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Potential Phased re-opening  
of Places of Worship

## Places of Worship: Preparing for Phased Re-Opening

**The following is an extract from an MCB communication (18/05/2020)**

In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

### Introduction

As with all sections of British society, the last few weeks of COVID-19 lockdown have presented immense challenges to mosques, madrasas and community centres, with significant spiritual, emotional and financial struggles to overcome. And it has also caused us to change at short notice how we usually observe the Month of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr.

It is also evident that the virus has had a disproportionate impact on BAME communities including Muslim communities in Britain. However, our communities and institutions have shown a high-level of discipline and adaptation to the new circumstances. And we have been on the front

line of helping others, via volunteer-led mutual aid initiatives to support the most vulnerable in society, giving and delivering for local food-banks, supporting the NHS and other key services and more.

As we look ahead to the "new normal" for our mosques, madrasas and community centres, we have the opportunity to re-imagine the role that Muslim institutions play in society and our local communities.

Are there new ways that our mosques, madrasas or community centres can relate to and positively engage with our neighbours? Is this a chance to connect more strongly with local charities, service providers or local interfaith councils and share ideas, resources and funding opportunities? Indeed, with every challenge, there are also many opportunities.

### Are there defined phases for re-opening?

Not yet. The UK Government has formed a task force to investigate how places of worship and faith buildings can be re-opened in a phased approach whilst being "COVID-19 Secure". Some devolved administrations have begun issuing some early guidance too.

Whilst exact details of phasing is yet to be published, it is likely that phases for re-opening may be in categories. See below for **Potential Phased re-opening of Places of Worship**.

Aside from an indicative re-opening date for places of worship of 4th July announced in the UK Government's COVID-19 recovery plan, no further details are available. The status of supplementary schools such as madrasas is currently unclear. However, the situation is rapidly changing, and new public health announcements will be monitored closely.

Continued on p6.....

Full Lockdown	Closure to members of the public
Individual Only Lockdown	Open for individual or private prayer only, with physical distancing measures in place
Limited Groups Lockdown	Open to groups of a limited size and for a limited range of services, linked to ensuring physical distancing measures in place
"New Normal"	Open for wide range of services with physical distancing measures in place

يا مقلب القلوب ثبت  
قلبي على دينك

## Dua of the Month

Shahr bin Haushab reported: I asked Umm Salamah (May Allah be pleased with her), "O Mother of the Believers! Which supplication did the

Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) make frequently when he was in your house?" She said: "He (ﷺ) supplicated frequently: 'Ya muqallibal-qulubi, thabbit

qalbi 'ala dinika (O Controller of the hearts make my heart steadfast in Your religion)."

[At- Tirmidhi]



## Community News

### ALTRINCHAM BAYAAN ACADEMY

Soon after the country went into lockdown, early on, we made a decision that we quickly needed to work out how we could continue with Bayaan Academy learning. After hours of meetings, technical research and sheer graft from the Bayaan admin team and our fantastic teachers - Alhamdulillah we were able to launch Primary/Secondary online learning.

MaShaaAllah classes were delivered just after the Easter holidays on Friday/Saturday/ Sunday to over 330 Bayaan students.

Despite some initial teething problems, that have been mostly overcome, the response has been overwhelming positive and this is thanks to Allah first and the entire Bayaan community; teachers, parents and students. Of course, we miss the contact time with children and video conferencing can never replace that - but inShaaAllah we will continue to work to the best of our capacity within the new circumstances that we find ourselves in. Finally, we would like to share a couple of parent's testimonials with you.

**Parent Testimonial 1 :** Assalaamalaikum I just wanted to say If I am allowed to, a big thank you to all of you for organising this. Alhamdulillah my son is enjoying the sessions and now knows the routine.. thank you to all the teachers.. and Bayaan Academy.. this must have taken lots of effort to organise. Jazak Allah..

**Parent Testimonial 2 :** Salaam, I would like to say I was a little sceptical about the lessons when they began on zoom. I felt the teacher was unable to cover all the work she would have done in normal lessons and a lot of time was spent training the students to adapt to the new way of learning.

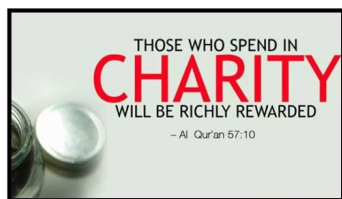
However, I must say it has been really insightful to hear how talented my child's teacher (and other teachers) are with their Tajweed skills. Having studied it for a very short period myself I appreciate how hard it is.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say how zoom lessons have allowed me to have an insight about the teacher's teaching style. She has a lovely calm and sweet manner with them all. I am very grateful for this as it helps our children build their love for our deen.

Could I please request you share my praise with the teacher and tell her how much I appreciate her hard work. That goes for you all.

Thank you for all that you do for our children. I think it is important that they are able to access the education you all provide and more importantly to build their identity with their peers and be proud to be beautiful Muslims. Jazakallah khair

### COLLECTION OVER RAMADAN!



As Salaamu alaikum my Dear Brother and Sisters,

I pray that you have had a fulfilling Ramadan despite the many challenges. Allah(swt) alone knows best as to why such a test has been sent to us but Alhumdulillah Insha'Allah we have risen to the challenge and I pray all our prayers and du'as have been excepted. Ameen.

