



Lewisham
ISLAMIC CENTRE

Lewisham Islamic Centre

Annual Report 2026

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LIC Vision

The LIC vision is and continues to remain the provision of a holistic range of religious, educational and social services primarily for the local community.



Chair of the Trustees - Taofik Akande

A New And Urgent Beginning

Most Muslims will be familiar with the post-Jumu'ah prayer refrain: "Inshallah, see you next week." It perfectly sums up the now-commonplace feeling that life has been reduced to a weekly rhythm—Friday-to-Friday—with the time in between being, at best, unproductive and, at worst, entirely lost.

"The Hour will not be established until time passes rapidly." **[Bukhari]** ... "A year will pass like a month, a month like a week, a week like a day, a day like an hour, and an hour like the burning of a palm leaf." **[Tirmidhi; Ibn Majah]**

The above sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) are not only compelling testimony to the veracity of his prophethood, but are also so presciently relevant that they speak directly to the times in which we now live. As time passes in the blink of an eye, it only serves to underscore the pressing need to accumulate as many good deeds as one can before the final call upon us is made. One of Shaytan's most effective ploys in curtailing these good actions is to keep people overly consumed by societal ills stirred by agitators, to the point that spiritual exhaustion robs them of the precious time and energy that could be spent more productively.

"Say: The evil and the good are not equal, even though the abundance of evil may impress you..." **[Qur'an ch5, v100]**

Allah the Almighty stresses that there is no moral equivalence between good and evil deeds, even if evil appears more abundant. Rather, it is good deeds—the small, everyday, consistently

practised acts of kindness: offering a smile in greeting, empathising with those alike and different from oneself, volunteering one's time, giving in charity—that are most pleasing to Allah, and that inevitably accumulate into an avalanche strong enough to stymie the advance of the darkness of amorality and sweep it away.

However, and perhaps most importantly, it is worth remembering that charity always begins at home. Those good deeds should ultimately begin with those we love and cherish most—our kin. Only then can they extend outward to others.

"Forgive yourself. Forgive others. Don't wait. Not everyone gets the time. Not everyone is as lucky... I mourn my dwindling time, but I cherish the chance it gives me to make things right." **[Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie]**



The Mosque Rebuild - An Opportunity to Create a Legacy

For generations, the Muslim community of Lewisham has been built on sacrifice, service, and sincere faith. Our parents and elders laid the foundations with limited means, but with unlimited conviction. They gave their time, wealth, energy and duas so that future generations of Muslims could carry on the tradition of prayer, learning and growing together as one community. Today, we are being handed that same opportunity: to build a legacy that will outlive us all.

The rebuild project is more than the laying of bricks and raising walls. It is an investment on behalf of our children and our families for the future of Islam in Lewisham. It is a chance to create a space that welcomes worshippers, nurtures young minds, supports the vulnerable and strengthens the bonds of our community for decades to come. Every prayer offered there, every child who learns Qur'an, every person guided back to faith will become part of the limitless reward for those who helped make it possible.

A legacy is not created by a handful of people alone. It is built when an entire community comes together with one heart and one purpose. Some may be able to give generously in wealth, while others may contribute through regular small donations, volunteering their time or skills, spreading awareness or making sincere dua. Every contribution matters. In the sight of Allah, sincerity carries more weight than quantity.

This rebuild is our collective responsibility and our shared honour; it is not the responsibility of the Imams or Trustees alone. Future generations will look back and remember those who stepped forward when the community needed them most. They will remember the people who believed in something bigger than themselves and helped turn a vision into reality.

Now is the time therefore for us to unite with intent and commitment. Let us not leave this task for others. Let each household ask: "What can we do to help?" Whether it is a pound a day, an hour a week, or simply encouraging others to support the project, everyone has a role to play. The opportunity to leave behind a source of ongoing reward does not come often. This is our moment to build something that will endure, a beacon of hope, faith, unity and service in Lewisham for generations to come. May Allah allow us all to grab this opportunity with the gusto it deserves and to make a reality of it.

Secretary of the Trustees - Zillur Rahman



New Development

Alhamdulillah (Praises to God), we are pleased to announce that we have received planning approval from Lewisham Council to proceed with our new development project.

Since receiving this approval we have accelerated our preparations for the initial phase of construction. Our efforts to date have focused on logistics and resource management, including securing an alternative and adequate venue for congregational prayers throughout the construction period, launching comprehensive online fundraising initiatives, and actively recruiting a new fundraising officer to help us reach our financial objectives. Additionally, during the month of Ramadan, we coordinated two live fundraising appeals broadcast via TV One and Eman TV.



