



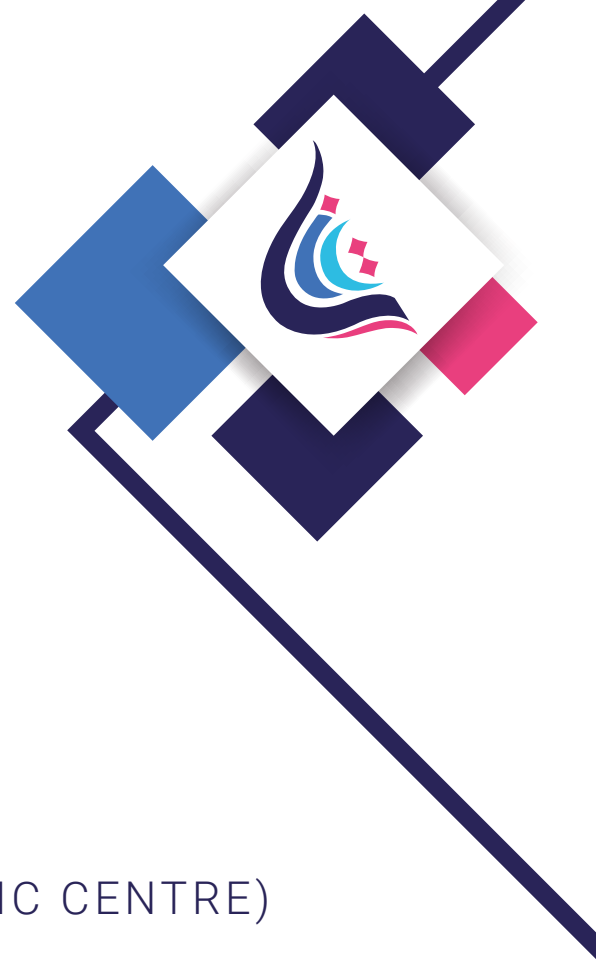
# Lewisham Islamic Centre Annual Report



LEWISHAMISLAMICCENRE.COM

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# LIC VISION & OBJECTIVES

Our Vision is to provide a holistic range of religious and social services for the local community.

## OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

To provide spiritual, social, educational and moral support for Muslims and people of other faiths, of all ages, race and gender.

The advancement and a better understanding of the religion of Islam, specifically in the London Borough of Lewisham, its surrounding areas and nationally.

To foster better community relations and work for the betterment of society as a whole, including the provision of social welfare where possible.

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The relief of poverty, and work towards the eradication of all forms of discrimination.

# Chair of the Trustees

For the Muslim there is no isolation from the world. Life and death, and whatever afflicts the world inevitably touches us. And we are commanded to bear with beautiful patience during afflictions and trials, holding steadfast to that ever-saving rope that is obedience to, and hope and trust in Allah the One whose promise never fails and whose truth and message we are commanded to live by and share. It is forever a solemn reminder of the provenance of humankind, one family, connected, sojourning toward the same inevitable conclusion (death) and destination (the Hereafter).

The past year has seen a Coronavirus global pandemic blight the lives of tens of millions, destroying lives and livelihoods as it raged indiscriminately through countries and continents, taking loved ones from rich and poor, black and white, Muslim and non-Muslim.

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) assured mankind that Allah did not create a disease without having created a cure for it. In the midst of all the hurt and anguish, the resulting isolation of a global lockdown was a time for deep reflection. For the first time in living memory, masajids (mosques) voluntarily closed, the collective experience of Ramadan cancelled with Taraweeh (Night prayers during the month of Ramadan), and the sacred Hajj (pilgrimage) was suspended – required sacrifices for the good of the world, and a test from Allah the Almighty to increase our longing for Him and those rituals connected with it through self-purification and the rectification of our intentions. The isolation experienced by the Prophets – Ibrahim, Ayuub, Yunus, Musa, Muhammad (peace be upon them all) – and how they lived it ultimately determined their success post isolation.

Coronavirus is only the latest global trial in an endless series of pressing trials facing the world and Muslims. Life goes on, and so does the dawah (spreading knowledge of Islam). While the doors of the Lewisham Islamic Centre (LIC) momentarily closed, its work in the community never wavered; propagating Islam and defending the honour of Muslims was not vanquished, caring for the elderly, neighbours, the homeless and those in need took on additional emphasis.



As Muslims seeking exclusively the pleasure of our Creator and ultimate benefactor, we recognise what is expected of us, and we beseech Al-Rahman (The Most Merciful) that, while we acknowledge our fallibility, we do not fall too short of that expectation.

The Mayor of Lewisham's award in December 2020 to LIC for its valuable contribution within the borough's community response to COVID-19 is deeply appreciated collectively amongst the Muslims of Lewisham as is the recognition of the borough residents and organisations who nominated LIC for the award, but it only underscores the great responsibility Islam has placed on us to readily be at the service of all in need. Ramadan 1442 is just around the corner and fast approaching. Let us learn from the lived experience of the past year and never again take this most blessed of months for granted, but to prepare for it with every endeavour and welcome it as it deserves to be welcomed with a burning, yearning and in the best spirit of revitalisation.

## Ramadan Kareem

Taofik Akande



# Secretary of the Trustees

**Zillur Rahman**



Mosques are the most frequented of all places of worship, and they become even more frequented during the month of Ramadan. It is certainly no coincidence that the Messenger of Allah ( ﷺ) (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) started his mission in Madinah by building the mosque at its centre, and made it the centre of all of the community's activities.

It is within the Mosque that the Salah (prayer) is performed, which we know is amongst the greatest of deeds that a believer can perform, and although we can all pray at home as we have been doing for the best part of a year during the pandemic, we will have all reflected on the many other benefits that a Mosque performs and the purposes that it serves that we have all greatly missed, which become magnified even more so in Ramadan.

The Lewisham Islamic Centre's (LIC) services are not simply limited to the performance of the prayer, it is the centre of activity that links our vibrant Muslim community. It is a place of education for us and our children, inculcating liberating Islamic values into our lives and imbibing Islamic cultural and religious ethos in order to live as Muslims unshackled from the bonds of materialism. It is a social hub that brings together different communities for civic interactions. It is a place where through the daily reminders and the medium of the weekly Jumu'ah (Friday) prayer, we are reminded on matters affecting us individually, locally and globally, and where solutions to these problems are suggested from the well-trodden paths of righteous Islamic forebears. It is a place where we learn of those who are sick within our community and those in need of succor.

It is a place where non-Muslims learn about our beautiful faith and have embraced Islam while we witnessed their declarations of faith with hopeful and joyful hearts. This latter vital role becomes even more apparent not just from the number of people who become Muslims at this Centre, but with each reopening during lockdown which has always coincided with new Muslims entering the faith at the LIC.

Above all else, it is that sense of the congregation, the brotherhood and sisterhood which the Mosque fosters and which is never better experienced than during the blessed month of Ramadan. By offering the daily congregational obligatory prayers, the purified sentiments of love, equality and affection are strengthened. We equally look forward to the propitious occasions of the gatherings for Jumu'ah, Tarawih and Eid-ul-Fitr prayers when we publicly reaffirm Islam's call for unity. With so much facing the Muslim Ummah (community) today, it is even more imperative this Ramadan that we make concerted efforts to create a welcoming environment of unity and solidarity and avoid discord and disputes which only harm and weaken Muslim unity. This is all the more pertinent as we have recently been remembering the cessation of the Ottoman caliphate, and with it a century of destruction and suffering in the Muslim world. It can only be through uniting that we can free ourselves from the shackles of injustice, tyranny and oppression and recapture the spirit and greatness of past Islamic civilisations, inshallah (God willing).

