to ensure that agreements are upheld and disorder, an, hatred and violence is curtailed.  
These are the same principles we find reflected in Islam that calls people to always be just and fair and to respect the rights of other, to not harm others, to grant complete freedom in matters of faith, to trade with equity, to give priority to truth so that one is ready to give truthful testimony even against one's family. These values remind us of God's attribute of being The Just and the Source of Peace, so that in our life we work with dignity, honour and sincerity to build a peaceful society. This should be the true goal of our lives to learn, excel and then serve our fellow beings and indeed our whole world.  
That is a long and noble path, and today's event is but the first step that I hope will inspire and encourage all attendees to pick up the challenge and work hard to become true and just servants of the people.  
In this regard we have some excellent leaders in the legal field who have taken time to support this event and I extend my sincere gratitude to all friends and guest speakers from Essex Court Chambers and from Shearman and Sterling for their invaluable support and advice to all attendees.  
I look forward to seeing this bear fruit.  
May Allah bless you all and guide you in serving the cause of justice and peace. Ameen.

Rafiq Hayat  
Amir UK  
5 November 2022

# NETWORKING AND MENTORING EVENT



Under the guidance of respected Amir UK, Mr Rafiq Ahmed Hayat and Naib Amir, Mr Naseer Dean, the National Secretaries Sanato Tijarat and Taleem arranged a networking and mentoring event at Baitul Futuh on Saturday 19 November 2022. The event had two principal aims. The first was to provide an opportunity for Khuddam and Ansar to network amongst themselves and to try to foster a better spirit of networking and communication, especially amongst professionals.

The second was that by the Grace of Allah, the UK Jamaat had many professionals now representing almost every industry and there were a number of students who could benefit from mentoring by these professionals. Professions represented during the evening included accountancy, engineering, architects, dentistry, telecoms, IT, law, banking, medicine and human resources.

A number of Jama'at associations such as the International Ahmadi Architects and Engineers (IAAAE) and the Lawyers Association set up desks to attract new members and let members know about the work each group carried out.

The organising team requested participants pre-register their interest to attend. This would allow badges to be prepared with the attendees name and profession. 380 members pre-registered and a further 134 registered at the door.

The event began with a reception accompanied by refreshments, which allowed members to circulate freely and engage with whoever they wished to meet. This was designed to last for 90 minutes before participants were requested to sit for a formal dinner.

The dinner was hosted by the Amir UK with a delicious meal provided by Secretary Ziafat and his team. The food was of the usual excellent quality and was well received by all the attendees. The formal session began with recitation from the Qur'an followed by an introduction by Mr Naseer Dean. He spoke about the blessings of the Jama'at where we now had such a wide range and large number of careers and professions. He went on to speak about the need to cooperate and coordinate better with each other, and also serve the Jama'at. He was keen to point out that this event was



the first of many inshAllah, and the organisers would hold such events around the country.

The Regional Amir Scotland, Dr Hayee had arranged a networking evening in Glasgow to attract members from Scotland. This event and dinner attracted 75 members and they were joined by a live link to the event at Baitul Futuh.

Secretary Talim, Mr Nadim Rahman gave an address about the role and value of mentoring and the benefit this could deliver to students in particular.

Secretary Sanato Tijarat, Mr Ahmad Salam gave a short address about the power and value of networking and the benefits to the individual and the whole Jama'at if we networked better.

The organisers had then arranged for a number of inspirational speakers to address the event with a short introduction of themselves, their careers and how they had reached the levels they had. These included Maulana Zaheer Khan from Jamia, Mr Nayab Sayed, Mr Salimuddin, Mr Khalid Hayat, Dr Shahnawaz Rasheed, Mr Mubarak Waseem and Mr Atique Hayat. The common theme for all these speakers was their close association with Khilafat and their repeatedly writing to Huzoor for prayers and guidance. All these speakers also spoke about the boundless benefits of working for the Jama'at as much as possible and the great benefits that are derived from this.

The Amir UK then addressed the gathering and spoke about the importance and role of mentoring and guidance. He referred to the Waqf Nau who had become professionals under the guidance and instruction of Huzoor Aqdas. He also spoke of the influence and prayers of the Jama'at elders when he was a young man starting his career. He was very keen to ensure that an effective mentoring programme was put in place to match mentors with mentees.



# FIRST INTERFAITH EVENT ORGANISED BY JAMA'AT DUDLEY

Compiled by Khalid Ahmad (General Secretary Dudley)



Alhamdulillah, Jamaat Dudley successfully held its first Interfaith Event at the Baitul Ghafoor Mosque. This took place on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The theme was "World Crises and Pathway to Peace".

Preparations for the event started few weeks earlier under the guidance of local President Qalb Wasim Shah. A management committee was setup with Secretary Tabligh Mr Shah Danial to lead assisted by Secretary External Affairs Mr Anas bin Tariq Majeed. Sub-committees held their departmental meetings for preparations including invitations, setup and ziafat. Letter requesting prayers from Huzoor was written and Sadqa was offered for the success of the event. Invitations were sent through emails to various politicians, faith leaders, charities and other tabligh guests. In addition, printed invitation cards were dropped at Churches, village halls, neighbours around the Mosque, libraries and council houses. Invitations were also handed over to all members of the Jama'at encouraging them to invite their friends, neighbours and teachers from schools. All auxiliaries also helped in arrangements and setup.

