



Lewisham
ISLAMIC CENTRE



Lewisham Islamic Centre

Annual Report 2024

Our vision is to provide a holistic range of religious, educational and social services primarily for the local community.



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Chair of the Trustees Taofik Akande



As the promise of Islam finds its way in the 21st century and beyond inexorably into every household on earth, there is the temptation and risk of complacency on the part of Muslims and Islamic organisations to thank Allah (God) the Almighty for fulfilling His promise, and then to rest on their laurels.

It should never be forgotten that the practice of Islam, its principles and teachings are life-long endeavours that must continually undergo revival if we are to remain firmly on the "Sirat al-Mustaqim" or "the straight path that leads to God".

On that path to Allah is the jewel that is social welfare. "He is not a believer", says the hadith of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), "whose stomach is filled while his neighbour goes hungry" [al-Sunan al-Kubra]. Moreover, Allah himself relates disbelief on the Day of Judgement to the neglect of social welfare practice which is the basis of Surah Ma'un [Qur'an Ch107, v1-7].

The strength and visibility of Islam is anchored just as much in the rigidity of its core tenets as it is in the charitable ethos that underpins those tenets. The Qur'an and prophetic tradition are replete with calls, encouragements and inducements to good deeds and actions, so much so that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is reported to have said, "Do not belittle any good deed, even meeting your brother with a cheerful face" [Sahih Muslim].

Kindness, tenderness, concern for others and a merciful outlook were at the core of everything about the life of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh) and it is to that standard that we hold ourselves and strive to emulate solely to please Allah and none other. As the cost of living crisis shows no signs of easing, testimonies within the borough abound and continue to give voice to the hardships and privations that have befallen many, which has only strengthened the resolve of the Centre to ensure that its community food bank and soup kitchen programs, including welfare visits to the elderly and vulnerable, continue to run with that succour spread as far and as wide as possible. The excitement over the proposed redevelopment of the Lewisham Islamic Centre as a purpose built Centre will not only refine these existing facilities, but improved resources will allow for the expansion of the Centre's charitable reach in a borough that is one of the most deprived, yet vibrant, local authorities in England.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Taofik Akande'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Secretary of the Trustees Zillur Rahman



A vision of the founders of this mosque was for Islam to spread to every house.

When we look to the example and life of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him, pbuh), we see that he was a hopeful and optimistic person. Much like the onset of his messenger-ship, which came to the darkest place on earth during the darkest age of human history, so too do we find that during his life, when all seemed lost, the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) would inspire the believers with hope. In the hurricane of fear, he stood firm like a mountain, unrelenting in his mission. It was during these times that he made the following statement at a time when few would have given the faith any prospects of survival, let alone seeing this statement come to fruition:

"Indeed, this religion will reach everywhere the night and day can reach. Allah will not leave a dwelling in a city or a desert except that He will make this religion enter it, thus honouring the honourable or humiliating the humiliated: the honourable will be honoured with Islam, and the humiliated will be humiliated by their disbelief"

The words of the Messenger (pbuh) are indeed true. Not only have we seen the globalisation of Islam with the faith presenting everywhere in the world today, but we are seeing this phenomenon at a local level here in Lewisham right before our very eyes with multitudes of people of different demographics (old/young; black/white; male/female) embracing Islam on a daily basis, Alhamdulillah. This effort is as a result of the great collective work of our blessed community, and the numbers entering the faith is further testimony that efforts to demonise the Centre, even by ministers in Parliament, can only backfire and spur people on to reconcile the truth with their fitra (natural spiritual disposition). It is therefore important that we continue the vision set by the Centre's founders.

Amongst the many reasons cited by those becoming Muslim in our Centre over the past few months, is the plight of the Palestinians and their indomitability and indefatigability. In keeping with the tradition of the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) in remaining optimistic in troubled times, we too must never forget that just as Pharaoh was unable to prevent the coming of Musa (pbuh) despite trying to kill all the infants, so too today the oppressors will not be able to stop the global movement in solidarity with our brothers and sisters such that all of the land of Palestine will one day be free, Insha'Allah.

“Lewisham Islamic Centre,
the beating heart of the
muslim community in the
London Borough of Lewisham.”