I would also like to take this opportunity to pray that Allah forgives and accepts into His mercy all whose loved ones have passed away as a result of the pandemic. I pray that He grants them Jannah (paradise).

**Ramadan Mubarak**



**“LEWISHAM ISLAMIC CENTRE, THE BEATING HEART OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM AND SURROUNDING AREAS.”**

## Administration & Media

The Admin office supports over 100 members of staff including volunteers and stewards who are all involved in the smooth running of LIC.

Being the first point of contact for service users, the administrative team acts as LIC’s ambassadors, they create a pleasant and welcoming atmosphere for everyone who contacts or visits the Centre.

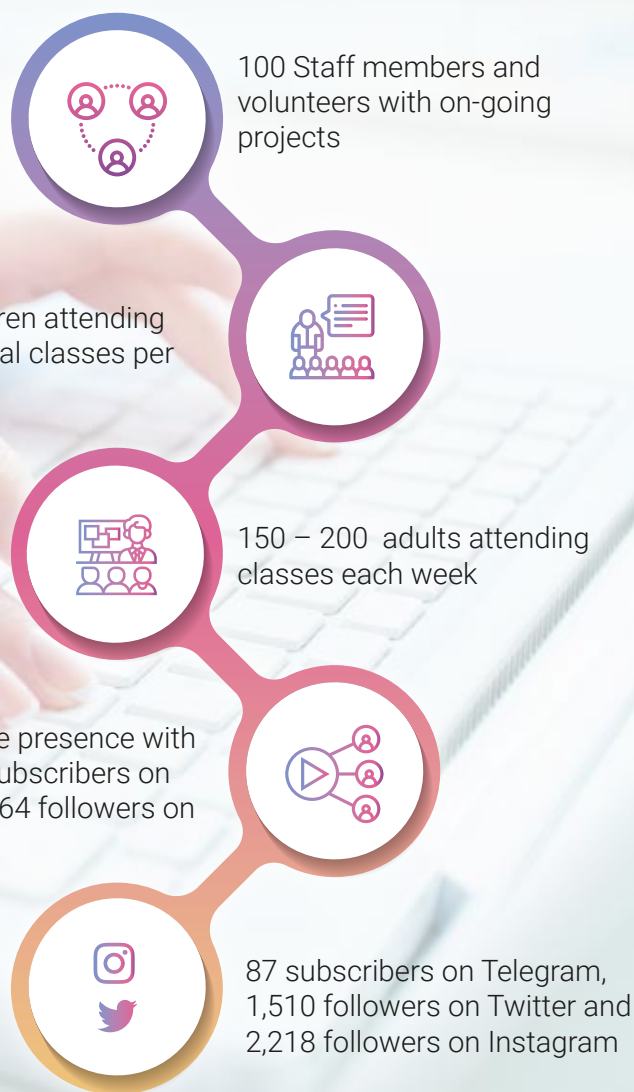
The media team engages the community through Social Media updates with upcoming events and daily activities at the Centre (Facebook, Telegram, Twitter, Instagram, and Youtube). This allows LIC to interact with members of the wider community, the council, its elected representatives and other organisations, as well as being able to showcase the valuable work being done within the community.

**The Admin team works with all departments to pursue the following future goals:**

**Make the Centre debt free – by paying all outstanding loans and building a strong cash reserve**

**Work on phase two of our developmental plan – “leaving a legacy”**

**Developing business ventures that will help ensure the charity is self-sustaining**



# Head & Deputy Imams

**Imam Shakeel Begg**



**Imam Sabir Elahi**



**Imam Ashraf Dabous**



Imam Shakeel Begg (Head Imam), who is supported by Imam Sabir Elahi and Imam Ashraf Dabous (Deputy Imams), manages the spiritual and moral development of the community through leading:

- Daily Prayers, weekly classes and monthly Lectures, Friday and Eid Sermons
- Arranging tours for visitors, organising outreach events, holding meetings and weekly Da'wah sessions and annual open days
- Imam's Surgery, which includes: counselling, marriage solemnisation, dispute resolution

# Economic Growth & Development

LIC has provided spaces for local businesses to enable them to provide vital services for the community, such as:



## An-Nur Gym

Providing martial arts and self-defence classes for the public benefit (Muslims and non-Muslims alike), the service caters for males and females and holds special sessions for children.

## Zaitoon Nursery

A registered preschool for children aged 3- 5.



## Words Of Wisdom bookshop

Information hub and one stop shop for Islamic clothing, books and miscellaneous items.

**Estate management – rental income from properties owned by the Centre has been a vital source of income while at the same time providing some much needed housing services to the community.**



# Adult Education Classes online & onsite

Over the past year the Lewisham Islamic Centre has continued its efforts in delivering informal yet meaningful adult education classes. We have focused heavily on classes centred around the theme of rectifying the soul and heart. Classical texts such as, 'The Beginning of Guidance, Revival of The Islamic Sciences' and the biography of our beloved Messenger (peace be upon him) have been at the centre of this theme. We believe at LIC that education can analogously be compared to the sun; providing light, warmth and a centre point around which we can fixate our lives and orbit.

Our history points to the great importance of centres of education throughout the lands populated and inhabited by the believers. Our situation in U.K and Europe should be no different. The Prophet (peace be upon him) established his Mosque in Madinah not only as a place for prayer and worship, but also as a place for education and spiritual revival. His Mosque served such a purpose for the centuries and continues to do so today. This is our aim and hope for LIC; a centre point not only for prayer and remembrance of Allah, but also of learning and instruction. A sanctuary for those looking for the light of Allah regardless of who they are or where they have come from.

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## Community Work

Alhamdulillah (Praise be to Allah) that LIC is a Centre that endorses pragmatism in attending to the needs of all; Our elderly, our youth, new Muslims and brothers and sisters are all catered for at LIC. The services are also open to members of the non-Muslim community.

### Scouts

1st Lewisham Park Scouts currently has 39 children, aged 6 to 14, with 8 adults helping run activities and 4 adults volunteering to oversee the administrative duties. Once the current COVID-19 restrictions pass, we will be able to accept more applications inshaAllah (God Willingly). Despite the restrictions, we have had some fantastic sessions in the past year, as you can see from the photos below. As well as these, we have had excellent online sessions with special guests: Fouzia Razvi talking about Refugees; Flying Army Museum teaching us about the history of flight; Muslim Scouts Fellowship running online Iftar (breaking our fast in Ramadan) games.

To see what else we're up to, search for "1st Lewisham Park" on Instagram, YouTube, Twitter or Facebook. Join our Waiting List via our website, 1st LewishamPark.org.uk.



## Youth Club

The vision of LIC Youth Club has always been to help develop young people physically, spiritually, and mentally. The youth club serves over 50 young people each week. We have weekly sessions including indoor activities i.e. PlayStation, table tennis and football. Our services also include seasonal events such as the LIC Community football tournament, which has become an eagerly anticipated event each year with over 100 participants. In addition, our December sleepover attracts over 50 children. Moreover, we have trips to the seaside and theme parks such Thorpe Park. Some of the young members have become leaders in our community thanks to our volunteer mentoring scheme. Overall, the young people have benefitted from our programmes and have become positive role models in our community.



