



In the name of Allah, The most Merciful, The most Kind.

The West London Islamic Post

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**'Verily this
brotherhood of
yours is a single
Brotherhood and I
am your Lord and
Cherisher:
therefore serve
Me (and no other)'
Al-Qur'an 21:92**

In this Issue:

- Worship Allah not Ramadan
- Calling Upon Allah Alone
- Boxing classes Re-start. Every Thursday 7-9pm & Sunday 2.30-4pm
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**West London Islamic
Centre Eid Milan
Gathering on Sunday
the 21st of November.
The programme will
include lectures and
begins at 5.00pm
after Maghrib Salah**

**Total Funds Collected
for Zakat, Sadaqah,
Masjid and Appeals
£33,938**

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EID MUBARAK TO ALL BROTHERS & SISTERS

We would like to wish all brothers and sisters a happy Eid Mubarak. Alas the month of blessings has gone for another year, may Allah (swt) accept all our Siyam, our Salah, our Du'as and our efforts and may he keep us steadfast on his Deen and grant us the opportunity to benefit from another Ramadan, Insha'Allah.

A number of programmes were presented at the centre by Dr Ahmed Abdel Khaliq and Dr Kemal Helbawy, whom the Masjid admin would like to thank. The lecture topics included, The Ascension of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh), The

Journey to the Hereafter, Muhammed (pbuh) a Role Model for Mankind, Examples from the Lives of the Pious Predecessors and Lessons from Ramadan. The talks will be available in the bookshop on video shortly. The centre is grateful of the service given by our respected Imams Atta-ur-Rahman and Abdur-Rahman and thanks to all the Musaleen brothers and especially the sisters who supported and dutifully assisted the Masjid throughout the month of Ramadan. May Allah (swt) grant you peace, prosperity and success in this life and the Hereafter, Ameen.

A Brief Note on Eid ul-Fitr: The celebration and feast of Eid ul-Fitr is well deserved for those who succeeded in fulfilling their obligation to their Lord during the month of Ramadan. May we remind our brothers and sisters that the message of Ramadan is to discipline our lives according to the Will of Allah. Therefore Eid should be celebrated in the manner the Prophet (pbuh) celebrated it, which means refraining from mixed gatherings, excessive indulgence, 'coasting the high streets' and becoming a slave of ones own desires.

Guests of Allah: A Journal of I'tikaf

Br Ibn Sayeed performed I'tikaf in the Masjid along with ten brothers during Ramadan. Here he informs us about the significance and experience of I'tikaf.

I'tikaf means to stick to something, whether good or bad, and to block out everything else. I'tikaf during the last ten days of Ramadan symbolises seclusion and staying in the mosque with the intention of becoming closer to Allah. All scholars agree on its legitimacy, and the Prophet (pbuh) would perform I'tikaf

for some ten days every Ramadan. In the year that he died, he performed it for twenty days. This is related by al-Bukhari, Abu Dawud and Ibn Majah.

By retreating to the sanctuary of the Masjid, we find the silence of space. The soul is in constant loss as Allah ta'ala says in the Qur'an,

"By (the token of) Time (through the ages), Verily man is in loss. Except such as have faith and do righteous deeds. And (join

together) in the mutual teaching of truth, and of patience and constancy."
Al'Asr 103

In I'tikafh we find the only empty space left in this busy world to contemplate the amount of spiritual loss and its destructive sources, in order to try and minimize it. It is amazing that most people would be frightened of reflecting in darkness, but we find most of the answers and solutions to life within the stillness of the darkest nights. (Continued on P4)

Worship Allah not Ramadan!

The Prophet (pbuh) said, *"Imaan (faith) wears out in the heart of you just as a dress wears out. So ask Allah to renew Imaan in your hearts."*

Ramadan is a time when we all try our best to renew our faith and increase in doing good deeds. Typically we follow it up by losing that enthusiasm straight after Eid! Nevertheless, we have proved to ourselves that we can be better Muslims for a month, so we have no excuse to slip back into our old habits as many of us do.

Let us take a few examples: we pray all five compulsory prayers and the optional Taraweeh prayers too, and we find the Masjid seems closer! How can we then say we have no time to pray just the five compulsory prayers after Ramadan? We give in charity freely hoping for the reward in Ramadan, then we become stingy for the other eleven months? We read the Qur'an for a month and then we leave it to collect dust on the bookshelf. We become well-

behaved during Ramadan, giving up smoking, girlfriends, boyfriends, swearing etc, but as soon as Ramadan is over we give up trying to remain on the good we have been on for the previous month, instead we choose to listen to the whispers of shaitan. Did we really take a lesson from Ramadan?

"O you who believe, fasting has been prescribed upon you as it was for those before you so that you may become God-fearing (have Taqwa)." Al-Qur'an 2:183

When we have this true fear of Allah then we can avoid sinning and do good deeds.

"Indeed those who have Taqwa, when an evil thought comes to them from Satan, they remember (Allah), and they see aright." Al Qur'an 7:201

We should try to read the Qur'an with the translation in a language we understand throughout the year, our guide from the Master of the Universe. We should make the prayer the cornerstone of our lives, waiting

in eager anticipation for the arrival of the next prayer and a meeting with our Lord. We should try and attend the Masjid as regularly as possible, making it an integral part of our daily routines.

