



GREEN LANE MASJID
& COMMUNITY CENTRE

INSPIRE • EDUCATE • SERVE

GLMCC NEWSLETTER

APRIL - SEPT 2020

As salaamu alaykum warahmatulahi wabarakatuh
(Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings)

Alhumdullilah (praise be to God) welcome to our newly revamped newsletter, where we hope to provide you with an update on what has been happening over the last few months at the Masjid, as well as department updates and future plans.

As Muslims we are people who are flexible and resilient. Our Iman guides us to proactively adjust in times of change, unrest and uncertainty. Every experience we face is a chance to purify, assess and rectify before moving to action once again with greater excellence. At GLMCC, we have pulled together as a team and have worked exhaustively to serve our community for the last six months.

Alhamdulillah, Covid-19 has urged us to re-develop our Dawah strategies, welfare services and education programmes. We facilitated tens of funerals during lockdown, ran an anti-racism social media campaign and recently re-started outdoor youth activities.

All of our educational programmes have now moved online, we have increased our mental health and wellbeing services and we look forward to sharing a number of new and exciting updates from all departments.

With the immense growth we have seen at GLM in the last year, we are now undergoing a reorganisation to drive more efficiencies, and to have a more productive Islamic working culture.

We invite you to take a look into our newsletter to find out more about what we have been up to in the last six months.





DAWAH

By the grace of Allah, the last 6 months have been very busy for the Dawah department. Some of our key achievements have been:

- A strong anti-racism campaign was initiated following the unfortunate death of George Floyd in America. A series of powerful posts were released on social media to educate the Muslim community on black companions and personalities in our history. Sheikh Abu Usamah Ath-Thahabi delivered a lecture highlighting the fact that Islam serves as an ultimate solution to the social injustices we are seeing in our communities, and across the world.
- We launched 1 year part-time courses in Aqeedah and Fiqh. The classes run 2 hours a week and the curriculum is designed such that students complete the courses with a well-grounded understanding in these core areas of Islam. Alhamdulillah 120 students have signed up to both classes.
- We have been working with our videographer to provide high quality Dawah productions for our audience. We believe that we should aim for excellence not only in content and delivery, but also in video production.



- Rolling out a comprehensive online Dawah programme over Ramadan with over 6 hours of content daily! We completed the classical text Tafseer Al Jalalayn with Sheikh Ahsan Hanif within the month alhamdulillah. We were also joined by a range of international speakers who committed their time to offer weekly discussions around family life, tafseer, spirituality and regular Q&A sessions.
- Adil Saleem (head of Dawah) was appointed by the University of Birmingham as a part-time chaplain. This is major milestone for the Dawah department alhamdulillah. Br Adil is delivering jumah prayers on campus, attending regular meetings and keeping up to date with the university Islamic Society to support Muslim students.



- In August Sheikh Abu Usamah ath-Thahabi began a 10-week class going through the classical text of Imam Al-Humaidi, Usool as-Sunnah.
- We have been focussing on interfaith work, and are currently taking part in discussions surrounding Islamic topics.
- We are excited to announce our newest Dawah project: Regular Lectures with the Scholars. Our first class will be a weekly lesson with Sheikh Dr Fahad al-Fuhaid of Imam Muhammad ibn Saud University going through Kitab at-Tawheed.


We are very excited about the next few months at GLM. Alhamdulillah, lockdown helped us to recognise the importance of increasing our Dawah online. We're all connected technologically, and we are therefore keen to continue our online output and seek to provide our audience with high quality productions.

Our plans include starting a podcast, going through more classical texts in exclusive series, and bite sized inspirational reminders. We also intend to set up an in-house recording studio where we can produce authentic and memorable content for our listeners inshaAllah. We ask Allah to grant us success and sincerity in the work that is being done.



A Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Muslim and Atheist discuss meditation & mindfulness

AUG 25, 2020 — STEVEN YORKE



USOOL AS-SUNNAH OF IMAM AL-HUMAIIDI

The classical text
"Foundations of the Sunnah"

SPEAKER
SH. ABU USAMAH AT-THAHABI

DURATION 10 WEEKS

START DATE 6TH AUGUST 2020

EVERY THURSDAY AT 8.00PM
WATCH ON GLM.TV/LIVE

"Whoever Allah wants good for He gives them understanding of the deen (religion)"
(Hadith reported by Bukhari and Muslim)

1 YEAR PART TIME AQEEDAH PROGRAMME

Green Lane Masjid presents an exciting 1 year Aqeedah programme covering key topics which all Muslims should know!

MODULES COVERED:
Module 1: Aqeedah 101
Module 2: At-Qawaid Al-Arbah and Usool at-thalatha
Module 3: Aqeedah Al-Wasitiyyah
Module 4: Aqeedah At-Tahawiyah

CLASS DETAILS:
2 hours a week every Monday (6.00pm - 8.00pm)
Each module will last for 6 weeks
There will be 4 modules a year
There are no pre-requisites for any module, simply register and benefit.

Why enrol?

- Qualified Sheikh delivering the course
- Course material (presentation) provided
- Exams at the end of each module
- Certificate upon completion of the 1 year programme
- Study online in the comfort of your home
- Affordable fees

For further information visit: www.greenlanemasjid.org/aqeedah

"Whoever Allah wants good for He gives them understanding of the deen (religion)"
(Hadith reported by Bukhari and Muslim)

2 YEAR PART TIME FIQH PROGRAMME

Green Lane Masjid presents an exciting 2 year Fiqh programme covering key topics which all Muslims should know!

MODULES INCLUDE:
YEAR 1

- The Evolution of Fiqh
- Purification
- Salah
- Fasting and Zakat

YEAR 2

- Hajj
- Marriage and Divorce
- Food and Clothing
- Business Transactions

CLASS DETAILS:
2 hours a week every Tuesday (6.00pm - 8.00pm)
Each module will last for 6 weeks
There will be 4 modules a year (8 over the 2 years)
There are no pre-requisites for any module, simply register and benefit.

Why enrol?

- Qualified Sheikh delivering the course
- Course material (presentation) provided
- Exams at the end of each module
- Certificate upon completion of the 2 year programme
- Study online in the comfort of your home
- Affordable fees

For further information visit: www.greenlanemasjid.org/fiqh

WELFARE

It has been a whirlwind period during lockdown for the Welfare Team. With the help of Allah, over the past few months we have continued to tirelessly serve the wider community in Birmingham through our services.

Foodbank

"Feeding a community in need"

We have continued to feed thousands of people across the city through our walk in food bank and COVID-19 Emergency Delivery Service. Over 65% of our service users are non-Muslim and so not only are we serving their basic needs, but also performing an important form of dawah. We thank everyone who has donated food items and money towards the running of these services. Currently, our foodbank is running every Tuesday and Thursday.

Due to the popularity of this service we are in need of food and non-food items. Monetary donations are also accepted.



ZAKAH SERVICE

Our Zakat fund is available all year round however the needs of our community increased over the lockdown period. We currently have a number of applications being assessed to the total value of approx. £35,000.

Service users who use our food bank and wellbeing services often get signposted to our zakat fund as many of their problems stem from living in financial hardship. We've been shocked to see how members of our immediate community are desperately in need of our help, yet many suffer in silence out of shame.

We encourage Muslims to give locally to aid locally as per prophetic tradition.

For more information or to donate to our Zakah Service email: info@greenlanemasjid.org or call: 0121 713 0080

As you read this, we have shuffled along from covid-19 related services and are in the midst of launching several dynamic projects for youth and women in particular. We are also re-launching services which were put on hold during the lockdown including: Sisters' Coffee Morning, Men's Counselling, Cancer Support, Immigration & Legal Surgeries, Education & Job Advice Surgeries, GLM Youth, GLM Football, and StreetWatch Patrols.