## LIC FC

LIC started a Football Club in 2005 with teams for under 14's, under 16's, and an Adults Team.

LIC FC Chair is Rana Chowdhury (Pic Of Rana) who spearheads the club's South East London & Kent (SELKENT) Sunday League matches as well as leading the club to many cup successes.

Due to lack of resources, LIC FC was temporarily stopped two years ago but favourable plans are afoot to re-start LIC FC for the 2021 Season, insha'Allah (God Willingly).



At LIC we do not just encourage spiritual cultivation, we also encourage good physical and mental vitality and to this end provide variety of activities for brothers and sisters to achieve a healthy lifestyle.

# Recreational Sports

## Adults Football

Lewisham Islamic Centre encourages the participation of sporting activities which benefit all involved in terms of physical health, social interaction and team building. All who were involved in our adult football sessions thoroughly enjoyed it and the social aspects which came with it.



## Basketball for Sisters

Our Sisters play an important role in Islam and also at LIC. It is for this very reason we make sure to cater for their physical health.

Accordingly, LIC together with our Sister Nailah (Stephine) Lemonious organise a weekly Basketball Session for Sisters. The Sisters enjoy the sessions immensely and have taken so well to the sport that now take part in competitions.





## Kick Boxing for Sisters

The Lewisham Islamic Centre with the help of volunteers and a dedicated teacher ran a successful kickboxing class for women. This opened up opportunities for women to join an activity that allowed them comfort and safety within and outside of the classes.

Other than the obvious physical and mental aspects, the classes benefitted the students in so many other ways resulting in new friendships while social and support groups were forged. Women from all walks of life attended and the classes were usually full. With recent concerns about the safety of women in our society following the tragic killing Sarah Everard, classes such as this are more important than ever.

## New Muslim Dinners/Events



LIC organises and leads a Weekly Event/Dinner for New Muslims. This project is led by local Brother Zain Holness, who himself embraced Islam at LIC many years ago. The idea behind this is for LIC and especially one of the Imams at LIC to engage with new

Muslims on a regular basis so that they can continue to learn about the faith whilst enjoying themselves and building new friendships.

Events have included weekly dinners, trips, BBQs, Go-Carting, attending conferences, etc.

We are hoping after Ramadan 2021 to organise something similar for our Sisters, insha'Allah (God Willingly).



Zain Holness

## New Muslim Class

With the large and growing numbers of Shahadahs (Declarations of Faith) at LIC, it is important to have regular classes for our new brothers and sisters.

As such, LIC has developed a New Muslim Course that discusses and focuses on: The Pillars of Iman (Faith) and The Pillars of Islam, as well as learning how to perform the Salah (Prayer).

The New Muslim Class also creates a network of support for new Muslims through the Imam.

*"This study is to me very important for a revert or a new Muslim as it is the key to start the journey to the Deen [religion]. You get to know what the Pillars of Islam are and How to perform Salât [prayers] and learn about Etiquettes in Islam."*

**(Brother Noor Rigobert)**

*"I enjoyed the friendships I made with other new Muslims. I learnt how to pray. It was a time during the week that I could depend on when there was a lot of change in my life."*

**(Sister Shelley Theodore)**



## Mother & Toddler Group

In the past, LIC ran a Mother and Toddler group every Wednesday at lunchtime in the Youth club building. Attendees would read Quran and share stories with children and spend time talking and doing other activities.

On average 8 – 10 sisters attended regularly and made a contribution of £1 a week.



## Hospital & Hospice Visits

LIC regularly visits local Hospitals and Hospices. This is often initiated by the Chaplaincy Departments or at the invitation of relatives of sick people.

Imams at LIC are readily available at the service of such individuals. Imam Sabir Elahi and Imam Ashraf Dabous are both also Volunteer Muslim Chaplains at Lewisham Hospital.

LIC extends its gratitude to Mr Kevin Parkes - Head of the Chaplaincy Team at Lewisham Hospital, who has always supported and engaged with the Centre.

## Bereavement and Funeral Services

The Community Funeral Fund run by LIC is designed to cover the funeral costs of the Funds registered members. Members are enabled to make future funeral plans for themselves and their families within their lifetime. This initiative helps avoid family members/relatives bearing the financial burden of funeral costs, helps advise and guide relatives of the deceased during a distressing time and ensure that the funeral is in accordance with the Shariah (Islamic Law).

The membership covers the basic funeral services including ghusl (washing) of the deceased, shrouding of the deceased, purchase of the burial plots as well as transportation to the burial site (limited to London and within the M25 orbital motorway).

For more information about the fund, please visit [licfunerals.com](http://licfunerals.com) or contact:

**0208 690 5090 or  
funerals@lewishamislamiccentre.com.**



## Educational and Training Workshops

LIC runs several educational workshops to help develop skills and inform the community around a vast array of topics ranging from mental health, dementia, foster care, youth engagement, gangs, knife crime, and many more. These workshops are open to all and we hope to provide many more in the near future.



## Counselling/Advice

LIC provides services that are often hard to come by in other settings. These services are helpful and generally needed by a large part of the community so it's crucial that our doors are continually open and welcoming to the community. These services include marriage counselling, family counselling and counselling on other issues. We are also here for those who require advice on various topics including religious advice. Where necessary or requested, individuals are encouraged to utilise the centre and receive professional help.





# Community Engagement & Interfaith

LIC strongly believes in community cohesion and prides itself as a Centre that welcomes people from all walks of life. The sense of belonging and “count us in” is a testimony that is always imparted by most service-users. To ensure everyone is ‘Counted In’, LIC has led and participated in numerous interfaith and outreach programmes.

## SACRE Meetings

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) advises its members on the provision of religious education and collective worship. With their support and LIC Imams attending the meetings held in Lewisham, LIC has developed and grown in regards to the religious education we provide. Through ‘SACRE’ we have gained links and access to the wider national faith communities.



The number of meetings attended by LIC is approximately 4 – 5 annually, held at various places of worship within the borough and which enhances understanding and cohesion between faith groups.



## Visit My Mosque

LIC routinely partakes in the annual 'Visit my Mosque day' during which mosques nationwide open up their doors to the public, allowing them to enter and explore the mosque, ask questions and witness firsthand the Muslim experience of worship. The event was initiated by the Muslim Council of Britain and allows those members of the public, who ordinarily don't visit mosques, to see for themselves the inner workings of a Mosque. They get to experience the Centre behind the scenes, eat and chat with ordinary Muslims and learn more about Islam in the hope of breaking down barriers and building a more close-knit community.

## Interfaith Forum

Imam Shakeel Begg is vice chair of the Lewisham Interfaith Forum which has run for several years and enables close connections and partnerships with other different faith communities within Lewisham. The aim is to represent faith communities in the borough, to promote knowledge and mutual respect, and to foster a spirit of civic and ecumenical cooperation.



## Interfaith Cricket

LIC regularly holds sporting competitions with the Jewish and Christian Lewisham communities, most notably annual cricket matches ecumenically dubbed the "The Lewisham Ashes". The match encourages community integration through healthy sporting rivalry, followed by a showcase of inter-continental cuisines as the unified communities dine together afterwards. Lewisham Islamic Centre retain a 2-1 match score as plans for the next match are made. All in all, an enjoyable family gathering for all involved and an undeniable a great benefit in our interfaith efforts.