About Us



Prayer Facilities

At LIC, we can accommodate an average of 2000 – 2500 attendees on a Friday (Jumu'ah), which increases during the month of Ramadan.

Our Friday sermons (khutbah) are usually delivered by Imam Ashraf (deputy Imam), Imam Sabir (deputy Imam) and Imam Shakeel (Head Imam). On occasion, we have special guests and visiting Imams including Shaykh Haitham Haddad & Shaykh Tom Faccine.

We also encourage and instruct youngsters who have memorised the Qu'ran to lead the day to day prayers, including Taraweeh in Ramadan, with the vision of shaping future leaders and Imams.

Streaming & Social Media

LIC engages the community through Social Media updates of upcoming events, daily activities, short reminders and live streams of the weekly sermon.

Talks and lectures are regularly uploaded onto various social media platforms (Facebook, Telegram, Twitter, Instagram, and Youtube). This online content is for all to benefit from, but more importantly, it allows LIC to engage with members of the wider community, the local council, elected representatives and other organisations, thereby showcasing the valuable work being done within the community.

Religious Services

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:

- a. Daily Prayers, weekly classes and monthly Lectures, Friday and Eid Sermons;
- b. Arranging visitors tours including school visits, organising outreach events, holding meetings, and annual open days;
- c. Imam's Surgery, which includes counselling, marriage solemnisation, dispute resolution.





External Services & Businesses

LIC has provided spaces for local businesses 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, females and holds special sessions for children;
- ◆ **Zaitoon Nursery** – a registered preschool for children aged 3- 5;
- ◆ **Words of Wisdom bookshop** – an information hub and one stop shop for Islamic clothing, books and miscellaneous items;
- ◆ **LIC Media Studio** – LIC rents the studio to a podcast production addressing issues among muslim youths through the input of influential and inspirational individuals who discuss their troubled past and how Islam helped them rectify their ways.
- ◆ **Estate management** – rental income from properties owned by the Centre has been a vital source of income while at the same time providing much needed housing services to the community.



“Let’s Build Together”

New Development

With great anticipation, the final stages of the planning application process nears which will culminate with an input-gathering council meeting from opponents and proponents of the new development and the pressing need for more prayer space.

With hope and faith in our hearts, we beseech Allah's (SWT) guidance and help in the granting of approval for this planning application. Thus, the construction phase of the new development will commence, leading eventually to the enhanced facilities capable of catering to the growing and thriving community we serve.

Furthermore, we are humbled by the outpouring generosity from our community which has raised a staggering £800,000 towards the new development fund. As we near the £1 million milestone, it is testament to the unwavering support and dedication of our members. May Allah (SWT) bestow His bounty upon those who have selflessly contributed.

Continue to support this legacy through your donations



BARCLAYS BANK ACCOUNT NAME
Lewisham Islamic Centre
ACCOUNT NO **63402592**
SORT CODE **20-18-93**



Community Service



Shahadahs

Alhamdulillah (Praise be to Allah), the regular occurrence of Shahadahs at the LIC is testament to the open hearts and minds that reside within the community.

It is truly a unique and special place where individuals from all walks of life feel accepted and supported in their journey towards Islam and as Muslims. Whether you are a non-Muslim seeking knowledge or a new Muslim looking for continued guidance, they will find a warm welcome, embracing community, and a sense of belonging within the walls of LIC.

New Muslims

Our LIC new Muslim Dinners have soared to over 70 reverts attending at any one time, and have fast become a cornerstone of our efforts to encourage and support our New Muslim brothers and sisters. These monthly gatherings serve as a space for spiritual nourishment and bond-building. With short Islamic reminders to elevate faith and deepen relationships, our Dinners have become a cherished tradition within our community.

This year's lineup of events was nothing short of memorable - from a pre-Ramadan Dinner, to an Iftar during Ramadan, and concluding with a joyous Eid Dinner.

Scouts

In partnership with LIC, we have participated in multiple humanitarian fundraisers in the past year, raising thousands of pounds to help in crises spots such as in Morocco, Turkey, Syria and Palestine. Our Explorer Unit, called 'Al Muhsineen', also planned and ran an iftar event to fundraise for Palestine. I am pleased with everyone in this Group, child and adult, who has demonstrated the unity and beauty of Islam, and thus been a role model for the next generation.