The event started with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Mr. Abduqoyum Anisere followed with an English translation delivered by Mr Shayaan Ahmad. The local President welcomed the guests and provided a brief history of the Jama'at in Dudley. This was followed by a brief introduction of various initiatives and activities carried out by the Ahmadiyya Jama'at in promoting peace around the globe by the local Secretary External affairs. A video presentation was played to the audience on the activities of the

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at since its inception in promoting peace around the world.

In the speeches from guests that took place, Deputy Lord Mayor of Dudley Cllr Andrea Goddard said that the role of individuals and society cannot be ignored when it comes to bringing peace to the world. She felt very privileged in attending today's event and coming back to the Mosque after her first visit in 2016.

Dr Monna Kapoor Arya Smaaj was representing the Hindu faith and opined that Hinduism teaches us to forgive others. So, when we forgive others, we cultivate strength in us. Forgiving others is not easy but it is a strength and strength is a very strong virtue for us which applies to everyday life. We can achieve peace if we adopt this virtue.

His speech was followed by Dr Umesh Yadav Minister of Religion at Arya Samaj Mandir. He noted that peace comes from the inner self and if one's inner self is at peace then he can reflect peace to others. Hinduism believes on respect of individuals and humanity and Omm is the prayer of peace and harmony for individuals as well as society at large.

The Christian perspective was offered by Reverend Callum Burke, who stated that the background of the Crusades in their historical perspective proved that these were fought merely on political driven agendas and were not just religious wars. If we want to achieve peace we need to sit together and listen to each other so we may not fall in to this trap again. Efforts



by the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, he said, for arranging these kinds of events are applaudable, where people from different back grounds and beliefs can sit together and discuss and listen to each other.

The final main speaker was Imam Imran Ahmad Khalid. He said that Islam means peace and its beautiful teachings provide a complete pathway to attain peace in the society. The teachings narrated in the Holy Qur'an and examples set by the founder of Islam Hazarat Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) throughout his life are in line with theses teachings. The concept portrayed by media about Jihad is not correct and quite opposite the true and larger meaning of Jihad is self-reformation. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) of Islam in his entire life never started a war because he was a man of peace. He only fought wars in self-defense when he and his followers were attacked.

After these speeches the floor was opened for questions from the audience and answered by the speakers. Mr. Jigar Bhagalia Director at Global Edutech Ltd. University of Bradford presented a vote of thanks and at the end Imam Imran Ahmad Khalid led the gathering in a silent prayer.

An exhibition displaying different translations of Holy Qur'an, pop-ups displaying peace messages and leaflets was arranged by Majlis Ansarullah Dudley. The guests appreciated the warm welcome by the Jama'at and enjoyed the meal prepared by Ziafat team.



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**The Promised Messiah ﷺ said:**

*There are two things very essential for the people: one should shun the evil and be ever prepared to do good (as if he is running towards it). So far as virtue is concerned it has two aspects: to avoid the evil and to do good. Just avoiding the evil cannot make a person perfect unless he also does good to the others. That is what really shows the extent of change that has taken place in him. Of course, this is made possible by having a strong faith in the attributes of God and comprehensive knowledge about them. Unless that is the case, one cannot get rid of evil deeds, what to talk of doing good to others.*

*The awe of the kings and the penal code make the people afraid of doing bad deeds—at least to some extent— why then do the people become bold in violating the law of the Ruler of the Rulers. Can there be any other reason for this, than that they do not have faith in the Ruler of Rulers. This is the only reason (for this attitude of theirs).*

(Malfuzat Vol. II, p. 238)

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# REMEMBRANCE AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENING

By Munir Ahmed - Umure Kharijiyya Secretary Huddersfield North



The Huddersfield North and South Jama'ats collectively organised a Remembrance and Volunteer Appreciation Evening at the Huddersfield Hudawi Centre on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Preparation started two months prior with formation of an organising committee to go through in detail specific roles and responsibilities of organisers involved in the event and the actions needed. Mr Munir Ahmed was appointed to lead on the event on behalf of both Jama'ats.

The event started at 5.00pm as scheduled in the programme with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an and English Translation by Mr Tahir Shakrullah followed by a welcome address and introduction to the event by Mr Munir Ahmed, Secretary Umure Kharijiyya.

Dr Irfan Malik, Community Researcher of the Jama'at, who travelled from Nottingham set the scene with his comprehensive presentation on the First World War Contribution made by the Indian Subcontinent soldiers.

Interfaith members made addresses starting with Reverend Canon Rachel Firth, the Vicar of Huddersfield Parish Church followed by Kiran Bali from the Hindu community. They both reiterated the positive relationships that exist with the various multi faith communities in Huddersfield and the Jamaat's significant contribution in creating community harmony and community cohesion.

A short video on the Charity Walk for Peace was played highlighting the Jamaat's contribution towards the Royal British Legion (RBL) Poppy appeal throughout

the UK.

Bill Piggott the Vice Chair of the Huddersfield RBL made his address and thanked the volunteers from the Huddersfield Jama'ats for their hard work during the poppy appeal this year which has just finished. He emphasised the significant contribution we make towards helping and supporting the ex-serving personnel of the Armed forces, reservist and their families that were involved in the world wars.

Gillian Carr the Regional Community Fundraiser made her address in highlighting the contributions of volunteers from the Huddersfield Jama'ats made in the poppy appeal collections this year. They collected just over £10,500 this year which is a significant contribution and the largest contribution to date.