## School Visits

Lewisham Islamic Centre has hosted many school visits to give students an insight of the true religion of Islam and to give them an opportunity to ask intriguing questions.

## The Great Lewisham Salaams Day

A first of its kind in the UK, The Great Lewisham Salaams Day was an event organised by the Catford Civic Centre in partnership with the Mayor of Lewisham to celebrate the Muslim community and its contribution to the diversity and success of the borough, highlighting unity, tolerance, mutual understanding and most of all 'salaam' - peace. The event showcased talents and activities, provided platforms for informative talks and performances, displays and much more. The turnout on the day defied all expectations with Muslims of Lewisham and beyond turning up in their droves to be eager participants. The Lewisham Islamic Centre was happy to be a huge part of this event.

# The Great Lewisham Salaam



## Stand Up to Racism

The Lewisham Islamic Centre felt it not only important but also crucial to support the Stand Up to Racism movement including Black Lives Matter, especially during the midst of more injustice faced by other communities with different ethnicity. Imam Shakeel and Lewisham Islamic Centre stand in solidarity against racism and oppression.



## Feed the Homeless

For several years, volunteers from the Lewisham Islamic Centre have run a project to feed homeless and destitute persons in and around Central London and the Strand during the biting winter months. Homemade hot meals are served up during the cold weekend nights.





An offshoot of this successful project has been the startup of a regular soup kitchen outside of the Centre where the homeless and passers-by regularly call for a hot meal. Relieving difficulties where possible, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, is an Islamic calling and one that the Centre answers faithfully.

Plans are now afoot to reach even more needy families through the provision of a regular food-bank. We hope to start this new project very soon, Inshallah (God Willingly).

## Feed Local Neighbours During the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the COVID-19 Pandemic LIC has rallied to support neighbours and members of the wider community (many of them elderly) with Food Packages and often providing them with cooked food.

Alhamdulillah (All praise is for Allah), we have supported over 100 individuals and families during this pandemic.

Our publicised track record of supporting different communities in and around Lewisham resulted in LIC receiving grants from well-known organisations to support the pandemic relief efforts. Perhaps more noteworthy were the endless donations from the non-Muslim community hoping to do what they could in support and recognition of the Centre's work, and culminating in the nomination of LIC and its subsequent award from Lewisham Council and the Mayor of Lewisham for "valuable contribution within the borough's community response to COVID-19".

LIC is grateful to everyone who felt it necessary to nominate the Centre for this humanitarian recognition. However, relief work from any quarter never ends and we hope to continue this most fundamental of Islamic precepts for no reasons other than to attain the pleasure of Allah (God) Almighty.



## Information Stall



Lewisham Islamic Centre volunteers hold an information and dawah (spreading knowledge of Islam) stall every Saturday from 12 noon to 3pm outside Lewisham Library freely accessible to the public interested in learning about Islam, or who have questions about the Islamic way of life. There are several reading materials available to take away. It is a service that makes the Muslim presence known and approachable. It allows for interfaith dialogue and allows firsthand responses from the “horses own mouth” as it were, rather than from second rate media outlets with insidious agendas.

## Peace Walk

LIC is part of Lewisham Interfaith Forum (LIF) and Imam Shakeel Begg is Vice Chair of LIF. For the last few years LIF has organised an annual Peace Walk in The London Borough of Lewisham. It involves visiting various places of worship and meeting faith leaders and their community members in a circuitous route through the borough. The Peace Walk is supported not only by faith and community leaders but also attended by Lewisham Borough Council elected officials and the metropolitan police.





## Iftar (Breaking Fast) with Neighbours and Local Community

Every year during Ramadan, Lewisham Islamic Centre holds an open iftar (Breaking the fast) for non-Muslim neighbours and the wider community with the intention that they too may experience the blessing of breaking fast with the Muslim community and to encourage dialogue from the invitees over the tradition of Ramadan and other Islamic ritual habits. Habitual attendees include local and elected leaders who have, on many occasions, marked their appearance with welcoming and appreciative speeches to the congregation for involving them in a most personal act of worship (the fast) which ends in a communal and celebratory show of unity.



## Other Community Work

LIC has always been at the forefront of engaging with Community organisations and taking part in Community events such as London citizens UK, Vigils, Marathons and much more.

## LIC Featuring in the 2020 Parliamentary Review

Lewisham Islamic Centre (LIC) featured in the 2020 Community Parliamentary Review. The Review highlighted the success of LIC in the South London Area and how the Centre offers a number of services to Muslims and Non-Muslims alike, while keeping firmly to its Islamic Values and Principles during times of widespread Islamophobia and xenophobia.



## Testimonials

**“We applaud the efforts made by Imam Shakeel Begg and the Lewisham Islamic Centre to help to ensure that Lewisham is a welcoming, inclusive community for all its citizens”.**

Lewisham West & Penge Constituency Labour Party Ramadan & Refinement Article

**“The Lewisham Islamic Centre is an important and growing place of worship in our community. During my time as the Member of Parliament for Lewisham East I have found the men and women I have met at the mosque to be engaging and thoughtful. It is becoming an established part of Lewisham - an open, tolerant and diverse part of South East London.”**

Heidi Alexander MP Lewisham East

**“Catford & Bromley Synagogue is delighted to be associated with Imam Shakeel and the Lewisham Islamic Centre. Our joint events have portrayed the warmth and friendship between our two communities.”**

Rev Cantor David Rome  
Catford & Bromley Synagogue

**“We first encountered Imam Shakeel Begg shortly after 9/11, when he agreed to come to address the congregation here at St Laurence Church, Catford after a Sunday morning service. In a deeply moving presentation, he explained to us that Islam is a religion of peace, and went on to condemn all perpetrators of acts of violence. Over the many years that I have had the privilege of working alongside Imam Shakeel and members of the Catford and Lewisham Islamic Centre for the local community, I have come to realise that he is a true man of peace, and increasingly come to respect the work of the Islamic Centre as a force for good for all the people of Lewisham Borough.”**

Canon Charles Pickstone St Laurence Church,  
Catford.

**"I had very little direct experience of Islamic life when I was appointed Assistant Chaplain at University Hospital Lewisham in November 2010. I had always lived and worked in areas where Muslims were a tiny minority of the population. However, all that was to change, firstly by my coming to work in Lewisham and, secondly, by meeting Imam Shakeel Begg. Shakeel and I met in the Centre. He was so welcoming. We quickly became friends and, almost immediately, he became a Chaplaincy Volunteer with particular concern for Muslim patients. Over the last three years Shakeel has been an invaluable source of information; somebody who I could go to for advice on Islamic issues. This was true when we were preparing to open the Quiet Place, our multi-faith room where Muslim staff can go to pray. We have developed very strong links with the Lewisham Islamic Centre and earlier this year Shakeel invited a group of us to come over to the Centre to talk, to get to know each other and to be shown all that the Centre has to offer now and what the plans were for the future. It was a very helpful meeting that I will never forget. There is so much that we white, non-Muslim people have to learn about Islam to enable our country to continue to develop as a peaceful multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-faith nation; just as there is much to be learned –by all- about a complex, historic nation like the United Kingdom. That is why welcoming, friendly, informative centres like the Lewisham Islamic Centre are so important to this country's future. As human beings and communities we need to be in touch with each other if we need to be informed. I am privileged to be associated with the Lewisham Islamic Centre."**