Our purse strings should stay loose for the sake of Allah all the months of the year, as a means of purifying ones wealth, alleviating the pain of the suffering and achieving closeness to Allah. And we should strive to do righteous deeds in every passing hour and day knowing that Allah is ever watching. We should encourage our youngsters and relatives to do likewise. We know that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said, "Whoever guides to a good deed will get the reward similar to the one who performs it." [Muslim]

What this means is that if you were to teach someone to pray, you would get the reward of every prayer that

person performs without the person you taught losing anything! The same applies to all other good deeds as well. Remember this also works in the reverse, so those who introduce people to vice and evil deeds will carry their sin and the sin of all those they introduced to the sinful act.

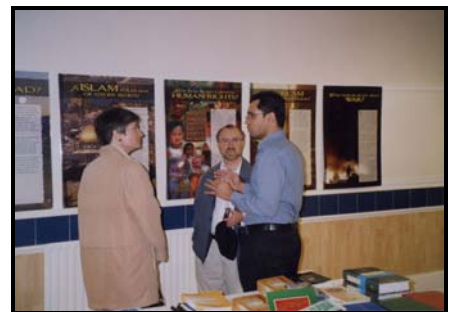
It is never too late to change our ways for the better. We just have to turn back completely to Our Lord with sincerity and commitment to His Book and the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet (pbuh).

"Say, O my servants who have transgressed against their own souls! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah, for Allah forgives all sins, for He is Oft Forgiving, Most Merciful."
Al Qur'an 39:53

Mosque Open Day 2004

The UKIM Mosque open day held at the beginning of October, attracted a number of local residents, officials and Muslims throughout the day. The event was held in most of the UKIM's 45 sister branches across the country, with thousands of people attending. Visitors at the West London Islamic Centre included Steve Pound MP, Paul Botang MP, The Mayor of Ealing, local councilors, church members and family's.

A beautiful opportunity for interfaith discussion, the attendees were shown around the mosque, had refreshments, watched a video presentation on Islam and were all presented with an information pack which included a copy of the Noble Qur'an and an array of Islamic literature. The Masjid admin would like to thank all the volunteers on the day.



Calling Upon and Supplicating to Allah Alone

Among the two most beneficial and practical things we can do to help ourselves, the Muslim community and Ummah is to make du'a and give charity. Du'a is our supplication, which can only be directed to Allah and none besides Him:

"And your Lord says, 'Call on Me and I will answer your prayer'". Al-Qur'an 40:60

One should show humility, desire and fear while making du'a as decreed by Allah:

"Remember your Lord in your heart with humility and fear"
Al-Qur'an 7:205

The supplication should be done all of the time with consistency, resolve and certainty that it will be answered. The Messenger of Allah said, 'The one who likes Allah to answer him in adversity and hardship, then let him increase in making du'a in times of ease' [Tirmidhi]

The Prophet of Allah further said, "The servant's du'a will be answered provided he does not ask for what is sinful or for breaking off relations, and also if he does not show impatience?" He was asked, "O Messenger of Allah, what is impatience?" And he replied, "That the servant says, I invoked, but I do not think it was answered, and he becomes disappointed and abandons du'a".

Recent on-going events are bringing Muslims to their senses and Insha'Allah increasing our commitment to Islam as our only form of salvation in this life and the Hereafter. This Ramadan we kept our fasts for the sake of Allah, knowing there would be numerous culinary delights

and cuisine to open the fast at the end of the day. We enjoyed and celebrated this blessed month with our families and friends whilst sleeping soundly in our comfy beds at night.

Indeed this tranquil existence causes us to neglect and forget the plight of our fellow brothers, sisters and peoples who are in distress. Some open their fasts with a few morsels of food, have no roofs over their heads, their families are lost or killed and they are living in constant fear of tanks, bombs, arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention. They are the ones that exemplify the verses of the Qur'an:

"Those to whom the people said, 'The people have amassed against you, so fear them!' But it only increased them in Imaan and they said, 'Hasbunallahu wa ni'mal-wakil.'" (Enough for us is Allah, and what a good protector!)
Al-Qur'an 3:173

Let us raise our hands and keep them and humanity in our du'as constantly and contribute towards their welfare by donating time and money generously throughout the year. Remember the advice that Prophet Jacob gave to his sons, when he told them never to give up hope in Allah's Mercy:

"Certainly no one despairs of Allah's Mercy except those who disbelieve."
Al Qur'an 12:87

Finally a dua from the leader of the Prophets, the Final Messenger of Allah, who sought refuge in Allah from trials and used to say,

"O Allah! By your knowledge of the unseen, and Your Power over the creation, keep me alive for as long as You know

that life is better for me. And give me death when You have known that death is better for me.