JazakAllahkhayr for supporting the Welfare Team through this testing time. The eyes of the city have been on us throughout lockdown, and we thank Allah that the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive. We have been able to run all of our services with your help, may Allah bless you all.



Eid Services

On Eid ul Adha, qurbani meat parcels were distributed to the poor in the UK.

With our legal surgery partners, we ran a initiative to deliver toys to sick children at Heartlands Hospital paediatric ward.

Food Parcels were also distributed locally with our partner.

PPE CAMPAIGN & THE ONE MILLION MASK CHALLENGE

Our partnership with Loft 25 has resulted in some fantastic results alhamdulillah. Our campaign to produce free PPE for NHS frontline workers and keyworkers has just come to a close. Loft 25 donated a huge amount of material, and GLM volunteers led the management of the campaign. In total, over 25,000 garments were produced with a market value of over £400,000!



We also launched the #1MILLIONMASKCHALLENGE, and saw a fantastic uptake from the general public who are collecting free mask kits from various mosques across the city. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage the general public to stay safe by wearing masks.

ask imam...



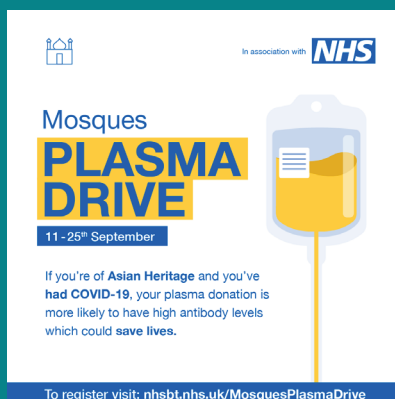
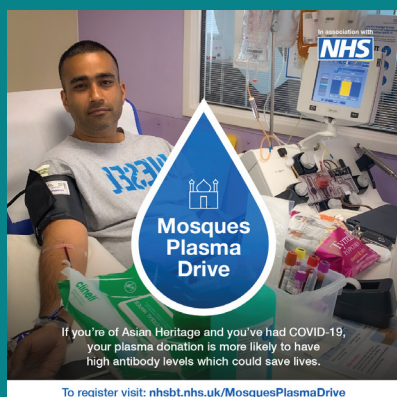
Legal and Immigration Surgeries

We have launched an over the phone legal surgery five days a week with Aman Solicitors. We have also launched an over the phone immigration surgery three days a week with the Home Office Engagement Team.

Imam Q&A

Our Iman Q&A currently runs three times a week over the phone and via email

Call on **0121 713 0080** or email **imamqa@greenlanemasjid.org**



Plasma Campaign

We are working with the NHS to encourage our BAME community to donate plasma to help with clinical trials. We have signed a joint statement along with 25 other mosques to help further this campaign.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Most of us have never lived through a pandemic and therefore adjusting to this new reality was a challenge.

At GLM, we sensitive to the fact that mental health issues are on the rise throughout our community. With Covid-19 added into the mix, a surge in mental health issues were only to be expected. In light of this, over May and June we **launched our Hear4U listening service**. We teamed up with some brilliant Muslim counsellors to offer support to those among us who were struggling with covid-19 related anxiety, depression and stress.

We also delivered a **9-week social media campaign** called Mental Health Monday, where our followers were able to engage with us, and take in positive Islamic reminders related to wellbeing



GLM 'HEAR4U' LISTENING SERVICE

We also held a live **Wellbeing Webinar** which included important advice from one of our counsellors, Br Saeed Nasser. The webinar was followed by an interactive discussion with our Head of Welfare, Saleem Ahmed (available to view on our YouTube channel).

Our Hear4U listening service is still running every Tuesday and Thursday alhamdulillah. Additionally, we have **re-launched male counselling** which takes place every Saturday. Counselling for sisters continues to run throughout the week.