The Reverend Malcolm Hancock, Trust Chaplain, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

**"I have worked with Imam Shakeel for over five years - the Lewisham Islamic Centre has always been active and involved with its community, a positive force for peace and good. I am proud to work with Lewisham Masjid and its school, we have collaborated on many community schemes and initiatives; in particular the 'City Safe Havens' and most recently the '10,000 Hands - Lewisham Together for Peace' campaign. As a local teacher and community worker I have always believed passionately that we all must work to create a community, a 'village' where our young people may find hope in their lives, peace on their streets and positive change in their communities. Imam Shakeel, and Lewisham Islamic Centre share my belief and passion."**

Simon Jones, The 10,000 Hands The Jimmy Mizen Foundation

**“I am Graham Price and I am Chief Inspector Partnership at Lewisham Police Station. The Metropolitan Police Service has been working with the Lewisham Islamic Centre (LIC) for over 5 years. I have been honoured to work with them for five of those years. In that time we have developed many community based projects with them that have helped us address community safety issues. The LIC has enabled us to work with the local community in many different formats – advice surgeries, community meetings, workshops and talks. They are a Third Party Reporting Site for Hate Crime. LIC is a part of the Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group and is also a member of the Lewisham Independent Advisory Group, and the Faith forum. They also attend other community meetings to advise on police/community relations at times of tension or crisis. This was particularly important in recent months in the aftermath of the Woolwich murder and dealing with community concerns as a result of that crime. Whenever there are issues of local concern, we know that we can reach the local community through LIC, including gaining access to young people and individuals who would otherwise be very hard to reach. We regard LIC as contributing to community safety through their valuable work and high standing in the local area.”**

Graham Price Chief Inspector Lewisham Police Station

## Our Working Partners



# Highlights



Shahadahs  
(Taking the Islamic oath)



Interfaith  
events/  
meetings



School  
Visits



Nikah



Hospital  
Visits



Eid-ul-Fitr  
in the park



Eid-ul-Adha  
in the park



Winter events  
(over 3 days)



Winter "Feed  
the Homeless"  
& "COVID-19"  
campaigns



Open Iftar



Community  
Engagement  
meetings during  
the year



Visit my  
mosque



Scouts



Youth club



Number attendees  
for LIC classes  
(Onsite/Online)

## Ramadan & Refinement

With the month of Ramadan comes an opportunity for refinement of the self and society. Allah has placed within this blessed month the opportunity for liberation from the self and its desire-driven interests. Most are aware of the benefits of fasting today. We often speak about the spiritual benefits alongside the physical, but there is an area rarely visited by most, an area of change which needs to be thought about deeply and addressed.

Islam is a complete and total way of life, a way of living and applying oneself fully in all aspects of what we do as humans. Two of these areas are: consumption and business. Today, ethical, sustainable and fair-trade means of consumerism and trade are notably championed. To believers, it should simply be referred to as Islam.

Our Prophet (peace be upon him) delivered principles and guiding statements upon which the way we live can be based. Two such principles, **“Pay the worker his wages before his sweat has dried.”** **“Beware of the supplication of the oppressed, even if he is an unbeliever, for there is no barrier between it and Allah.”** Likewise Allah sent to us through His word guiding principles, an example **{O you who believe! Eat from (the) good (of) what We have provided you and be grateful to Allah if you alone worship Him}.**

From the aforementioned, we understand that as believers our trade and commerce (and all other facets of our lives) must be pure, fair and free from oppression.

Every Ramadan we see a hint of this in practice with various individuals and groups calling for the boycott of Israeli produced dates. The reason being is that they are produced on usurped land and are therefore a product of oppression. This is of course the way we should think as believers, we should choose to spend our money on and consume only that which is pure.

But has the time not come for us to apply ourselves in such a manner in all areas of our trade and consumerism? The Prophet (peace be upon him) informed us of a traveller, tired and unsettled by his long journey, he stretches out his hands in supplication: "O my Lord! O my Lord!". The Prophet (peace be upon him) comments, his sustenance, his clothing, and his nourishment are all unlawful so how can he (expect to) be answered?

This statement of our beloved Messenger (peace be upon him) clearly indicates the link between not only what we eat and our relationship with Allah, but our clothing and sustenance as well. With this in mind and the previously mentioned statements and verse let us ask ourselves some questions.

Are our clothes in line with the standards of Islam? This does not only mean that we have purchased them with pure and halal (permissible means of earning) wealth, but the materials are ethically sourced and those who made them are paid fairly and looked after. In the past year, companies and fashion brands such as Adidas, Nike, Zara and even online suppliers such as Amazon have been linked to suppliers in China using forced labour of the ethnic Uighurs and other Muslim groups. This is unfortunately not new and is not restricted to Muslims either. Many leading brands and fashion companies are linked to sweatshop factories and forced labour globally. A question we can ask, if it was dirt cheap to buy how much was the worker paid who made it?



Imam Ashraf Dabous

Perhaps it is time we think about halal (that which is permissible) with a larger frame of application. Can we justify purchasing clothing and shoes that have been produced by the hands of our brothers and sisters, or any human for that matter, enslaved and forced to work for satisfaction of our fashion wants and desires?

Clothing is not the only area to think about. Technology is also a key market today and one which we should also think about with the eye of refinement and purification. Firstly, we should question the impact of modern technologies on our souls and spiritual wellbeing. Secondly, where is our technology produced and by whom? Are the products we buy and own actually halal (permissible in Islam)?

The Washington Post recently reported on “Apple’s lobbying against a bill aimed at stopping forced labour in China. Apple wants to water down key provisions of the bill, which would hold U.S. companies accountable for using Uighur forced labour, according to two congressional staffers” . Apple are not the only culprits. Many leading technology companies have direct links with forced labour factories globally. How can we as believers change this, at least within our own homes to begin with?

When we think about food, again as briefly indicated earlier it should not be simply having it slaughtered according to the Islamic standards. It should also be about, “how was this produced, by whom, and where; are the ingredients sourced fairly?”

The ingredients we buy and use for our own food at home should be the same. When we buy meat, vegetables, fruits, spices, chocolates, teas and coffees or any other globally produced food products; as believers we should try to make sure that it is all truly halal (permissible in Islam), not just on a surface level.

To live in such a way would require change, perhaps some drastic change. It would require thinking in a new way. It would require caring more about the world and those who occupy it than we care about our own wants and desires. Perhaps ethically sourced and produced clothing, technologies and foods are more expensive. Perhaps not as fashionable as other branded products but we have to start to ask ourselves what we see as a priority. Simply put, do we want to please Allah or our base desires? And are we willing to please and follow our base desires if it is at the expense of others in the form of forced labour, usurping and other mediums of oppression? There are stations and levels in pleasing Allah, this Ramadan we should begin aiming for the highest.

Imam Ashraf Dabous  
Lewisham Islamic Centre

□\_\_\_\_\_

ibn Majah  
Ahmad  
2:172  
Muslim

Adidas, Nike, Zara and Amazon among western brands facing pressure over China Uighur ties | London Evening Standard | Evening Standard  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/11/20/apple-uighur/>  
Apple lobbies against Uighur forced labor bill - The Washington Post (archive.is)

## Du'as/Supplications by Imam Sayed Maqsud Elahi

1. حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَهُوَ رَبُّ الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ. سَبْعَ مَرَّاتٍ

"Allah is sufficient for me. There is none worthy of worship but Him. I have placed my trust in Him, He is Lord of the Majestic Throne". (Seven times)

Allah will grant whoever recites this Seven times in the morning or evening whatever he desires from this world or the next.