Bill Piggott and Gillian Carr on behalf of the Huddersfield RBL presented "The unknown Soldier" plaque and a Second World War Armed Forces Pin to Mr Munir Ahmed for his commitment and hard work over the years in Huddersfield and the West Yorkshire Region.

Mr Munir Ahmed then read out messages of support from Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Ed Anderson, Shabir Pandor, Leader of Kirklees Council, Jason McCartney, Member of Parliament for Colne Valley and Parliamentary Labour Candidate for Huddersfield MP, Harpreet Uppal, who were all unable to attend the event.

The keynote addresses then followed starting with the Deputy Mayor of Kirklees Council Councillor Cahal Burke, who highlighted that he was present at the



launch of the Poppy appeal at the Town Hall with the Mayor of Kirklees, Councillor Mahmood Ahmad at the start of the appeal and was aware of the significant work the Jama'at volunteers do in the community not just during the poppy appeal but throughout the year.

Stuart Bainbridge, Detective Superintendent of West Yorkshire Police was representing the Chief Superintendent of West Yorkshire Police, Mr Jim Griffiths, made his address and was impressed with the contributions of the Indian subcontinent soldiers during the World War and thanked the jama'at for inviting him.

Surgeon Commander Nicola Dean from the Royal Navy was representing the Armed Forces and thanked the Jama'at for the invitation and was attending such an event for the first time organised by the Jama'at. She wished Hazoor Aqdas and the Jama'at members well and agreed to pass the key messages to others in the armed forces to positively contribute to such events organised by the Jama'at.

Major Stan Hardy TD DL, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire representing His Majesty King Charles, made his address and thanked the Jama'at for putting on such a successful event and reiterated that from his past experience of attending Jama'at events he can truly say "Love for All Hatred for None" is not a slogan or a motto for the Jama'at, it's something that we breath and live throughout our lives with the selfless service we provide to the local communities without seeking any credit or acknowledgment. He congratulated the Jama'at for putting on such a wonderful event and felt that he had learnt more about the Indian sub-continent contribution during the World War than what he knew before, from the excellent presentation made by Dr Irfan Malik.

Imam Sabahat Karim gave the concluding address with a presentation and thanked everyone for coming and brought the proceedings to a close with a silent prayer which was followed by an Asian sit down meal.

150 people attended the event out of which 85 non-Ahmadi guests were present coming from the Armed forces, Veteran, Senior officers, Majors and Lieutenants, Ukrainian society representatives, Community cohesion team members from the council, local councillors and politicians, Indian soldier's organisation representatives, local radio broadcasters, local charities, food bank representatives, local churches, community faith groups, friends, colleagues and Tabligh contacts from Jama'at members.

Short interviews were taken from all key dignitaries and the whole event was video recorded. An article was published in the Huddersfield Examiner and broadcasted through the social media, Facebook, twitter and Instagram. The local Asian Radio Sangam also featured a report. Many positive messages were received from guests about the event.

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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.

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**HAZRAT KHALIFATUL  
MASIH IV<sup>(RH)</sup>**



# VISIT BY LORD LIEUTENANT TO THE NOOR MOSQUE CRAWLEY

(Report by Ahsan Ahmedi)



By Grace of Allah Crawley Jama'at organised a successful interfaith event at the Noor Mosque on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December with the special guest Lady Emma Barnard, the Kings representative in Sussex under the title of "Loyalty to Faith and Nation"

Guests included members of the Hindu, Sikh and Christian faiths as well as representatives from the Church of Scientology, Police, and several neighbours of Jama'at members and the Mosque.

Lady Emma and the Mayor, Cllr. Jilly Hart were both received by the Crawley President and host of the event Mr Adeel Shazad, and event organiser Mr Ahsan Ahmedi. Both guests were presented with a bouquet of flowers by Warisha Harris a local Nasira.

The event started with recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Nihal Ahmed with translation by Mr Atta Haq. The local President Adeel Shahzad welcomed the guests in his opening address explaining how the Jama'at advocates loyalty to one's nation through their faith and how this was expressed in holding a memorial service in honour of the late Queen Elizabeth earlier this year. It was stated how, in accordance with Islamic teachings, members remain loyal to one's nation and faith through their good conduct and charity work.

Maulana Raza Ahmad then addressed the audience describing how the Ahmadiyya Jama'at always remains loyal to the country which they live in

illustrating how he would celebrate the national days of Canada, Germany, USA and the UK - countries where he had lived when Jama'ats there organised such celebrations of their respective countries. He informed the audience that to love your nation and being loyal to it was an Islamic injunction and quoted Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V's from his address from 2008 who stated,

"According to Islamic teachings, God Almighty has forbidden all forms of treachery or rebellion, whether against one's country or one's government. This is because rebellion or acting against the state is a threat to the peace and security of a nation."

Ms Sulu Pandya a local activist with an Indian/Kenyan background outlined the services she and her group Malaika (Angels in Swahili) are helping local members who don't have friend to turn to for assistance providing various resources of friendship and aid to help alleviate boredom and loneliness to many elders. Something she says she has seen a rise in recent years.

Graeme Wilson from the Church of Scientology then addressed the audience giving two aspects from their founder's writings (H R Hubbard) stating the duty of national leaders was to serve their communities is duty bound to serve those in need. He particularly emphasised the works the Church is doing in drug rehabilitation projects giving aid to areas suffering



disasters. He pointed that the Church had undertaken many projects with help of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and praised Humanity First for its efforts.