As most, if not all, of you are aware that each year we invite 4 charities to come to the taraweeh each night to make a collection, one week is allocated to each charity. This year as we have been in lock down and there have been no congregational prayers, we have encouraged the community to donate on-line via the AHMA website.

Alhumdulillah, you the community have been very generous and we have collected over **£14000**. The breakdown of collection is summarised below;



**Zakat - A total of £6468** was collected for zakat and this will be distributed between the 4 nominated charities (Doctors Worldwide, Syria Relief, MWT trust and Families Relief).

**Fitrana - £4975** was collected for fitrana and this has already been distributed to the needy.

**Sadaqah - £1284** this has already been passed on to charities. **Mosque - £1692**, general donations for Mosque



## Community News - Continued

### COVID SUPPORT WORK

Throughout the month of Ramadan the AHMA Covid support group have delivered meals to Longford Homeless Shelter ,The Well Spring Centre ,Care homes and working with a local community group G-force we have delivered meals to the elderly and vulnerable In Bowden, Timperley and Hale. We have continued our support to key workers and the NHS with weekly deliveries to Wythenshaw and Trafford Hospitals, District Nurses , police and fire brigade .

Since the beginning of April we have delivered over 3200 meals !

None of this work could have been done without our volunteers - picking up meals from restaurants , delivery of meals ,administration work ,logistical support so a huge thank you to all the people who have helped make this project such a success. To celebrate Eid this week we delivered cupcakes with all our meals beautifully baked and packaged by Anam Alisha Ltd.



### AHMA GIRLS GROUP NEWSLETTER

In the lead up to and during Ramadan, the girls from the AHMA Friday Girls' Group took part in weekly online sessions focused around the greatest women in Islamic history. They reflected upon the likes of Aisha RA, Khadijah RA, Aasiyah RA and Fatima RA and also shared their ideas and goals for Ramadan.

They also partook in two exciting competitions:

#### 1- The Great AHMA Photography Competition

Here, the girls were asked to take a nature-related picture during their daily #lockdown form of exercise. The photos were of an exceptionally high standard and the judges found it difficult to choose just one winning entry!

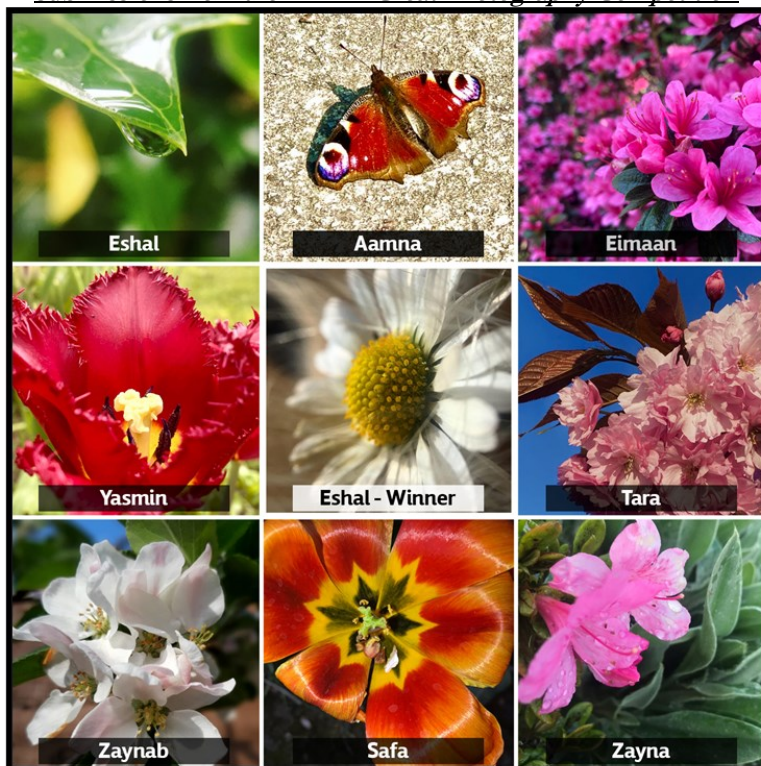
At last, it was decided that the intricate submissions from Eshal would win first place! Congratulations!

#### 2- Design an Ayah Competition

This was our Ramadan special competition. Here, the girls had to pick an ayah from the Quran that they loved and produce a form of artwork with a small commentary. The entries received were excellent and showcased the high level of artistic capability within the group!

These profound reflections and pieces, along with the winning entries, will be posted on the AHMA Facebook page over the next few weeks inshaAllah so watch this space!

### Submissions from the AHMA Great Photography Competition



## *Community News - Continued*

### **FAREWELL RAMADAN..**

Alhamdulillah, with a heavy heart we bid farewell to the blessed month of Ramadan. This Ramadan will be one that most of us will never forget, one which future generations will talk about for years to come. Perhaps it was a turning point for many to re-evaluate life, to prioritise, to declutter physically and mentally.