Ibn As-Sunni (no. 71), Abu Dawud 4/321,

2. بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي لَا يَضُرُّ مَعَ اسْمِهِ شَيْءٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فِي السَّمَاءِ وَهُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ

"In the Name of Allah, Who with His Name nothing can cause harm in the earth nor in the heavens, and He is the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing". (Three times)

Whoever recites it in the morning will not be afflicted by any calamity before evening, and whoever recites it in the evening will not be overtaken by any calamity before morning.

Abu Dawud 4/323, At-Tirmizi 5/465, Ibn Majah 2/332, Ahmad.

3. رَضِيتُ بِاللَّهِ رَبًّا، وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا، وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ نَبِيًّا. (ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ)

"I am pleased with Allah as my Lord, with Islam as my religion and with Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as my Prophet". (Three times)

Allah has promised that anyone who says every morning or evening will be pleased on the Day of Resurrection.

Ahmad 4/ 337, An-Nasa'i, Ibn As-Sunni (no. 68), At-Tirmizi 5/465

4. (سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ. مائة مرة)

"Glory is to Allah and praise is to Him". (100 times)

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever says: ("Glorified is Allah and praised is He") one hundred times a day, will have his sins forgiven even if they are like the foam of the sea".

Al-Bukhari 7/168, Muslim 4/2071.

5. اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ رَبِّي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، خَلَقْتَنِي وَأَنَا عَبْدُكَ، وَأَنَا عَلَى عَهْدِكَ وَوَعْدِكَ مَا اسْتَطَعْتُ، أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا صَنَعْتُ، أُبُوءُ لَكَ بِنِعْمَتِكَ عَلَيَّ، وَأُبُوءُ بِذُنُوبِي فَاعْفِرْ لِي فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ

"O Allah, You are my Lord, there is none worthy of worship but You. You created me and I am your slave. I keep Your covenant, and my pledge to You so far as I am able. I seek refuge in You from the evil of what I have done. I admit to Your blessings upon me, and I admit to my misdeeds. Forgive me, for there is none who may forgive sins but You".

Whoever recites this with conviction in the evening and dies during that night shall enter Paradise, and whoever recites it with conviction in the morning and dies during that day shall enter Paradise.

Al-Bukhari 7/150, An-Nasa'i, At-Tirmizi.

6. **سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ، سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ**

"Glorified is Allah and praised is He, Glorified is Allah the Most Great".

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Two words are light on the tongue, weigh heavily in the balance, and are loved by the Most Merciful One is: "Glorified is Allah and praised is He, Glorified is Allah the Most Great".

Al-Bukhari 7/168, Muslim 4/2072

7. **لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ**

"There is no power and no might except by Allah"

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "O Abdullah bin Qais, should I not point you to one of the treasures of Paradise?" I said: "Yes, O Messenger of Allah". So he told me to say: ("There is no power and no might except by Allah").

Al-Bukhari, Muslim 4/2076.

8. When you see the crescent moon:

**اللَّهُمَّ أَهْلُهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْأَمْنِ وَالْإِيمَانِ وَالسَّلَامَةِ وَالْإِسْلَامِ رَبِّي وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ**

"Oh Allah, make it a start full of peace and faith, safety and Islam. My lord and your lord is Allah".  
Tirmidhi

14. Dua should be read frequently on Laylatul Qadr which falls one of the final odd nights of Ramadan

**اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي**

"O Allah you are forgiving, and you love forgiveness, so forgive me".  
Tirmidhi

15. Dua when breaking fast:

**ذَهَبَ الظَّمَا وَأَبْتَلَتِ العُرُوقُ، ثَبَّتَ الأَجْرُ إِنْ شَاءَ اللهُ**

"Thirst has gone, the arteries are moist, and the reward is sure, if Allah wills".  
Abu Dawood (2357)

**اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي لَكَ صُيَّمْتُ وَبِكَ آمَنْتُ [وَعَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ] وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ**

"O Allah! I fasted for You and I believe in You [and I put my trust in You] and I break my fast with Your sustenance".

Abu Dawud



# RAMADAN TIMETABLE 2021/1442

	Date	Start	Fajr	Sunrise	Start	Zhur	Start	Asr	Start	Magrib	Start	Isha
Mon	12 Apr	4:36	5:00	6:08	1:06	1:30	4:47	5:15	7:56	8:01	9:11	9:30
Tue	13 Apr	4:34	5:00	6:06	1:06	1:30	4:48	5:15	7:57	8:02	9:12	9:30
Wed	14 Apr	4:32	5:00	6:04	1:06	1:30	4:49	5:15	7:59	8:04	9:14	9:30
Thu	15 Apr	4:30	5:00	6:02	1:06	1:30	4:49	5:15	8:01	8:06	9:16	9:30
Fri	16 Apr	4:27	5:00	5:59	1:05	1:30	4:50	5:15	8:02	8:07	9:17	9:30
Sat	17 Apr	4:25	5:00	5:57	1:05	1:30	4:51	5:15	8:04	8:09	9:18	9:30
Sun	18 Apr	4:22	4:40	5:55	1:05	1:30	4:52	5:15	8:06	8:11	9:20	9:40
Mon	19 Apr	4:20	4:40	5:53	1:05	1:30	4:52	5:15	8:07	8:12	9:21	9:40
Tue	20 Apr	4:18	4:40	5:51	1:04	1:30	4:53	5:15	8:09	8:14	9:23	9:40
Wed	21 Apr	4:15	4:40	5:49	1:04	1:30	4:54	5:15	8:11	8:16	9:25	9:40
Thu	22 Apr	4:13	4:40	5:47	1:04	1:30	4:55	5:15	8:12	8:17	9:26	9:40
Fri	23 Apr	4:11	4:40	5:45	1:04	1:30	4:55	5:15	8:14	8:19	9:27	9:40
Sat	24 Apr	4:08	4:40	5:43	1:04	1:30	4:56	5:15	8:16	8:21	9:29	9:40
Sun	25 Apr	4:06	4:20	5:41	1:03	1:30	4:57	5:30	8:17	8:22	9:30	9:45
Mon	26 Apr	4:04	4:20	5:39	1:03	1:30	4:57	5:30	8:19	8:24	9:31	9:45
Tue	27 Apr	4:01	4:20	5:37	1:03	1:30	4:58	5:30	8:21	8:26	9:33	9:45
Wed	28 Apr	3:59	4:20	5:35	1:03	1:30	4:59	5:30	8:22	8:27	9:34	9:45
Thu	29 Apr	3:57	4:20	5:33	1:03	1:30	4:59	5:30	8:24	8:29	9:35	9:45
Fri	30 Apr	3:54	4:20	5:31	1:03	1:30	5:00	5:30	8:25	8:30	9:36	9:45
Sat	1 May	3:51	4:20	5:29	1:03	1:30	5:01	5:30	8:27	8:32	9:38	9:45
Sun	2 May	3:49	4:00	5:27	1:02	1:30	5:01	5:30	8:29	8:34	9:40	9:55
Mon	3 May	3:46	4:00	5:25	1:02	1:30	5:02	5:30	8:30	8:35	9:41	9:55
Tue	4 May	3:45	4:00	5:24	1:02	1:30	5:03	5:30	8:32	8:37	9:43	9:55
Wed	5 May	3:42	3:50	5:22	1:02	1:30	5:03	5:30	8:34	8:39	9:45	9:55
Thu	6 May	3:40	3:50	5:20	1:02	1:30	5:04	5:30	8:35	8:40	9:46	9:55
Fri	7 May	3:37	3:50	5:18	1:02	1:30	5:05	5:30	8:37	8:42	9:48	9:55
Sat	8 May	3:36	3:50	5:17	1:02	1:30	5:05	5:30	8:38	8:43	9:49	9:55
Sun	9 May	3:33	3:45	5:15	1:02	1:30	5:06	5:30	8:40	8:45	9:51	10:05
Mon	10 May	3:31	3:45	5:13	1:02	1:30	5:07	5:30	8:42	8:47	9:53	10:05
Tue	11 May	3:29	3:45	5:12	1:02	1:30	5:07	5:30	8:43	8:48	9:54	10:05