Other notable events included the International Jamboree Camp, where we met fellow Muslim scouts from around the world, including Malaysia to Canada. Our own Group Camp setup tents and ran the kitchen.

We have been running for over 12 years now, and hundreds of children have come and gone from our Group. It is a responsibility and a blessing to be in a position where we can fulfill this Hadith: "When a man dies, his good deeds come to an end, except three: Ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge, and a righteous child who will pray for him."

If you want to join this team of volunteers, email us scouts@lewishamislamiccentre.com

- Ahammed Hussain, Group Scout Leader



Youth Club

The LIC Youth Club is a vibrant, positive social group for Young Muslim Boys and Girls within our community, where like-minded individuals can stay connected and make new and life-long friends while enjoying fun halal activities.

We introduced a monthly event alongside our regular weekly Youth Club sessions, inviting guest speakers to deliver keynote lectures and talks on productivity, friendship, faith and growing up as a Muslim.

Annually, the Girls Youth Club host a Pizza & Painting Night in February, Annual Iftar Event in Ramadan, Pottery Painting in May and a Picnic & Rounders event in August.

We've also had a joint fundraiser for our Brothers & Sisters suffering in Palestine with cake sales and a games tournament, raising a grand total of £11,872.61.

Stay updated with our latest events via our Instagram page [@licyouth](#)

LICFC

Alhamdulillah 2023/2024 has been a fantastic season for our two youth teams (U8 and U10) and senior team.

For the first time, we secured sponsorship, providing vital support for club operations and allowing our staff to focus on recruitment and development. This newfound stability proved instrumental in the phenomenal growth of our youth teams. The U8s and U10s, newly established this season, started slowly but finished strong, a testament to the tireless efforts of coaches Idris and Ilyas. Their dedication transformed the teams, culminating in victories after overcoming initial struggles, showcasing the power of perseverance and coaching. Meanwhile, our senior team experienced a rollercoaster season. A rough start, marked by disciplinary issues and a lack of commitment, gave way to a remarkable resurgence in the final three months. This turnaround was largely attributed to the arrival of Steven Dean, our new first manager. Notably, Steven, who initially coached as a non-Muslim, embraced Islam during his time with the team, adding a personal layer of inspiration to the season's narrative.

The culmination of this transformative year was our charity event at Leyton Orient Football Stadium, marking a relaunch after a decade. The event, featuring youth tournaments, two Masjid Committee teams, and our senior team against the Muslim All-Stars, comprised of esteemed influencers and celebrities. This unforgettable season, marked by growth, resilience, and faith, stands as a beacon of hope for the future of our club.

We are always looking for volunteers to help progress our team from coaches to admin staff. For more information email l.i.c.fc@hotmail.com

Please follow our instagram page [@lic.fc](#) and check out our youtube channel [lewishamislamiccentrefc2016](#)





Sisters' Activities

At LIC, sisterhood is not just a concept but a living reality that is nurtured and cherished through various projects and initiatives.

From the Mother & Toddler Group, where mothers can bond over parenting challenges and milestones, to the Sisters' Coffee Mornings and Elderly group where sisters can share advice, laughs and stories over a comforting cup of coffee. With every gathering, each conversation and moment shared is a moment of resilience and strength.

Also, in August 2023, a burgeoning initiative known as the Sisters' Deen & Dine project was launched at the LIC. This project was conceived with the noble aim of fostering a vibrant and inclusive space where sisters could enhance their faith, socialise over dinner, and actively engage with the broader community.

With monthly gatherings on the first Saturday of every month, Sisters' Deen & Dine events at the LIC consistently bring together over 100 sisters, highlighting the significant demand for this initiative.

Sports Activities

LIC recognises the importance of a strong and healthy body both as a part of Islamic tradition and for overall well-being.