Mrs Parveen Khan and Mr Tim Wilkins outlined the need of more support for Dementia particularly for the ethnic communities where there was a clear lack of interaction while Mr Nitin Mehta from the Hindu faith outlined some aspects and beliefs of his faith.

Steve Innes, representing the Roman Catholic Church told the audience of the incident when Jesus was asked who should people give their allegiance to, God or Caesar, hoping to catch him out on whoever he chose.. but in response Jesus said,

“Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” (Mark 12:17).

Mr Ahsan Ahmedi then addressed the audience on behalf of the Crawley Jama’at and stated that the Crawley community had been privileged of hosting various representatives from the Lord Lieutenants office and having Lady Emma Barnard was indeed a special occasion.



He said that the Jama’at always showed loyalty and spoke about how the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) in his time wrote the book, Gift to the Queen on her Diamond Jubilee in 1897 where he expressed his gratitude to her in allowing her subjects to practice their faith freely without hinderance. Likewise, he said, that here in the UK we are able not to just practice our faith but build mosques, and Noor Mosque was just one example of many.

He outlined that with such freedom we should remain

loyal to which ever country we live.

He stated that this was exemplified by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) himself when under sever persecution he sent some of his companions to Abyssinia and instructed them to live in peace under the Christian king’s rule and show obedience to him.

He outlined many qualities of being loyal to your nation, and in summary, stated that loyalty to ones’ faith requires one to be loyal to one’s nation.

Finally, lady Emma Barnard in her heartfelt and somewhat emotional address thanked the Jama’at and said it was very heartening to see such a vibrant Community doing so much for the community at large. In fact, she had been so moved by about what she had learnt and having met the Community she was overawed by the impression it has left her with. She was particularly impressed by the voluntary efforts and commitment of all the Community members and how peaceful she felt on her visit here. She felt a ray of hope and peace emanating from the Mosque and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Lady Emma also shared her moments of sadness at Westminster Hall where was privileged to meet the various faith leaders visiting Westminster Hall where the late Queen laid in rest.

She thanked the organisers and the Jama’at members for making her and other guest most welcome and hoped to engage with the Community in the future on a regular basis.

Maulana Raza Ahmad led the silent prayer to bring the event to close. The local Ziafat team had prepared some excellent refreshments for all the guests which were duly served.



# USE OF BAITUL FUTUH FACILITIES BY WIDER COMMUNITY



It has always been the policy of the Jama'at to make its facilities available, where it is possible, for those in the wider community. The Baitul Futuh complex is no exception and external organisations have always been made welcome. Since the inauguration of the Mosque, the complex has been used by the Police for their training sessions, by the College down the road for their examinations regularly and the hospital nearby for some of their conferences to mention a few.

Now that pandemic restrictions have receded, these kinds of session have been resumed at a pace. This is despite the construction work of the rebuild still taking place. Last month the Labour leader of the Council Ross Garrod approached the Jama'at seeking to hold his Party's meeting there. The Exhibition Hall of the complex was made available and the gathering took place on the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> November. These meetings, Councillor Garrod explained, are held on an ad hoc basis and it would be great if we they were able to repeat these at this venue in the future. A free lunch was also provided. Of the 32 local Labour Councillors 26 participated.



# WARM ROOM INITIATIVE



A new initiative was launched on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November with the introduction of a 'warm room' at Baitul Futuh under the supervision of Umure Ama. The precise location was the Scouts Hut next door to the complex with a view to transferring this to a designated space in the main complex when the construction is complete. The objective of this initiative is to provide those who are retired or others who have spare time to gather together for casual discussions and light activities. It is planned to run from 2pm every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until 5pm or Mughrib prayer whichever is earlier.

The initiative at Baitul Futuh was formally inaugurated by Mr Mohammed Akram Ahmedi, Chairman IAAAE with a silent prayer on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

The programme has proved to be extremely popular with attendances of nearly 40. It has become a focal point for people to gather and share their experiences and anecdotes. Some of these are very inspirational and uplifting, others humorous and quite light hearted. All are thoroughly enjoyed. A TV has been installed and there is plenty of reading material available for participants to keep busy.

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November Regional Amir Baitul Futuh Mr Mubarik Siddiqi was one of the participants at the Scouts Hut at Baitul Futuh. He was able to entertain

the gathering with his poetry in a lively sitting. Others were also encouraged to share their compositions as well.

The 'Warm Room' concept is being implemented all over the UK. Baitul Ehsan in Colliers Wood has started this and at the Fazl Mosque, local President Mr Rana Irfan has introduced this at number 39 Gressenhall Road yielding a positive response from members.

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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.

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**HAZRAT KHALIFATUL  
MASIH III (RH)**



# ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ADMISSION TO JAMIA AHMADIYYA UK 2023

Jamia Ahmadiyya UK will be holding entry test and interview on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 for this year's intake of students. The following conditions apply:

## Qualifications

Applicants with A-Level Qualification will be given preference.

Applicants with A-Levels qualifications (passing with minimum B in at least 3 subjects) will be accepted.

Applicants applying with GCSEs must obtain grades 8 and 9. B TEC qualifications will be accepted.

## Age on Entry

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

## Medical Certificate

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

## Written Test and Interview

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

The written test and interview will be based on the recitation of the Holy Quran, the Waqfe Nau Syllabus, and proficiency in reading, writing and spoken English and Urdu languages. Furthermore, candidates will be judged on their potential of learning and reading the translation of the Holy Quran, Ahadith, the books of the Promised Messiah ﷺ as well as religious and general knowledge.