Funding and Grants

Alhamdulillah we have a partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support who are funding a cancer support worker at GLMCC with the aim of improving cancer support services in the community.

We have also received funding for a youth worker to join our team.

Partnerships

We have had meetings with our key partners on common strands of work including the PCC, Canals and Rivers Trust, BVSC, Macmillans, Eman Channel, Mercy Mission and more.

We are also working with West Midlands Police and the Violence Reduction Unit to combat youth violence and to provide support for women experiencing domestic violence.

A recent congregational survey on hate crime highlighted the high level of Islamophobia felt by our community. We are now looking at addressing issues with our partners like MEND.

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT



West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit



YOUTH

Alhamdulillah, we have slowly but steadily been able to resume some of our outdoor youth activities. We have **re-launched GLMFC** for boys aged between 5-14 every Saturday.

We are also glad to have found a new home for GLMFC and all other outdoor sporting activities: Green Lane Playing Fields. We have **launched GLM canoeing** with former Olympian Andy, who trains a group of approximately 25 brothers and sisters between the ages of 16-26 every Sunday. Alhamdulillah, we have also successfully obtained funding for a new youth programme coordinator due to start in October 2020 inshaAllah.

TFGLM

This Ramadhan Task Force GLM had to overcome the challenge that lockdown presented in order to successfully fundraise for those in need. We had to think creatively and on our feet to ensure that we could still deliver aid to our brothers and sisters across the world. Alhamdulillah we were able to distribute 3850 food parcels to Syrian families in Lebanon over Ramadhan. By the grace of Allah, we were also able to raise 750K online, through radio appeals and Islam Channel appeals. Our new Palestine hospital project was also launched. Currently, we are still also working on the Syria bread project, Yemen food parcels and Pakistan water project alhamdulillah.

Operations

During the Covid-19 pandemic the Operations team were responsible for running the **GLM funeral department** which kept us very busy. The team worked closely with an extraordinary volunteer core working around the clock to collect and bury over 80 of our brothers & sisters – all conducted with the utmost respect and dignity of the deceased.

During the closure of the masjid the team have also carried out much required maintenance and renovation of the masjid; **the tenants' area was completed**, large parts of the masjid were re-painted, the masjid was sanitised, the carpets were washed and a **full site deep clean was undertaken**.

Alhamdulillah the **Masjid re-opened on the 4th July** with new precautionary safety measures. Jumah re-started on the 10th July with several jamats taking place every Friday to allow for a greater number of congregants to attend. Around 1500 people attended our Eid prayers which took place across 6 jamats, while maintaining social distancing.

The team is now focused on ensuring the returning congregation are kept safe while attending for congregational prayers. The uncertainty that surrounds upcoming months remains a challenge. We will endeavour to open more areas of the masjid for the community inshaAllah.





EDUCATION

Over the last few months, we have taken all of our Education classes online alhamdulillah. During the lockdown period we continued to provide Madrassah classes for over 400 students, as well as Adult education classes for over 380 students, in Arabic and Tajweed. During Ramadan we launched a 4-week Children's Ramadan Programme, which filled up in just 3 hours! Over 150 children benefitted from classes about Allah, the Three I's (Islam, Imaan, Ihsan), the Prophet (saw) and the Qur'an. Our Madrasah students took on the challenge to raise money for the Majid Ramadan Appeal. Alhamdulillah they managed to raise over £22,500 in just 4 weeks!

We launched online short courses in Arabic in the month of May, which were all well attended. We also launched a Qur'an 1:1 service in May offering students the ability to have tuition with qualified teachers over zoom, from the comfort of their own home.

The following classes took place over summer:

- Online hifdh summer school attended by 25 children
- Online beginners' Arabic course for reverts
- Online certificate in Arabic short course
- Online summer school attended by 90 children between the ages of 6-13

The new academic year has also brought with it some very new and exciting classes:

- Online tadabbur course for sisters – 300 students registered.
- Online Aqeedah and Fiqh courses – 120 students enrolled on both courses.
- Overall, we have launched 25 unique online classes with 550 students enrolled for the academic year alhamdulillah.