To promote a healthy lifestyle among the community, LIC has established various avenues for physical activity including:

- ♦ **Seniors Football** – Every Sunday, brothers over the age of 40 engage in a friendly football match to foster camaraderie, brotherhood and physical activity.
- ♦ **Basketball Sessions** – Brothers and sisters gather separately every week for a lively and competitive basketball session, promoting teamwork and cardiovascular health.
- ♦ **Swimming Sessions** – Recently introduced at Colfe Leisure Centre, LIC swimming sessions provide a low-impact, full-body workout that is suitable for all ages and abilities.



“With every gathering, each conversation and moment shared is a moment of resilience and strength.”



Hospital & Hospice Visits

Lewisham Islamic Centre has actively worked with Lewisham hospital chaplaincy over two decades to support Muslim patients, in particular to those patients needing end of life support. Our Imams regularly visit the hospital, give religious guidance to the patients, arrange funeral services for the deceased & provide pastoral support to family members of the deceased in their difficult times.

Funeral & Bereavement Services

The LIC Funeral Fund is a community fund that provides the local community with an instalment based plan to help alleviate the high funeral costs families have to deal with.

This initiative covers the basic funeral services required to conduct an Islamic Burial:

- ◆ Ghisl (washing) of the deceased
- ◆ Shrouding of the deceased
- ◆ Purchase of burial plot for the deceased
- ◆ Transportation to the burial site limited to London (within M25 orbital motorway)

Alhamdulillah, since starting this initiative, we have over 30 families signed up to the Funeral Fund and have covered the cost of 4 funerals.

To sign up please apply on our website www.lewishamislamiccentre.com/funeral-fund or collect a form from the Reception Office.

Events

As a community, we are truly grateful to Allah for the opportunity to organise and host numerous events ranging from the vibrant festivities of Eid in the Park, to the energetic competition of Sports Day, and even a Charity Car Wash. Eid in the park alone attracts about 7000 attendees and offers a wide range of activities, including performances, funfairs, multicultural halal foods, and a Bazaar market of Muslim and non-Muslim businesses.



Outreach Work



Workshops & Training

In the past year, LIC has organised a comprehensive series of workshops and training programs tailored to the needs of the community which covered a range of topics such as Careers, Disability, Fostering with Lewisham Council, Women's mental health Hub, a Cost of Living Crisis workshop with Cllr Amanda DeRyk, Arts Workshop with Mohammed Ali and others.

The workshops and training programs equip members of the community with valuable knowledge, skills, and support, enabling them to better navigate life's challenges and achieve their goals. By providing access to essential information, LIC is strengthening the fabric of the community and empowering its members to reach their full potential.

SACRE Meetings

SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) Lewisham is an independent body in the United Kingdom that participates in the provision of religious education in the area under guidance of the Local Authority. SACRE advises and is empowered to require a review of the locally agreed syllabus for Religious Education (RE). LIC have participated in and are key members of SACRE Lewisham for over two decades, often offering consultation and producing yearly guides for Islamic occasions and events for local schools and colleges.

Interfaith Forum

The London Borough of Lewisham has a very strong Interfaith Network. LIC, along with other Faith Communities, are active in organising meetings, discussions, events such as the annual 'Peace Walk'. LIC is integral to LIF (Lewisham Interfaith Forum) and Imam Shakeel Begg is Vice Chair of LIF. Many Faith Leaders in LIF share a strong sense of unity and desire to make Lewisham a better place through Interfaith Work.

School Visits

At Lewisham Islamic Centre, we host school visits and participate in school events, in the borough, to provide a better understanding of Islam through interactive workshops led by the Imams. The children, teachers, and parents/guardians always leave with a smile and an open heart.

Open Iftar

For the UK-wide annual open Iftar event, LIC was graced by a diversity of guests, including faith leaders, local councillors, community leaders, and neighbours, who all gathered to share the iftar meal (break fast), listen to insightful talks from the Imams and the young community members. This year, the Iftar carried heartfelt significance with the presence of new Muslims and their non-Muslim families.

The aim of this annual event is to build bridges and social cohesion.



Feed the Homeless & Food Bank

Due to the sustained rise in the cost of living, LIC's food bank centre continues to provide monthly food parcels and operate a soup kitchen to serve this critical need, offering a lifeline to those struggling families and those faced with homelessness, food insecurity and other vulnerabilities. Without this intervention, it is feared that many users of these services will not be able to make ends meet. We are thus grateful to Allah the Almighty for the ability and resources, however limited, to be able to offer this provision.