## Procedure

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

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



- An attested photo copy of the birth certificate.
- The spellings of the name must be the same as in the passport.

## Last Date

The application for the 2023 entry **MUST** arrive by 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023. **Applications received after that will not be considered.**

Applications should be addressed to:

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

For any further help or clarification, please telephone:

+44(0)1428647170 or  
+44(0)1428647173,  
+44(0)7988461368(Mob.),  
Fax: +44(0)1428647188

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

# OPPONENTS OF ONE DIVINELY COMMISSIONED BY ALLAH LOSE THEIR FAITH

The Promised Messiah ﷺ said:

"The state of our opponents is one that may be apprehended to result in a loss of faith, because such people deem a good man to be evil and one commissioned by Allah, a liar. This is to war with God Almighty. It is a clear fact that God Almighty has commissioned me and sent me to the world as the Promised Messiah. Those who oppose me do not oppose me, they oppose God, for many of them held me in a position of esteem before I made my claim. Many such people considered it worthy of spiritual reward and a source of pride to hold my water pot and pour from it so that I could perform my ablution. There were many from among them who insisted upon swearing an oath of allegiance to me. But when this community was established in the name of God by His very command, these very same people stood up in opposition against me.

This clearly demonstrates that their heartfelt enmity was not towards me, but towards God Almighty. For if they had a sincere relationship with God Almighty, their piety, virtue and fear of God demanded that when I made my claim, they ought to have come forth to accept my announcement; they ought to have prostrated in gratitude before God and welcomed me—but no. They took up their arms and set forth pushing in opposition to such an extent that they called me a disbeliever and a heretic; they named me the Anti-Christ. Alas! These foolish people fail to understand that as for the man who hears the divine words

قُلْ إِنِّي أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

(Say, 'I am the first to turn towards Allah under His command in this age) and

أَنْتَ مِنِّي بِمَنْزِلَةِ تَوْحِيدِي وَتَفَرِيدِي

(You are to Me like My Unity and Uniqueness)

Why should He care in the least for the abuse and bitter language of such people? It is a shame that these foolish people do not even realise that disbelief and faith do not relate to this world; in fact, they relate to God Almighty. As far as God Almighty is concerned, He attests to my being a believer and divinely commissioned. Why then would I care about this absurd behaviour? Therefore, the stated facts evidently demonstrate that these people do not oppose me, but rather they oppose the commandments of God Almighty. It is for this very reason that the opponents of one appointed by Allah lose their faith.

It is clear that my opponents are actually at war with God Almighty. If I am advancing towards light, and it is certain that I am, because countless signs have been and continue to be manifested by God Almighty in my support, and these signs are descending from heaven like rain, then it is also certain that my opponents are falling into darkness. Luminosity and divine light attract the Holy Spirit, while darkness moves one closer to Satan; in this manner, the opposition of a saint results in the loss of faith and joins a person with the worst of companions.

In short, a person becomes righteous and reformed when they attain to the ranks of perfect practice. It is stated in Suratul 'Asr:

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ

(Except those who believe and do good works),

and the words *aamanu* allude to the perfection of one's knowledge, while the words *'amilus-saalihat* guide a person towards the perfection of practice. Wisdom also has two aspects: firstly, knowledge ought to be perfect and complete; and secondly, action must also be excellent and free from deficiency".

(Malfuzat vol.1, pp. 189-190)



# CHILDREN'S STORIES

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, AND CHRISTMAS

Christmas Day is eagerly looked forward to all over the world, when people go on holidays and exchange gifts. It is a happy time and an occasion to celebrate generally. Christians, in particular, celebrate Christmas Day as the birthday of Jesus Christ. But is this correct?

There is no mention of celebrating the birthday of Jesus in the Bible. In fact, there is no evidence that it was ever celebrated during the first 300 years or so of Christianity.

The Holy Bible tells us that when Jesus was born, the shepherds were tending their sheep at night, but in December the nights can be icy and very cold, and the sheep would be safely inside their barns. The Holy Qur'an confirms this by saying that there were dates on the palm trees, which would not be possible in winter.

When Hazrat Maryam (Mary) was about to give birth to Hazrat Isa (Jesus), she was in a remote place and was in so much pain that she cried: "Oh, would that I had died before this and had become a thing quite forgotten!" (Sura Maryam, 19:24).

Then Allah revealed to her: "Grieve not. Your Lord has placed a rivulet below you. And shake the trunk of the palm tree and fresh ripe dates will fall upon you." (19:25,26).

Thus, Allah comforted Hazrat Maryam and showed her how to refresh herself in the river and provided dates for her to eat and water to drink.

From these we can safely say that the probable time of the birth of Jesus would be around August or September, not December in the middle of winter.

So where did the idea of celebrating the birth of Jesus on 25th December come from, especially as we know that for 300 years after Jesus no one celebrated his birthday, let alone celebrating it on 25th December?

25<sup>th</sup> December was a very important date among ancient religions, many of whom worshipped the sun, the moon and the stars as well as trees and stones. As we all know, the days in summer are very long and in winter they are very short. The shortest day of the year usually occurs around 21<sup>st</sup> December, and by 25<sup>th</sup> December, the days start to become longer. This is called the winter solstice, and the sun worshippers saw this as the rebirth of the sun, as it means the days will start to get longer again. In some places, they would celebrate for 7 days by feasting, dancing, merry-making, exchanging gifts.