ISLAMWISE

Alhumdulillah it's been a busy few months!

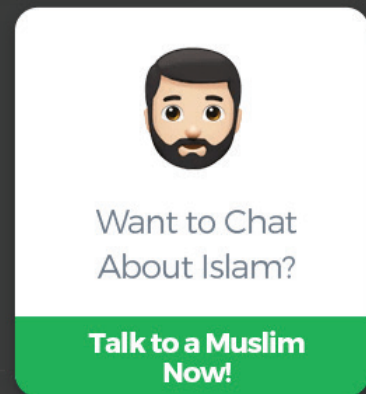
With the changing world of covid, our main priority over the period has been to move our services online in order for revert support to continue. The first thing to move online were our one to one appointments. Our one to one support includes advice and support but is focused on education; Tawheed, Taharah, Salaah, some Qur'an memorisation, basic Qaidah reading.

Any literature used during these sessions were converted to pdf and also sent out electronically; this allowed staff to support reverts whilst adhering to the lockdown rules.

Over Ramadan, we ensured that we kept everyone busy over lockdown with activities, which included:

- A weekly online Tawheed course
- A weekly Live Q&A session with a qualified imam streamed online over Ramadan
- A new online Arabic class for absolute beginners, starting with the Arabic alphabet
- A social media campaign about the '99 Names of Allah'. We felt that all of us really needed to connect with Allah, more so during this unprecedented time and one of the best ways of getting to know Allah is through His most perfect Names and Attributes.
- A socially distanced Eid party for new Muslim brothers
- A new video series highlighting new Muslim stories <https://yt.vu/Tv-nElu6SeM>

In partnership with Green Lane Masjid, we have also launched an online Qur'an 1:1 service which saw tens of new Muslims taking up the offer to be taught. The beauty of this is that after reverts finished the beginners Arabic course, they could then move on to the next and continue with their learning.



Let's Chat About Islam!

HIGHLIGHTS

- To improve online support we are now in partnership with eDialogue, providing 24/7 chat support via our website in multiple languages increasing our reach, alhamdulillah!
- We have also had weekly online classes and a four-part Tawheed course online.
- We are launching two new series' on YouTube. The first is "How To Recite and Understand Prayers" which is a 27 part series breaking down how to learn the Salah correctly in Arabic, with coach Zubair – our Canada lead. The second series we will be titled, "The Five Pillars" with Sheikh Abu Usamah. This series will seek to explain the five pillars of Islam in a way that is easy to relate to and understand.
- We have spoken to many people interested in Islam over the course of the pandemic. So far in 2020 we have had over 35 people take their shahada within the Birmingham office
- We have launched a mentoring programme to help new Muslims on their journey.
- Our Qur'an translation distribution project completed with almost 100k Quran translations now having been distributed across the world! May Allah swt accept this endeavour from the team and all of those who have supported our work, Ameen.

To find out more about Islamwise and keep up to date with our activities, visit our website or follow us on social media. Also make sure to keep an eye out for our Annual Report, which is due to be published soon!



COVID RESPONSE

New Services and Campaigns

- Service 1 - Covid Food Delivery Service
- Service 2 - Covid Listening Helpline
- Service 3 – PPE Campaign with Loft25 to deliver PPE to the NHS
- Service 4 – Million Mask Campaign with Loft 25
- Service 5 – Plasma Campaign with NHS

PR & Media

Promoted a positive image of Muslims:

- Delivered Interviews on Radio – BBC WM, BBC Asian network, Heart FM, Unity FM, Luton FM etc
- Promoted positive work on TV – BBC, ITV, Sky, Eman Channel, Islam Channel etc
- Appeared in dozens of articles – Metro, Guardian, Birmingham Mail, AL-Jazeera, Islam21c, 5Pillars, Eastern Eye, Arab news, Asian Image etc
- Released Press statements – Reopening, Plasma campaign etc
- Written various articles e.g. Dhul Hijjah



38 HOSPITALS & MEDICAL PRACTICES SERVED!

Including: Rochdale Infirmary, Interserve Healthcare, Elite Care Homes, Birmingham City Council, Solihull, Royal Orthopaedic, Worcester, Russells Hall, Bham Community Health, Bham Mental Health Trust, Walsall Manor and more!