Lewisham Works – Employment Drop-in Session

Lewisham Works has been providing monthly drop-in employability and training advice service with the Lewisham Islamic Centre for three years running. We have been able to meet with a wide range of Lewisham residents of all ages, both brothers and sisters, who attend the Centre. Dozens have received support in drawing up or updating CVs, applying for jobs, helping with work related documents, and advising on apprenticeships, courses, training and overall skills improvement.

Through these efforts, Lewisham Works aims to empower Lewisham residents with the tools they need to achieve their full potential in the workforce.

Information Stall

Part of the LIC vision is to share the principles and values of Islam whilst dismantling misconceptions and misconstructions associated to Islam.

The information stall allows open dialogue with many different types of people with differing mindsets, beliefs, religions, and opinions.

Our dawah efforts have yielded differing responses, with a significant overwhelming majority settling into Islam positively. These interactions have fostered interfaith dialogue to such an extent that they have genuinely ignited interest in Islam with eventual Shahada (declarations).



Testimonials from Local & Faith Leaders

“ As a Unitarian minister at Lewisham Unity, I was co-Vice Chair with Imam Begg of the Lewisham Interfaith Forum.

Many of us were and are involved because it proved to be such a strong presence in Lewisham and really showed how faiths can work together, and allowed us to see one another as colleagues and friends serving the various cultural and religious communities of south east London. Imam Begg is a unique leader, dealing with difficult situations with calm and warmth (and a joke or too). I have witnessed his inclusive approach and his acceptance of everyone at the LIC. We all know we are in stressful and challenging times. We all also know that understanding that we have more in common than any divisions we are encouraged to hold is the way to peace and real community solidarity. May Imam Begg continue to bless and be blessed, to receive kindness and give kindness and always to have a biscuit and a joke ready. ”

Rev Dr Claire MacDonald



“ Lewisham Islamic Centre is a crucial plank of the community here in Lewisham.

The LIC promotes core values of respect, tolerance and peace, whilst fostering community cohesion across a multitude of stakeholders, fellow faith groups and our residents. Through its charitable work, the centre is a vital source of support for many and reflects the strength and resilience of our diverse borough. ”

Clr Liam Shrivastava
Councillor for New Cross Gate

Highlights

Workshops & community engagement events

38



Outreach events

8



Shahadaahs in the blessed month of Ramadan

33



Total Shahadaahs 2023 – 2024

144



Emergency appeal fundraiser raised

£22,289



Food bank & soup kitchen average number of visitors

30–50



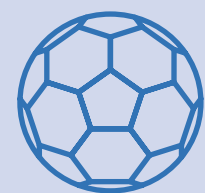
Eid in the park attendees

7000



LICFC at the orient stadium attendees

1000



New development fundraising milestone

£800,000



LII (Lewisham Islamic Institute)



Children Education (Madarasa)

The Lewisham Islamic Institute educates over 500 students who learn a range of Islamic sciences and essential daily living skills underpinned by Islamic ethos.

Many of these students began their journey knowing little about Islam, but soon become able to produce presentations and teach subjects to their peers. We are amongst the few Islamic supplementary schools which provide a dedicated class to students with SEN needs. Additionally, we have successfully recruited a highly qualified cohort of staff (many of whom have memorised the entire Qur'an) who are DBS verified and undergo teacher training/learning to ensure that they provide the best academic outcomes for pupils. Ultimately, we hope to revive the sunnah by not only teaching what the Prophet Muhammad (saw) taught but to graduate into teaching how he (saw) taught with the intention of bettering contemporary society.

Hifz Adult & Children

Lewisham Islamic Institute has over 50 students currently memorising the book of Allah. We run an adult and children hifz program.

Alhamdulillah, since the start of the hifzul Qur'an lessons at the Centre, we have produced 8 huffaz (5 boys & 3 girls). 2 additional boys are on their last legs to becoming huffaz also. Following the initial memorising of the quran, huffaz proceed to learning different riwayat (modes of recitation) in order to excel in the mastery of the recitation. Alhamdulillah, over the past few years, our home-grown huffaz have achieved khatmul quran in salatut taraweeh in Ramadan, with many leading taraweeh in masaajid throughout southeast London.