These celebrations were then adopted by the Roman Emperors when they became Christians. They saw this as a way to make the idol-worshippers feel welcome in the new Christian faith. Similarly, other pagan rituals such as the Christmas tree, yule log, Santa Claus, etc, became part of the Christmas rituals, none of which has anything to do with Jesus Christ or his birth, but all of which are based on idol worship.



**ATFAL IJTEMA SPORTS DAY 2022**  
**SOUTH\***

**DATE: MONDAY 2ND JANUARY 2022**      **TIME: 8AM**  
**LOCATION: TUDOR PARK, FELTHAM (TW13 7EF)**

ATFAL BROTHERS AGED \*7-15 YEARS OLD\* FROM THE SOUTHERN REGIONS WERE INVITED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE NATIONAL IJTEMA. ATFAL WERE TO BE SPLIT INTO THREE AGE GROUPS: 7-9, 10-12 AND 13-15. ATFAL AGED 7-9 TEAMS WILL BE MADE ON THE DAY. TEAMS FOR ATFAL AGED 10-12 AND 13-15 WILL NEED TO BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE SPORTS DAY WITH THEIR REGION.

TEAM SPORTS: FOOTBALL, CRICKET AND TUG OF WAR  
INDIVIDUAL: 100M RACE AND TABLE TENNIS  
\* THE HUB\*  
FOOD & SNACKS  
TEAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SECRETARY SEHET-E-JISMANI, UMAR BHATTI ON 07823505277 OR SEJ@ATFAL.CO.UK

Full report of the event to be featured in the next edition of the Bulletin.

## Wordsearch

The names of twenty-one chapters of the Holy Qur'an are hidden in this wordsearch puzzle. The words are to be found horizontally left to right or right to left, vertically up or down, and diagonally.

M	U	H	A	M	M	A	D	B	T	H	E
A	C	A	R	P	E	T	M	A	S	I	N
R	U	K	R	T	R	D	A	Q	S	B	A
Y	M	R	A	H	M	A	N	A	X	R	M
A	P	E	S	U	M	U	Z	R	F	A	Q
M	X	N	F	A	T	I	H	A	A	H	U
N	O	A	L	A	J	H	Y	H	L	I	L
B	J	Y	U	N	U	S	A	W	A	M	W
R	V	B	X	Z	M	F	U	R	Q	A	N
Q	A	Y	D	N	U	H	P	I	O	B	A
H	A	L	A	D	A	J	U	M	Z	U	S
L	E	N	I	K	H	L	A	S	C	N	T

Fatihah	Rahman
Baqarah	Mujadalah
Nisa	Jumuah
Taubah	Nuh
Yunus	Fajr
Ibrahim	Ala
Maryam	Qadr
Furqan	Kauthar
Luqman	Ikhlas
Muhammad	Falaq
	Nas

## Code Breakers

If A=1 and B=2 etc as in the grid below, crack the codes to get two well known proverbs.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z		
5	22	5	18	25		3	12	15	21	4		8	1	19
1		19	9	12	22	5	18		12	9	14	9	14	7
23	8	5	14		15	14	5		4	15	15	18		
3	12	15	19	5	19		1	14	15	20	8	5	18	
15	14	5		15	16	5	14	19						

## Silly Riddles/Jokes

What bird can lift the most?  
 What can run but can't walk?  
 What can you break without touching it?  
 What cap is never removed?  
 What do people make that you can't see?  
 What flower does everyone have?

*A crane.*  
*Water.*  
*Your promise.*  
*Your kneecap*  
*Noise.*  
*Tulips (two lips).*





# Q & A

## HISTORICAL SESSION

12 MARCH 1995

PART 1, Q7

YOUTUBE LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soI9SCAHwWk>

## Proof that the Mahdi has already come

**Questioner:** *Having travelled in the Arab world, there are many questions about the coming of the Mahdi, but no one has been able to convince me that he has arrived. You believe that he has already come. Could you please educate me on this issue? What are the signs that he has in fact arrived.*

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

I can tell you a very easy way of reaching the truth. There are so many people who have claimed to be the Mahdi in the history in Islam. They also quoted some traditions of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), which apparently applied to them. So there's a lot of confusion in the history of those who claimed to be the rightful Mahdi. It is very difficult for an ordinary person to refer to the relevant books to investigate properly all the claims and counterclaims.

But one thing which generally is never pointed out by others is the fact that the Ahadith, when they speak of the Mahdi, they also speak of the Messiah who descends during the lifetime of the Mahdi. They then will begin a joint effort to conquer the world of religion for the sake of Islam.

Every time the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him),

spoke about the Mahdi to come, he speaks of him not sharing the age entirely exclusively for himself. There are other traditions which say that during the lifetime of the Mahdi, the Messiah would certainly descend and they will both jointly launch a movement in favour of Islam.

Now show me one Messiah in the lifetime of any Mahdi who made the claim before. Can you even show me one claim by a so-called Mahdi who declared: "Look here, I am the Mahdi, so according to the traditions, this Messiah has descended." Have you ever come across such a claim? So they are all not worthy of attention, and this claim could not have been fulfilled or realised because they all believed that the Messiah who is mentioned in these traditions is the same old Messiah who happened to be the Messiah of Moses and they also claimed that he was not yet dead so for them to make a claim to be the Mahdi is so easy okay but it was impossible for them to have the same Hazrat Isa brought back from heaven down to earth, when he had never ascended. They did not know this but according to the Holy Qur'an, Jesus never ascended to heaven bodily. He only ascended spiritually.