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# LII (Lewisham Islamic Institute)



**LEWISHAM  
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Cultivation of the Mind and Soul through the traditions of Islam

Qur'an Competition: Saturday 15th June 2019  
Alhamdulillah our annual Qur'an competition event was a huge success with a good number of attendees from our parents and the community. A total of 20 female finalists and 24 male finalists competed for the 1st and 2nd positions in three separate categories respectively (Category 1: Naas- Maun, Category 2: Naas – Zilzalah, Category 3: Naas – Fajr). We had an opening to our event with a Qur'an recitation, brief introduction with a short talk by Summayyah Ansari and Salma Mazrui for the female competition. A Qur'an recitation read by Raed Muhammed and a short talk given by Rafay Nayyar for the male competition. Our event involved extra activities such as a role play acted by our Level 4 pupils, a poem read by our Level 3 pupils and Nasheeds sang by our Level 1 and 2 pupils. The 1st position winner of all categories both female and male candidates of grand finals won a glass trophy and the 2nd winners won a 1001 Facts Islamic book. Additional to the 1st and 2nd winners, the pupils who carried out the extra activities received a sweet cone and all participates of the finals earned a medal. Finally gifts were given to our special guests of both female and male judges: Sisters Ikram, Khadijah and Rokaiyah, Brothers Mamadou and Shk Izzadeen.

We would like to say a big thank you to Ahmed Adam for organising our annual event as well as our special hosts; Sister Jainab Ismail and Brother Sulaiman Aly. We would also like to say JazakAllahu Khairan for all of the volunteers, parents, caterer Sister Amatullah and our staff members for all their support in bringing the event to a success. Appreciation to our admin staff that have helped with the organisation process and putting together resources to sooth the programme of the competition: Haleema Khanom, Seren Erdel and Salma Shaheen. Our teachers and teaching assistant volunteers who have put in so much hard work, their own dedicated time and effort in preparing our students prior to the competition day: Ali Kansoy, Batuhan Yildirim, Ahmed Adam, Nita Majid, Khalid Yusuf, Mariam Daud, Mersal Ahmadi, Behire Kansoy, Sulaiman Aly, Jainab Ismail, Hajira Abdi, Hodaiba Yasin, Mariam Payman, Wafia Chellal, Nawel Stambouli, Nawfal Mazrui and Shekiba Baig. A big thank you in particular to Sister Nadia Ali our Head of the Young Muslim Academy who has been such a great leader of our young learners, teachers and the overall organisation of YMA.



## Fundraising Event: Bake sale Saturday 4th May 2019

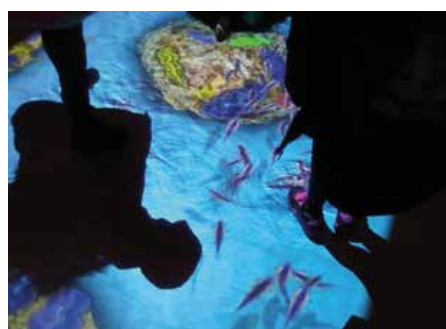
On the 4th May 2019 we held our first ever bake sale. Our aim and objective of this event was to encourage pupils to help raise funds for our Muslim brothers and sisters who are in need during the month of Ramadan by giving all raised funds to the Ummah Welfare Trust Charity, Ramadan Iftar Appeal.

A big thank you to our volunteers, parents and staff for their time in baking cakes, donating money towards the bake sale and volunteering their time generously to help carry out the sale. We have raised £499.17 in total which was a great success and an amazing community effort.



## Educational Trip to Horniman Museum & Gardens: Saturday 17th November 2018

The Young Muslim Academy visited the Horniman Museum and Gardens on Saturday 17th November 2018 as part of our annual educational trip. Pupils had the opportunity to touch and observe some of the museum's amazing animals and explored different animals that were in the gardens of Horniman. We also had an interesting tour round the museum, looking at different types of dentition and their function through close observation of a range of animal skulls, bones and skeletons. Pupils had so much fun at the end of our tour session when playing with the fish on the ground of the museum floor, stamping on them and catching the fish with their peers.



## **Astronomy & Islam- Special Event at the Royal Observatory Greenwich: Saturday 18th November 2017**

This special planetarium show carried out a showcase of the contribution of Muslims to astronomy, helping the audience navigate the current night-sky, and offering training on how to sight the upcoming New Crescent Moon for the month of Rabi' al Awwal. This was such a fascinating event and pupils really enjoyed observing the night-sky!



## **End of Year Trip to London Zoo: Saturday 23rd July 2016**

On Saturday 23rd July 2016 a visit to the London Zoo was made as part of our end of year trip. Pupils really enjoyed discovering the different animals, exploring their habitats and adaptations. We toured around the zoo with our own groups of 6 pupils and had our lunch in the picnic area thereafter. Visits to the shops were made after the tour around the zoo, pupils had the opportunity to buy a souvenir and bring home memories of this fascinating trip.



## **End of Year Trip to Southend on Sea: Saturday 29th July 2017**

We visited Southend on Sea for our annual end of year trip on Saturday 29th July 2017. Pupils had such great time in paddling and chilling out on the beach with their friends. Pupils had fun in dipping their feet inside the sea, swimming with their peers, playing with the rocks and building castles. After having our lunch we then made our way to the theme park Adventure Island enjoying the delightful, breezy rides!





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## Hifz (Quran Memorisation)

Since the beginning of its journey, LII hifz section (formerly known as Tarteel institute) served over 100 students learning & memorising the book of Allah (the Qur'an). There are currently 40 students (children and adults) memorising the Quran. Alhamdulillah (All praise is for Allah), so far this project has produced 7 Huffaz. Some of them lead Taraweeh/Qiyyam-ul-Lail in different masajid and musallah. Insha'Allah, 4 more children are on course to become huffaz, having already memorised more than 20 juz.

Huffaz who have memorized the entire Qur'an have the opportunity to learn memorisation in different riwayat. Students are taught by 2 qualified teachers specialised in different modes of recitation (ijzaat in different riwayat). Until recently, there were 2 groups of adult sisters and young girls continuing hifz-ul-Qur'an under a qualified hafiza sister. Unfortunately, this program was temporarily suspended because of the teacher's relocation to a different part of London. We hope very soon to reinstate the program, insha'Allah.