Adult Education

At Lewisham Islamic Institute we aspire towards the intellectual and spiritual development of our Muslim community. There are a range of classes available to adult attendees offering the fundamentals of Arabic at both the beginner and intermediate level, Islamic theology, Jurisprudence, Spiritual nurturing, and the principles and framework of Islamic ethics and Laws. Having completed multiple Islamic education courses, we are working towards the development of a complete Islamic Seminary for adults and young learners. We also hold a weekly New Muslim class and are progressing this into New Muslim workshops and development days. We also hold an adult and young adult's Quran memorisation program led by our resident Quran teacher.



Fundraising



Friday Collection

The weekly collections following Friday prayers have shown a slight uptick in 2024, averaging £3,300 compared to £3,200 in 2023.

This subtle increase, while seemingly modest, reflects a positive trend within the community and an enduring charitable spirit not withstanding the UK high cost of living.

The additional £100 per week may seem small, but it represents a tangible boost to the mosque's finances, potentially enabling the expansion of more charitable work, improving facilities, or addressing pressing needs within the community.

Standing Orders

LIC benefits from a steady stream of supplementary income through standing orders. Each month, the organisation receives £1800 in general donations and an additional £1065 earmarked for the new development donation.

Together, these standing orders represent a significant portion of LIC's income, ensuring its financial stability and enabling it to continue delivering essential services to the community including the vision of a new purpose-built mosque.

Online Donations

The community has donated £25,764.97 this past year through online fundraisers on JustGiving and MuslimGiving. A special thanks to Sister Umm Maryam whose page "Help little Maryam towards- Rebuilding Lewisham Islamic Centre" alone raised £3,722.50 over the year.

Ramadan Fundraising for the New Development

In this blessed month you donated or pledged a total of £224,887.90 for the New Build project. Of this:

- ◆ £73,536.95 was donated within the mosque
- ◆ £10,133.08 was collected at other mosques
- ◆ £49,584.82 was raised online
- ◆ £91,633 was raised on the 27th Night, as donations and pledges
- ◆ This has brought the amount raised for the New Build to £800,000.



To donate to LIC's general funds, please go to lewishamislamiccentre.com/donate OR scan this QR CODE



To donate to LIC's New Build project, please go to muslimgiving.org/Rebuild-LIC OR scan this QR CODE

LIC Yearly Accounts

1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Income

General donations	£275,394
Tuition fees	£179,922
New mosque funds	£136,536
Gift aid & grants	£12,629
Rental income	£90,625
Fundraising & other activities	£52,665
Funeral fund	£7,290
Total income	£755,061

Expenditure

Staff wages and salaries	£381,266
Centre admin & overhead costs	£48,271
Centre running & maintenance costs	£59,212
Events and outreach work	£19,924
Legal & professional fees	£50,604
Fundraising expenses	£25,433
Total expenditure	£584,710

Meet the Staff



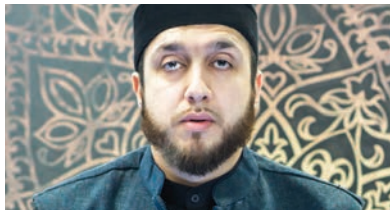
Bilal Smith
Media Officer



Genk Kani
Centre Coordinator



Ibrahim Barry
Caretaker



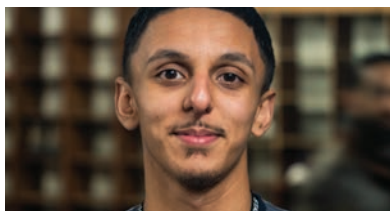
Imam Ashraf Dabous
Deputy Imam



Imam Sabir Elahi
Deputy Imam



Imam Shakeel Begg
Head Imam



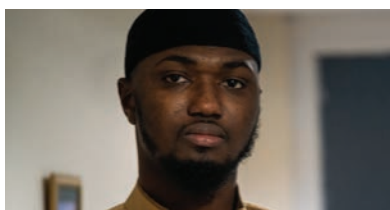
Imran Miah
Events Coordinator



Kamel Belamou
Caretaker



Makama Ibrahim
Security Officer



Mamadou Aliou
Caretaker



Mohammed Jama
Centre Administrator



Muhammad Bah
Centre Administrator

Thank You Statement from Imam Shakeel

LIC would not be where it is today without the blessings, grace and support from Allah Almighty.