If the secret has been revealed to them then they



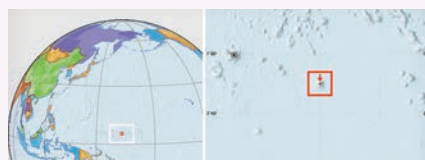
would be very great confusion indeed and everybody would claim to be the Mahdi as well as the Messiah. They would say the Messiah to come would be spiritual, so in that case these two titles can combine in one person.

Some people ask me why is it that only Hazrat Masih Ma'ud, the Promised Messiah<sup>(peace be upon him)</sup>, in the entire history of Islam was revealed this secret by God, that the Messiah is dead and a new person in his image is to be born. The answer is that if it was a very commonly known fact to all the previous people, everyone claiming to be the Mahdi would have invented a Messiah also. They were kept away from this so that the truth of one single Messiah is singled out as signs without any doubtful claimant to share

that glory.

Hazrat Masih Ma'ud, the Promised Messiah<sup>(peace be upon him)</sup>, is the only person who claimed to be the Mahdi, who claimed to be the Messiah and proved both these things with reference to many signs.

I cannot do full justice to your question in the time remaining, but I have already dealt with these issues previously and they are available in my audio and video cassettes, and also there are books in which this issue has been discussed in detail, giving references to all the relevant verses of the Holy Qur'an and Hadith. Thank you.



A drone shot taken of our mission house on the beautiful island of Kosrae Micronesia, one of the most remote islands on earth. The promise of God upon the Promised Messiah<sup>(peace be upon him)</sup> remains as true as ever, and the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat continues to reach the corners of earth.

(Image provided by Sherjeel Ahmed)



# REALITY OF CHRISTMAS

*Based On Notes Provided by Maulana Tahir Selby*

*Christmas Day is celebrated around the world on 25th December, but was this really when Jesus(peace be upon him) was born? The Holy Qur'an offers some clues as to the likely date for the birth of Jesus(peace be upon him).*

*"So she (Mary) conceived him, and withdrew with him to a remote place. And the pains of child-birth drove her unto the trunk of a palm-tree"*

*{Chapter 19, verse 24}*

*And goes on to state,*

*"And shake towards thyself the trunk of the palm-tree; it will drop upon thee fresh ripe dates"*

*{Chapter 19, verse 26}*

*According to these verses, the birth of Jesus(peace be upon him) took place when fresh dates are found on palm-trees in Palestine. That season is in the months of August-September. Moreover the Bible appears to corroborate this. It reads,*

*"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night"*

*{Luke, Chapter 2, verses 7-8}*

*According to these verses, the birth of Jesus(peace be upon him) took place when shepherds were watching their flocks at night, which is the lambing season, not in the winter, but around the months of August-September.*

*The question then arises as how did the date 25th of December become assigned for the day when Jesus(peace be upon him) was born. It appears to have been quite an arbitrary decision made by the fathers of the Church in the fourth century around 340 C.E. There was good reason for the selection of this date. This was because the pagans worshipped the winter solstice on this date. A major festival was held to celebrate the birth of the sun! To appease the pagans who had converted to Christianity, the Church fathers had changed it from the Worship of the Sun to the Worship of the Son....of God!*

*This fact is an accepted view of many commentators of the Bible, but it is rarely mentioned:*

*"There is, moreover, no authority for the belief that December 25 was the actual birthday of Jesus"*

*{Rise of Christianity by Bishop Barns}*

*"The exact day and year of Christ's birth have never been satisfactorily settled; but then the fathers of the Church in A.D. 340 decided upon a date to celebrate the event, they wisely chose the day of the winter solstice which was firmly fixed in the minds of the*



*people and which was their most important festival.'*  
*{Encyclopedia Britannica}*

*'In the second place the winter solstice was regarded as the birthday of the sun, and at Rome 25th December was observed as a pagan festival of the nativity of Sol-Invictus. The Church, unable to stamp out this popular festival, spiritualized it as the feast of the Nativity of the Sun of Righteousness.'*

*{Chambers Encyclopedia}*

*This matters because Jesus(peace be upon him) prophesied the coming of the 'Comforter' – the Holy Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and one of the roles of this comforter was:*

*'He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.' {John 16:14}*

*The Holy Qur'an, the Word of God, has removed many false allegations against Jesus(peace be upon him), like his birth, mission and death, and thereby has*

'glorified' Jesus(peace be upon him) by stating the truth.

Not only has it cleared the allegation on his mother of whether it was a 'virgin birth' but stated that she was indeed pure, and a virgin and it was Allah who brought about this birth as a sign and a warning for the Jews, a last chance for them to change and reform. But it also clears the allegation of when he was born - that it shouldn't have been taken to appease man and allow them to worship the sun or worship the son of god.

Islam, does not advocate celebration of birthdays of Prophet, not even that of the Holy Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), but instead are taught to recognize their life and example and remind ourselves of what they said and achieved, to help us purify ourselves. This is the best way to celebrate the lives of prophets.