We are pleased to report that the remarkable generosity of our community raised £139,637 during Ramadan, including contributions on the 27th night and through our television appeals. This brings our total development fund to £1.5 million, representing an increase of £500,000 over the past year.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our community for their support and ongoing commitment that has enabled us to reach this significant milestone. We remain dedicated to keeping you informed as we move forward with this project.



Please continue to support this legacy through your donations:

Account Name: Lewisham Islamic Centre
Account No: 63402592
Sort Code: 20-18-93

Scan to
Donate



Community Service



Shahada's & New Muslims

Alhamdulillah, over the past year we've had the privilege of witnessing over 122 reversions to Islam, welcoming people from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds. As is remarkably and repeatedly the case, we continue to find that the highest number of individuals accepting Islam occurs during the blessed month of Ramadan, which, this year, accounted for 32 of these reversions.

As a dedicated resource for Islamic education, we remain committed to serving as a vital support system for new Muslims. Our programs span foundational Arabic literacy, enabling students to read the Qur'an, to essential tenets of the Islamic faith. We strive to encourage an environment where every student feels welcomed, respected, and connected to a supportive community.

Recognising the importance of social integration, we continue to host regular dinners designed to promote unity among our growing community. Our December holiday season gatherings are most noteworthy considering the deep isolation many new reverts - particularly those of a Christian background - may go through during the festive period, ensuring that they are supported with companionship and have that sense of belonging during this time.

Scouts

The past year saw 1st Lewisham Park Scouts participate in a range of activities such as the Scouts Olympics and communal mosque sleepovers to preparations for our upcoming international summer camp.

Our senior members have played a vital role in supporting our Sisters' Deen & Dine initiatives, while our younger scouts have dedicated their time to studying the lives of the best role models for human beings - The Prophets of Allah (Peace be upon them).

We are incredibly proud of all of our members who have consistently demonstrated the principles of unity and excellence, serving as exemplary figures within the community. We are grateful to the parents and volunteers whose commitment and support have ensured another successful year for the 1st Lewisham Park Scouts.

As a group, we are committed to supporting our mission to lead and serve the Muslim community of Lewisham. If you're interested in joining our team, please email us at scouts@lewishamislamiccentre.com



Youth Club

Alhamdulillah, our Youth Club has truly flourished this year, serving as a dedicated space where our youth - boys and girls, in segregated groups - can socialise, build lasting friendships, and deepen their connection to Islam.

Regular sessions feature a variety of activities, including board games, PS5 gaming, creative arts, and hands-on crafts like tasbeeh-making (Islamic prayer beads) and Ramadan vision boards. Each gathering concludes with an Islamic reminder and an open group discussion. The youth club engagement continues to be strong with now over 30 boys and 30 girls regularly attending.

Beyond the weekly sessions, we have organised several memorable events, including a trip to Thorpe Park, a boys' sleepover at the centre, and successful fundraising initiatives such as car washes and an Abaya (Women Islamic clothing) sale.

Above all, it has been heartwarming to watch the youth mature and grow in confidence. Providing a safe, respectful and engaging environment has fostered genuine friendships and a strong sense of belonging, which remains the truest highlight of the youth club's success.



Stay updated with our latest events via our Instagram page @licyouth

LICFC

LICFC continues to grow from strength to strength and has enjoyed a fantastic season defined by consistent development and notable achievements across all levels of the club. Our U10 squad led the charge with an exceptional campaign, earning a well-deserved promotion to the SELKENT C League. They navigated this transition with confidence, demonstrating both technical ability and commendable team spirit.



The U12s also enjoyed a superb season, consistently contending at the top of the SELKENT table. Through commitment, self-belief and growth, they reached the SELKENT Maroon Shield final, displaying dominance and impressive teamwork to defeat a redoubtable EWD Eagles FC and secure their first of many anticipated trophies. Alhamdulillah (Praise to God), this milestone marks a significant moment in their development.

Moreover, recent U13 trials have generated significant interest from within and outside Lewisham, signaling the popularity and positive reputation of LICFC and a bright future for our youth setup. To support this growth, we are actively recruiting for key operational roles, including a media manager, treasurer, and additional coaching staff and volunteers, while continuing to welcome new players. LICFC operates on a strong foundation, and we look forward to even greater successes in the coming year.