O Allah! And I ask You for Your fear in the unseen and the seen, and I ask You for the word of truth in pleasure and in anger. And I ask you for resolution in poverty and in affluence. And I ask You for the consolation for the eye which does not cease to continue. And I ask You for the pleasure after the decree. And I ask You for the coolness of the life after death, and I ask You for the pleasure of the look at Your Face, and the love for the meeting with You, without any damaging adversity, nor any trial with the possibility of going astray.

O Allah! Beautify us with the beauty of Imaan and make us the guided leaders." [An-Nisai]

The Prophet (pbuh) said, "The Muslim's prayer for his brother without his knowledge is surely answered. An angel is appointed with such a person, whenever he prays for the good of his brother the appointed angel says, 'Ameen, and for you is the same.'" [Muslim]

The Prophet (pbuh) said, "The most incapable person is the one who does not make du'a, and the most miserly person is the one who does not give salaam."

Abu Ayyub al-Ansari reported that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, said: "Whoever fasts during the month of Ramadan and then follows it with six days of Shawwal, will be rewarded as if he had fasted the entire year."
(Muslim)

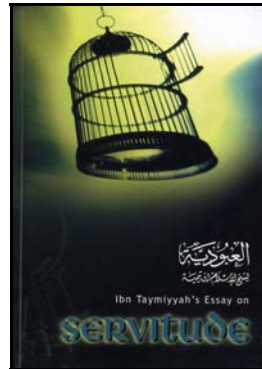
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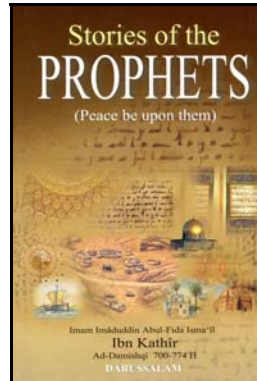
Al-Kitab: A 20% Discount on all Goods for a Limited Period

Al-Kitab Bookshop has a special 20% discount offer on all goods until the end of November 2004. New stock is available at low prices, Brothers and sisters the knowledge is available, why not buy your loved ones a gift they can cherish forever. The Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) said,

'He who treads the path in search of knowledge, God will make that path easy, leading to Paradise for him and those people who assemble in one of the houses of God (masjids), recite the Book of God, and learn and teach the Koran. There will descend upon them tranquility, mercy will cover them, the angels will surround them, and God will mention them in the presence of those near Him.'
[Related in Muslim]



An Essay on Servitude is an enlightening book written by one of the most famous scholars of Islam, on the important subject of servitude. In this book Shaykh-ul-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah defines the concept of worship in Islam and explains that to be a true 'slave of Allah' is a status of both virtue and nobility.



Stories of the Prophets is a magnificent rendition compiled from the great works of the famous Muslim exegete and historian Ibn Kathir. The stories of the Prophets and all the events in their lives have been supported by the Quranic verses and the Hadith of the Prophet (pbuh). A must for all households.

Guests of Allah: A Journal of I'tikaf Continued

Whereas, the bright lights of society and materialism act as constant distractions from the ultimate goals and the natural course of life which we were created for. That is to worship the One who created us and to ensure we obtain his pleasure before our inevitable end arrives.

We need to remember what exactly I'tikaf is about. The sole purpose of 'seclusion' is to have time to one-self, to be able to think thoughts and reflect, to fully understand certain situations in our lives. Why did that happen? What is going to happen now? The answers to all of these questions usually present themselves in such contemplation. This thinking is considered as an act of worship and the best time to perform this is within the month of Ramadan.

Essentially the one who is making I'tikaf attempts to perform as many number of supererogatory acts of worship and occupies himself

with prayers, reciting the Qur'an, glorifying and praising Allah, extolling His Oneness and His greatness, asking His forgiveness, sending salutations on the Prophet (pbuh) and supplicating to Allah, all actions which bring one closer to Him.

The feeling of brotherhood during these ten days is overwhelming. Congregatory prayers, eating, lectures and discussions all add to the feeling of camaraderie. Brotherly affections and love for the Ummah as a whole are profound.

All together I'tikaf is a unique and satisfying experience which leaves a person spiritually satisfied, refreshed, content and grateful of Allah's countless blessings and decree.

All should seek seclusion for contemplation during the year and perhaps even for a few minutes a day. This gives the individual a

reminder of their purpose in life and clarity in living it. May Allah grant us understanding and His blessing to implement what we learn.

"If anyone does a righteous deed, it is for the benefit of his own soul. If he does evil it works against (his own soul). In the end will ye (all) be bought back to your Lord"
Al Qur'an 45:15

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REGULAR MASJID ACTIVITIES

- Dars-E-Qur'an & Hadith on Saturdays 6pm
- Islamic Study Circle for brothers (English) Mon 7.30pm
- Islamic Study circle for brothers & sisters (Somali) on Sundays 1.30pm
- Sisters Quranic Circle 10am-12.30pm (Monday and Saturdays)
- Childrens Quranic Classes (Monday to Friday 5pm-7pm & Saturday mornings from 10am-1pm)
- Quran Study Circle for brothers (English) on Thursdays at 7.30pm
- Keep-fit Boxing sessions on Thursday 7.00pm and Sundays 2.30pm (Brothers)
- Mother & Toddler Group Tuesday 10-12pm