Thus, I start this statement by saying Alhamdulillah (Praise belongs to Allah) and thanking Allah Almighty for the great achievements He has bestowed on LIC.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Trustees, Staff Members and Volunteers who have worked diligently in lending their support to LIC and to our numerous activities and services.

A special thanks to our Sisters Volunteers, Sister Ibtissam Adem, Sister Fatima Sellami and Layla who have led our Deen & Dine Event for Sisters. Likewise, I extend gratitude to Sister Rena, Sister Clara, Sister Rumana and Sister Saika who support us in our weekly Sisters Activities.

Moreover, our sisters stewards: Sister Erica, Sister Sarwat, Sister Suad have all played critical roles in facilitating smooth running of sisters attendance and programs.

As an integral part of the London Borough of Lewisham, LIC retains a strong sense of unity among all the Faith Groups within the Borough. So, on behalf of the Centre, I would like to show our appreciation to our local Faith Leaders who have always supported LIC and its initiatives. Father Charles Pickstone of St Laurence Church on Bromley Road and Father Steve Hall of St Mary's Church in Ladywell have been particularly supportive of LIC and myself, and have worked tirelessly to ensure that interfaith cohesion in the Borough remains unfractured. I offer them both my personal thanks and appreciation for their friendship, advice and trust. Their embodiment and iteration of the noble traits taught by the Prophets of God – patience, gratitude, loyalty, selflessness, generosity, trustworthiness, and peacemakers – has touched me deeply.





The Faith Liaison Officer for Lewisham Police, Karen Troullides, has played a salient role in supporting Lewisham Faith Leaders & Groups. I and the Centre take this opportunity to thank her for her support, advice and diligent work.

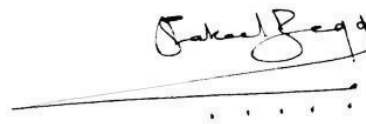
Special thanks is given to SACRE Members: Denise Chaplin, Shaun Burns, Kim Knappet, Gerald Rose and others who have always supported the work of LIC and kept the Centre strongly involved within the framework of SACRE.

Furthermore, I would like to thank our Local Civic Leaders who, rain or shine, are a habitual presence at our Eid Events, Iftars and Community Events. A special thanks is offered to Mayor of Lewisham - Brenda Dacres, Cllr Tauseef Anwar, Cllr Jaq Pashoud, Cllr Aliya Sheikh, Cllr Hau-Yu Tam, Cllr Bill Brown, Cllr Liam Shirvasta and the other many councillors that have supported LIC throughout the years.

I would like to offer special thanks to our New Muslim Brothers & Sisters who play a vital role in the running of LIC. Many are regular attendees and volunteers who give the adhan and lead our projects.

Special thanks to Danny Dean, his brothers David Dean, Stephen Dean and his son. Likewise, a special thanks to Matty, Shane, Haroon (Django), Zain, Rana, Abdul Kareem (Indian), Habil (Kane) Dominic Philby, Steve Powley, Abdul Lateef, Sayce Holmes-Lewis, Abdur Rahim (CJ), Abdul Kareem Myrie, Young Alex, Young Jamie, Young Bruce, Young Marwan, Young Yusuf, Young Ollie and the many others who are helping to inspire Muslim & non Muslim youth alike to become better people.

Lastly a special gratitude to Tiny Boost for hosting an Iftar at LIC in Ramadan 2024, to Young Adz and his colleague Abz (Aptin) for donating £25K to LIC for our New LIC Development, family of Akhi Ayman for donating £20K on behalf of their mother for the new development, to Harry Pinero, Khalid Siddique, Harris J, The Sunnah Guy, Suli Breaks and Vic Santoro who all have helped and supported LIC in various ways.



Working Partners



Lewisham Islamic Centre Annual Report
has been sponsored by



Lewisham Islamic Centre
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