Training for boys aged 9 to 12 takes place every Saturday from 13:00 to 15:00. For more information email l.i.c.fc@hotmail.com



Please follow our instagram page
- @lic.fc



and check out our Youtube channel
- lewishamislamiccentrefc2016



Community
Service

Sisters' Deen & Dine

At LIC we remain dedicated to encouraging sisterhood through a variety of engaging activities. Foremost to these efforts is our Sisters Deen and Dine project, which successfully attracts over 100 participants per session. Key highlights include:

- **Honouring the Deceased Workshop:** We hosted a practical Ghust workshop, providing essential instruction on the rites of preparing a body for Janazah (Funeral). This session generated a large turnout, reflecting a strong community interest in this religious duty.
- **Sisters' Eid Party:** Our yearly Eid gathering enjoys significant attendance. Most recently, 117 sisters attending generated £3,745 in ticket sales, with all proceeds going towards the centre's new development project.

In addition to these events, we facilitate ongoing social support groups. We continue to host coffee and tea mornings for elderly congregants and have recently introduced a monthly social group for new Muslims. These initiatives provide a welcoming and relaxed environment for sisters to connect with experienced community members and to nurture friendships.

A welcoming
and relaxed
environment



Events

We've proudly hosted and participated in a series of events, namely our Winter Programme, two Eid Celebrations, 'Path to Marriage' Event, Muslim Charity Run and 'Visit My Mosque'.

Significant highlights of the year were the two successful Eid prayers in the park. We were privileged to host up to 7,000 attendees for each Eid celebration, Alhamdulillah (Praise to be God).

The year's flagship event was the Muslim Charity Run, which saw dedicated community members lace up their running shoes in aid of our new development project. Beyond raising £447, our participants demonstrated exceptional athletic stamina, two of whom secured first place in their respective age categories: Abdullah (31–45), and Flavio (18–30).

Responding to community demand, we also introduced "Path to Marriage" - a matrimonial initiative designed to provide a structured pathway for brothers and sisters seeking a spouse. Following the success of the inaugural event and the overwhelming positive feedback received, we now plan to establish this as a recurring feature in the annual calendar.

Online Projects

We launched our new podcast, called 'In Conversation with LIC', featuring a variety of guest speakers discussing diverse topics related to Islam.

This initiative aims to strengthen our digital presence while providing accessible educational material to both our local community and our global online audience. Moreover, we recognise that as social media has become a primary source of information for the younger generation, by offering a reliable and wholesome educational alternative to the misinformation rampant online, we hope to engage this demographic with the correct understanding of their faith.

Scan the QR code to check out our new podcast:



Reliable and Wholesome

In
Conversation
With

Community
Service



Outreach Work



Workshops & Training

This year, we hosted a varied series of workshops dedicated to enhancing community well-being, expanding personal opportunities, and sharing essential knowledge. Our previous workshops included the following sessions:

- **Smoking Cessation (in collaboration with the NHS):** An informative session detailing the health risks associated with smoking and exploring practical alternatives to assist with quitting the habit.
- **Carer Workshop (in collaboration with TLC Carers):** A discussion focused on available services for the elderly and disabled, as well as guidance for those interested in becoming caregivers.
- **Hepatitis B Awareness (in collaboration with the NHS):** An educational session regarding Hepatitis B, supplemented by onsite testing for attendees.



- **Caring for Creation (in collaboration with Sustainably Muslim):** A session exploring environmentally friendly practices and their alignment with the principles of the Islamic faith.
- **Blood Testing (in collaboration with Oasis Pharmacy):** An initiative promoting proactive health monitoring. Attendees received health guidance and underwent finger-prick blood glucose and wellness screenings.
- **GCSE Science Revision:** Targeted support for Year 11 students, offering effective study techniques and exam preparation strategies to bolster academic performance.



Interfaith

We remain dedicated to fostering harmony among diverse faith groups through our ongoing outreach initiatives. We believe that mutual respect and understanding are the cornerstones of a thriving community. To advance this mission in 2026, we engaged in the following activities:

- **Educational Advocacy:** We participated in SACRE meetings to offer guidance on Islamic religious education in local schools, including the release of our 2026 Ramadan Advisory Guide for Schools.
- **Interfaith Engagement:** We joined the annual interfaith walk, collaborating with members of Parliament, local faith leaders, and residents from all walks of life to promote unity.
- **Visit My Mosque:** We hosted an open-door event, inviting the local community to tour our masjid and learn more about Islamic beliefs and practices, all the while enjoying refreshments and good conversations.
- **Community Iftar:** We organised an Open Iftar, providing non-Muslim guests with the opportunity to experience the tradition of breaking the fast. The event welcomed over 30 attendees, including neighbours, non-Muslim family members of congregants, and distinguished guests, such as Mayor Liam Shrivastava, Councillor Hau-Yu Tam, former Mayor Brenda Dacres, and Karen Troullides, the SE Faith Liaison Officer for Lewisham Police station.