SEVEN
PROJECT
COORDINATORS
IN PLACE



14,399 WORK
IN PROGRESS
GARMENTS



3,500 DELIVERED
SINCE LAST
UPDATE
(5TH MAY)

Funeral Services

Partnered with Birmingham Central Mosque to manage the increased number of deceased

COVID-19 MUSLIM FUNERAL SERVICE HOTLINE

Joint venture between Green Lane Masjid, Birmingham central mosque and Central Funeral Services

CALL 07795 838 786

Aljazeera.com

UK Muslims are stepping in to help amid the coronavirus crisis

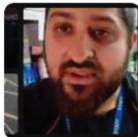
At the mosque itself, an additional cold storage facility able to house up to ...
Kamran Hussain, head of the Green Lane Masjid and Community ...
13 Apr 2020



The Guardian

Food parcels and a makeshift morgue: inside a coronavirus ...

The Green Lane Masjid in Birmingham was among the first to shut its ... at the mosque, about the changes they have made to continue to serve ...
16 Apr 2020



Birmingham Live

Ramadan 2020 announcement - This is when Ramadan starts in UK and around the world

Green Lane Masjid and Community Centre, in Small Heath, said they "encourage you and your families to conduct taraweeh prayers at home ...
23 Apr 2020



MOSQUE REOPENING POST LOCKDOWN

Mosque Leadership

Delivered webinars for UK mosques (closing, reopening, eid arrangements etc)

- Created best practice templates shared with UK mosques by BIMA, MCB, Faith Associates e.g. risk assessments
- Agreed guidance and actions for the Muslim community – with PHE, MCB, NHS, BIMA, Birmingham Mosques Group, BCM etc
- Lead many joint mosque statements and forums – Cremations, funeral gatherings, masjid closing, masjid reopening, plasma etc
- Called for witness statement by government for inquiry as a best practice masjid

If you are elderly or have been told to self isolate and need help getting supplies or medicine



GREEN LANE MASJID CAN HELP

Please leave your name and number at:

07858 150 671














qais@greenlanemasjid.org

Mosque reopened for daily prayer on 4th July with new rules

- Masjid reopening done safely
- Community adhering well to new guidelines
- Opening for jumuah gone well with multiple jamat to spread numbers
- GLMCC Risk assessment shared nationally
- GLMCC delivered several reopening webinars to share learning

GREEN LANE MASJID & COMMUNITY CENTRE
MASJID RE-OPENING RULES

REMEMBER COVID-19 VIRUS IS STILL PRESENT AND A THREAT TO LIFE

-  Masjid will open 15mins prior to Jamaat and close IMMEDIATELY after
-  Bring your own prayer mat and take it back home with you. Entry will not be permitted without one
-  Limited numbers allowed on a first come first enter basis
-  Bring your own bag and keep shoes with you at all times - 1 way system in effect
-  Strict 1.5m distance should be maintained at all times
-  There will be no access to Mushafs on site
-  Do not come to the masjid if you are feeling unwell
-  NO Wudu or toilet facilities - please make Wudu at home
-  Due to restricted capacity. No women, elderly, sick or children under 12 allowed*
-  Do not shake hands or embrace others
-  All non congregational prayers must be performed at home i.e. Sunnah, nawafil etc
-  Windows and doors will be opened for ventilation purposes
-  You MUST bring a face mask, entry will NOT be permitted without one

*These restrictions are for phase one reopening and will be eased in accordance with UK government guidelines





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