# LIC Yearly Accounts

## LEWISHAM ISLAMIC CENTRE INCOME & EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT REPORT 1.3.2020 TO 28.2.2021

### INCOME

	£
DONATIONS	279,965
INVESTMENT INCOME	61,429
LOCAL GRANTS	10,500
GIFT AID	14,160
FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES Incl FEES	51,263
HMRC Furlough Grants	172,232
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>589,549</b>

### LESS: EXPENDITURE

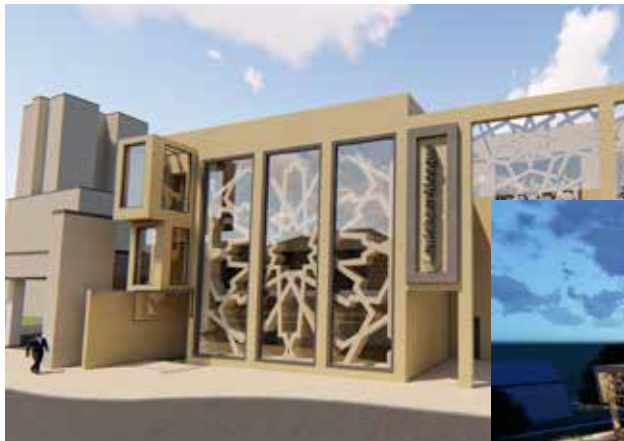
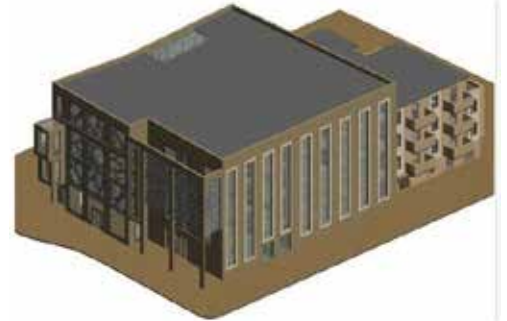
	£
LOCAL PROJECT/EVENT COSTS	23,996
WAGES & SALARIES	240,059
NEW PROJECT DESIGN & APPLICATION FEE	41,805
REPAIRS AND RENEWALS	7,523
MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION	2,022
WATER/GENERAL RATES	2,780
ELECTRICITY/GAS	6,505
PRINT, POST & STAT.	3,562
TELEPHONE & INTERNET	3,321
CLEANING & PEST CONTROL	5,384
INSURANCE	2,597
BANK CHARGES	3,446
LEGAL/ACCOUNTANCY/PROFESSIONAL FEE	4,497
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>347,497</b>

## Future Plans

Lewisham Islamic Centre (LIC) has a grand plan to make LIC a standout Civic Building in the London Borough of Lewisham. Our Aim with the proposed New Development is foremost to further serve the needs of our ever-growing Community, while never ceasing the promising and positive engagement with our non-Muslim brothers and sisters in humanity. Our services will always be open to all, insha'Allah.

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# Thank You! From Imam Shakeel



In November 1998, I joined LIC to become an Imam there. It is now over 22 Years and I am proud to say that I am still part of this vibrant, confident, diverse and active Islamic Centre and Community.

In my 22 years I have found great support not only from the Trustees, but also from the great staff at LIC as well as the volunteers, and above all, from the community. Both myself and LIC have faced many challenges over these past two decades, and what gives me the most courage going forward is knowing that we have grown stronger by helping one another with all that has come our way.

I would like to take this opportunity thank our founders and early Trustees such as Dr. Sabiha Saleem; Dr Hafiz Ijaz Mian; Ustadha Imtiaz Mian; Dr Abdullah Saleem; Ustadha Faridah Khan; Uncle Abdus Samad; Uncle Ghulam Shabbir; Uncle Aziz Siddiqui; Uncle Ishaq Raja; Uncle Eric Siddiqui, Muhammad Azfal Chaudhry and Nabil Malik.

LIC would not be here today if it wasn't for the great sacrifices all of the above made, and the vision that they had for LIC.

Likewise, I would like to extend my gratitude to some of the recent former Trustees such as Dr Asad Rahman; Shaykh Usamah Louison; Salih Kansoy; Ustadh Sumer Mehmet; Zahid Begg; David Suen; Souleymane Nidyae; Hajji Gasama; Dr Ijaz and Dr Abrar. Many of these remain advisers to LIC and we greatly value their continuing counsel.

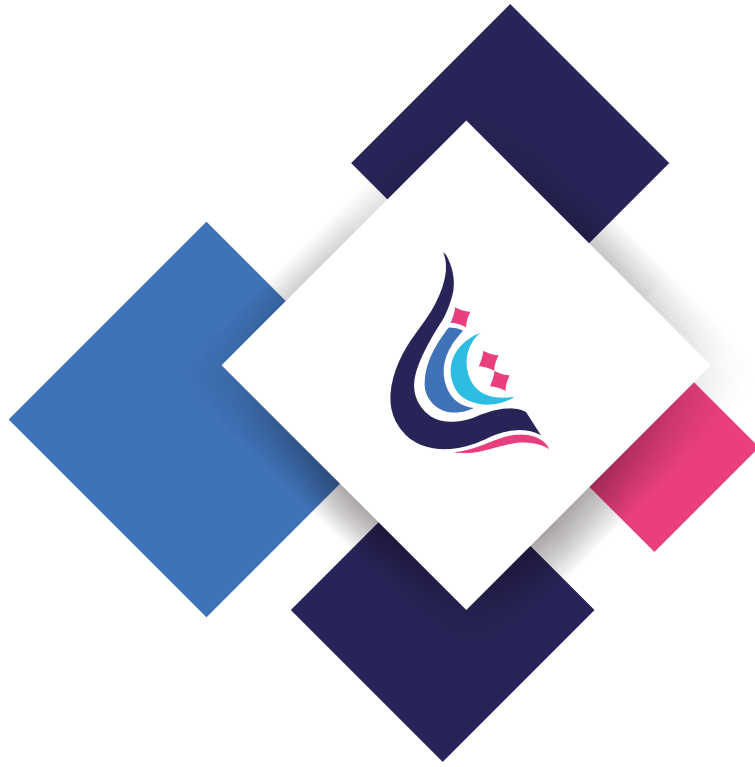
Furthermore, our current Trustees cannot be forgotten as they have carried on the vision of our founders and taken LIC to great heights. Accordingly, I would like to thank Taofik Akande (Chair); Zillur Rahman (Secretary); Uncle Amin Meer; Yacine Delilache; Ali Bajwa and Sameel Meer.

I would also like to thank our interfaith partners especially Father Charles Pickstone, Gerald Rose, Father Steve Hall, Archdeacon Alastair Cutting as well Lewisham Council and Lewisham Police for an excellent relationship we have, one which is based on mutual respect and tolerance.

Finally, I would like to thank all LIC Staff (past and present), as well as our volunteers and the wider community for believing in LIC and supporting LIC through all of our development and progression. It is now time for us to realise our collective dream in building the new Mosque, InshaAllah.

I beseech and ask Allah Almighty that HE blesses you all, rewards you all, keeps us united and grants you al Jannah al Firdaws, Ameen.





# Lewisham Islamic Centre

The beating heart of the Muslim community within the London borough of Lewisham and surrounding areas



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