Food Bank

Since the commencement of the food bank project, we have sadly observed a significant rise in demand, with the number of monthly requests more than doubling from 6 to 17.

This upward trend underscores an increasing need for basic support within the local community. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the project, ensuring that vulnerable individuals and families continue to have access to the essential staples they require.

"I'm so glad I now know more about Islam."

School Visits

To support students in their religious education and provide a correct and deeper understanding of Islam, our centre regularly hosts school visits. In the past year, we've hosted 11 school visits, including primary and secondary pupils, with group sizes ranging between 24 and 90 students.

During these visits, the Imam provided an educational overview of the five pillars of Islam, accompanied by demonstrations of the call to prayer, the prayer ritual itself, and an introduction to the Quran.

Participating students have consistently demonstrated great engagement, often posing thoughtful questions during our dedicated Q&A sessions. Feedback from the visiting groups remains overwhelmingly positive.

Reflections from Kilmore School students include comments such as:

"Interesting"

"Thought-provoking"

"A really fun morning"



Testimonials



“ Since arriving as Vicar of Lewisham in September, I have been made to feel very welcome by so many pillars of the community, and Lewisham Islamic Centre has been a big part of that. I visited on my first day as part of the peace walk; LIC's contribution and emphasis on fostering interfaith cohesion and community building is so valuable in today's world, and especially in Lewisham. ”

(Fr David Adamson-Hill, Vicar of Lewisham, St Mary the Virgin Church)

Working partners



Top 3 Friday Khutbahs:

1. Message to the Far-Right
2. Message to a Young Muslim
3. Good Friday

Most viewed content on Youtube:

What Islam has done for me - Ex British Army Soldier Shane & Son George



Youtube
Subscribers

10.5k
13.5k



Facebook
Followers

48k
49k



Instagram
Followers

13.4k
21.7k



Threads
Followers

2.6k
3.2k



X-Twitter
Followers

5.2k
5.9k



TikTok
Followers

38k
52.9k

Total
Shahadahs
122



Total Number
of Food
Banks
10



Total Number of
School Visits
20



Total Number
of Nikahs
20



Total Number
of Janazahs
15



Total Number
of CBT
Sessions
15



Total Number of Marriage
Counselling Sessions
149



Total Number of
Counselling Sessions
203



Number and Total Donations:

Charity Collections throughout the
year Charity Collections raising

£46,770.50

Council Approval received
for the New Development

Nov 2025

Highlights



July 2025

- LIC Fun Day
- Annual General Meeting
- Health Awareness talk and Screening
- LICFC Awards Ceremony

September 2025

- Know your Number! Hypertension Screening with Oasis Pharmacy
- Stand Up to Racism Event
- TLC Carer Workshop
- Sponsored Food Bank Dom and Danny
- Caring for Creation Event with Sustainably Muslim
- HRF and Scouts Fundraising Appeal for Bangladesh Eco Village Campaign raising £1221.87
- Proud to be Muslim and British Video Campaign



November 2025

- Jamaica Hurricane Disaster Appeal
- New Muslim Dinner
- Council Approved New Development



December 2025

- Sisters' Deen and Dine Ghusl Workshop
- Scouts' Sleepover
- Youth Club Sleepover
- Qiyamul Layl Programme



October 2025

- Visit my Mosque
- Muslim Charity Run raising £447
- Being a Young Muslim in Challenging Times Conference
- Peacehaven Mosque Collection after Arson attack raising £1346.76



August 2025

- Supporting our local community Campaign against Drugs
- Solidarity Fasting with the People of Gaza
- 200+ UK Imams joint statement on Palestinian Statehood
- Interfaith Peace Walk
- Youth Club Eastbourne Trip
- Community BBQ with Revert Reminders



January 2026

- Path to Marriage Event
- Revert Umrah Trip
- In Conversation with LIC (Podcast Launch)



March 2026

- Open Iftar at LIC
- Annual 27th Night Fundraiser
- NHS Get Tested for Hepatitis B
- Zakatul Fitr Campaign raising £34,708

May 2026

- GCSE Science Revision Sessions
- Responsibility of Reverts in Light of Current Times Special Guest Br Dowie
- Planting Project with Sustainably Muslim and Scouts
- Eid in the Park
- Sisters Eid Party Celebrations
- Qurbani Campaign raising £12,185
- LICFC U12 wins the Selkent Maroon Shield



April 2026

- Community Meeting
- 6 Week New Muslim Classes
- Prophetic Mental Hygiene by Ustadh Dr Zohair Abdul-Rahman from Al-Maghrib Institute



February 2026

- New Muslim Class on Ramadan & Fasting
- TV One Live Appeal
- Eman Channel Live Appeal



LII (Lewisham Islamic Institute)

Lewisham Islamic Institute's madrasah programme continues to expand, now supporting over 560 students aged 5 to 15. Through the Safar curriculum, pupils receive a comprehensive education that balances fundamental Islamic studies with historical insight and an awareness of contemporary challenges. This academic approach aims to cultivate strong moral character and a firm and confident Islamic identity, empowering students to contribute positively to society.