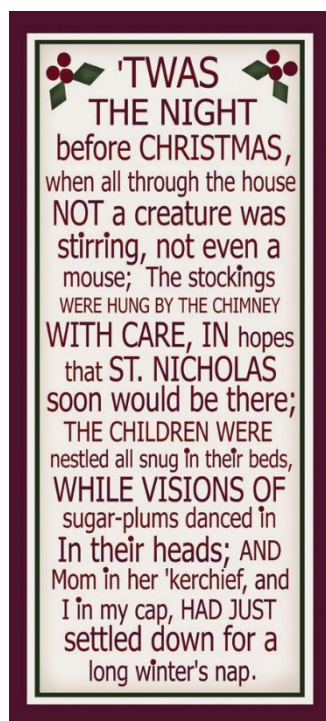
By the Middle Ages, Christians celebrated Christmas, by attending the Church and then celebrating, partying and drinking. In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas.

By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday. The pilgrims, English separatists that went to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. It wasn't until the 19th century that Americans began to embrace Christmas.

In 1891, Washington Irving wrote a series of stories about the celebration of Christmas and wanted to promote Christmas as a peaceful, warm-hearted holiday to bring together people. He implied that his 'invented tradition' was actually the true customs of the season.

Also, around this time, Charles Dickens created the classic holiday tale, *A Christmas Carol*. The story's message-the importance of charity and good will towards all humankind-struck a powerful chord in the Victorian society the benefits of celebrating the holiday. Christmas provided families with a day when they could lavish attention and gifts - on their children without appearing to "spoil" them.

Since then the festival has become increasingly



popular taking on a strong commercial appeal rendering the religious element into the background. Many of the traditions associated with Christmas also do not have a religious basis but have crept into the modern nature of the festival.

### Father Christmas

Among these is the concept of Father Christmas travelling the length and breadth of the world from the north pole bearing presents. The legend of Father Christmas also known as Santa Claus can be traced back to a monk named St. Nicholas who was born in Turkey around 280 AD. St. Nicholas gave away all of his inherited wealth and travelled the countryside helping the poor and sick.

Dutch for Saint Nicholas is 'Sint Nikolaas' or 'Sinter Klaas' for short - Santa Claus

In 1822, minister Clement Clarke Moore wrote a Christmas poem called

*'Twas The Night Before Christmas.'*

The poem depicted Santa Claus as a jolly man who flies from home to home on a sled driven by reindeer to deliver toys. The iconic version of Santa Claus as a jolly man in red with a white beard and a sack of toys was drawn in 1881 by Thomas Nast.

It took many years for authors and illustrators to agree that Father Christmas's costume should be portrayed as red. Mass media approval of the red costume came following a Coca-Cola advertising campaign that was launched in 1931. Again a strong commercial than a religious link that has taken over.

### Christmas Tree

Many ancient people believed that the sun was a god and that winter came every year because the sun god had become sick and weak. They celebrated the solstice because it meant that at last the sun god would begin to get well.

Evergreen boughs reminded them of all the green plants that would grow again when the sun god was strong and summer would return. Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes.

Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, first added lighted candles to a tree.

In 1846, the popular royals, Queen Victoria and her German Prince, Albert, were sketched in the *Illustrated London News* standing with their children around a Christmas tree.

Victoria was very popular with her subjects, and it immediately became fashionable— The Christmas tree had arrived and has since become an essential for the festive period.

Thus while we observe how various aspects of the Christmas celebrations are being enacted, it is always useful to remind us of their origins and the way many have morphed to become what they have today.





# HOMEOPATHIC WINTER REMEDIES

Article by Dr. Atiq Bhatti

## Introduction

*Winter can sound gloomy. And with it the long winter months bring a host of minor to severe ailments including the dreaded cold, flu, general lethargy and sore throats. The days becoming shorter doesn't help matters as daylight is minimal and most go to work in the dark, and return when its dark!*

*There are a host of Homeopathic remedies and tinctures that are available to help you fight off the winter chills.*

## The Winter Wonder Remedy Echinacea Angustifolia

Echinacea is a wonderful immune stimulant and naturally boosts the immune system – just what we all need through the cold/flu season.

Taken in the form of a mother tincture, Echinacea helps provide effective and natural immune support.

Echinacea works wonders at purifying the blood and is perfect if you feel a cold or a bout of flu coming on.

## The Companion Remedy Ferrum Phos

Used in Homeopathic potency 6x.

Ferrum Phos is both a Homeopathic remedy and a Biochemic Tissue Salt.

Did you know that Ferrum Phos is one of the 12 inorganic salts within each one of your cells?

It is a perfect remedy to fight off the common cold and/or fevers related to a seasonal change in weather.

**Winter Chills****Aconitum Nappellus**

A truly marvelous remedy that helps for the 'sudden' chill or 'sudden' sneeze that occurs, often signaling the misery of a cold or bout of flu coming on.

Taken as soon as possible after such an instance, Aconitum reduces the severity of the oncoming condition. Wonderful!

**Winter Basics**

Always wrap up warm.

Never have a shower or bath and then leave home whilst your hair is still damp or wet.

Always make sure during very cold spells you wear thin layers of clothing under your sweater or coat to keep well insulated.

Woolen sweaters are wonderful for this type of season.

**Lovely and warm.**

Try to avoid staying out in the cold for lengthy periods if you can.

For Further Information

Contact [health@liketreatslike.co.uk](mailto:health@liketreatslike.co.uk)

or visit [www.liketreatslike.co.uk](http://www.liketreatslike.co.uk).