Moreover, our inclusive Hifdh programme has enabled many students to successfully complete the memorisation of the Quran, a testament to the dedication shared by our staff and learners alike.

Parallel to LII youth education, we provide robust educational opportunities for our adult community. We offer structured Arabic language courses designed to facilitate core understanding and engagement with Islamic texts, alongside advanced classical studies for those seeking more advanced knowledge. We also provide tailored Quranic reading classes for new reverts, ensuring that every individual, regardless of their starting point, is wholesomely supported in their personal journey with the Qur'an.



Robust educational opportunities



LIC Yearly Accounts (2025)



INCOME	2025
General Donations	315,431
Tuition Fees	212,821
New Mosque Funds	344,747
Gift Aid & Grants	13,092
Rental Income	100,635
Fund Raising & Other activities	75,919
Funeral fund	11,195
TOTAL INCOME	£1,073,840

EXPENDITURE	2025
Staff Wages and Salaries inc. Paye& Nic	480,360
Centre Admin & Overhead costs	38,891
Centre Running & maintenance costs	81,608
Events and Outreach work	26,748
Legal & Professional fees	35,615
Fundraising expenses	48,241
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£711,463

Fundraising

Between July 2025 and July 2026, Friday weekly collections generated an average monthly income of £20,290, primarily driven by cash donations and card-based contributions. Additionally, since the installation of our wall-mounted donation kiosks on January 21, 2025, we have recorded an additional £40,087 in revenue.

Regarding the campaign for our new development, we successfully secured £139,637 through direct donations during the 27th night and associated live TV appeals. In addition, our targeted digital marketing campaigns, which leverage social media advertising to promote the new development, has generated £115,911 within a year.

Moving forward, we aim to further strengthen our financial sustainability by appointing a dedicated Fundraising Officer. This individual will be tasked with developing creative strategies to enhance both our general fundraising and capital project efforts. Given the success of our digital outreach for the new development, we also intend to expand our digital marketing efforts to bolster general donation streams.



Weekly collections generated an average monthly income of £20,290



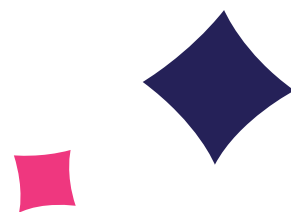


Thanking the Ramadan volunteers

This Ramadan, we were honoured to host over 300 individuals nightly for the breaking of the fast (Iftar), while our nightly congregational prayers (Tarawih) saw a daily attendance exceeding 3,000 members.

The successful management of these large-scale gatherings would have been unattainable without the tireless effort and commitment of our volunteer team. These cherished brothers and sisters worked diligently and in unison to ensure that every aspect of the month's proceedings, from hospitality to logistics, was managed professionally and with care and excellence.

We humbly pray that Allah (SWT) grants these dedicated individuals the highest measure of reward, blessing them abundantly both in this worldly life and in the eternal hereafter for their selfless service to the community. Ameen.



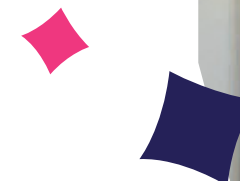
Thank You Statement from Imam Shakeel

It has been a landmark year for the Lewisham Islamic Centre (LIC). Significant milestones were attained, including securing planning approval from Lewisham Council for our new development and successfully raising £139,637 during the month of Ramadan to support this project. Furthermore, it was a great honour to witness 33 individuals embrace Islam at the centre during this blessed month.

As a cornerstone of the Lewisham community and beyond, LIC will continue to provide holistic religious and social services grounded in Islamic values. We strive to continue improving community relations and cohesion while actively advocating a positive future for the wider Muslim population.

We look forward to continuing this vital work, insha'Allah (God-willing). Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to our trustees, staff, volunteers, community members, local faith leaders, Lewisham Council, the police, and all of our partners and wellwishers who remain dedicated to supporting LIC's initiatives and vision of a Lewisham that is more united, compassionate, and enriched by its diversity.

A cornerstone of the
Lewisham community
and beyond



Sponsors



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