We may now be more grateful for much that we previously took for granted.

For many, it brought us closer to Allah swt. We appreciated that we were amongst those who, because of our faith, were more able to come to terms with the current situation.

Subhan Allah. The clapping for the NHS every Thursday brought us out on to our streets, connecting with neighbours who may never have spoken with each other before. A realisation that we are all human no matter our differences. Humanity coming together, looking after each other, like never before.

### **Jammy Dodgers.**

Tehmina Farhan's story began in 2014 when the family were house hunting and they needed somewhere local to pray. They came across our Mosque. Tehmina knew they had found the "perfect place." for the family to settle.

Three years later, in 2017 the Manchester Arena incident shocked the nation. It was a moment that could have been divisive and torn communities apart. Alhamdulillah, instead we saw communities coming together in collective grief. Witnessing people of all backgrounds praying together, acknowledging that heroes come from all backgrounds.

Sadly, although many people were supportive, Tehmina noticed her neighbours seemed more distant and wary of Muslims. Their feelings seemed hurt and they were not as friendly. So Tehmina decided she had to show them they had nothing to fear. She was determined to show her religion was a peaceful, loving faith full of compassion for all of humanity. As Ramadan was approaching and schools were closing for half-term break Tehmina felt she needed to reach out to the staff and children at school. She felt compelled to show them that "this horrific incident did not represent my beautiful religion" and let them know that Muslims also felt shocked.

Whilst out shopping Tehmina saw some Jammy Dodger biscuits....perfect she thought, the biscuits have a red heart ♡ in the centre and this seemed to represent exactly what she wanted to portray to non-Muslims. Once home Tehmina started making up small Ramadan parcels containing the biscuits with a note explaining the essence of Ramadan and Eid. These were given to all staff at her child's school. The staff were so grateful. They thanked her and hugged her.



A Muslim mum challenged her at school asking why Muslims should reach out when they were treated in a hostile way by those around them. This reaction was not going to stop Tehmina. Her instinctive reply was... "Dawah is part of a Muslim even if we're disliked. We have a responsibility to show Islam in its true colours and be kind and say hello."

**Changing the World....by winning one heart at a time.** Tehmina was inspired to spread her message of Islam as a religion of Peace and Love. Every year during Ramadan she would make up the most beautiful parcels, finished off with handmade cards and deliver them to her neighbours. What kept her going was the thought that she may be the only Muslim person her neighbour might have contact with and she wanted to represent Islam in as beautiful a way as she could. Tehmina kept giving out her Ramadan parcels every year.

Tehmina wanted to share the success of her Dawah work with the neighbours in and around Altrincham Mosque. Tehmina, with the help of volunteers, has made this an annual event. During that first year of distributing the parcels the neighbours seemed confused and somewhat uncomfortable. With some not accepting the gifts. This year almost all 40 neighbours accepted the Ramadan parcels with open arms and are looking forward to seeing what next year's parcels will bring.



## Community News - Continued

### JAMMY DODGERS (CONTINUED)

And let there be from you a nation inviting to (all that is) good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful. Quran Surah 3. Verse 104  
We are a people who always look to the future with hope.... the believer does not give up and in fact he will look for the positive in every situation .....with each hardship comes ease Quran Surah 94 Verse. In Sha Allah by coming through this difficult time with renewed hope, we have learnt to dispel FEAR with FAITH, taking us a step closer to Allah swt.



## Pearls of Wisdom:

### Ayah of the Day:

And let not those who [greedily] withhold what Allah has given them of His bounty ever think that it is better for them. Rather, it is worse for them. Their necks will be encircled by what they withheld on the Day of Resurrection. And to Allah belongs the heritage of the heavens and the earth. And Allah, with what you do, is [fully] Acquainted. [3: 180]

### Hadith of the Day:

By Allah, that Allah guides a man through you is better for you than a herd of expensive red camels. [Source: Sahih al-Bukhari 2847, Sahih Muslim 2406]

### Wise Quote of the Day:

Never forget that turning a blind eye to oppression and

watching from the side-lines is itself oppression [Harun Yahya]

### Guidance of the Day:

Overcoming the fear of blame is through the realization that there is no benefit or harm except by God's permission and plan. It is only God who can benefit and only He who can permit harm. If a person is worried about how others receive him, then he is not aligned with reality.

Being aware of God's attributes does not mean that people stop using their intellect, for we live in a world of causes. There is room for diplomacy and discretion, particularly of knowing when it is best to say what. This discretion, however, is not informed by the fear of blame, but rather by clarity regarding one's

objectives. Wisdom is completely different from seeking the approbation of others.

The inordinate fear of blame can lead a person to engage in prohibited matters or neglect obligations. The fear of blame interferes with faith. Deeds that are done for the sake God cannot share other intentions, namely, pleasing people or seeking their favour. Doing something for the sake of God is the manifestation of strong faith. Whether someone praises you or not is entirely inconsequential. [Purification of the Heart]

### Food for Thought:

You must be the change you wish to see in the world. Life belongs to the living and he who lives must be prepared for changes.



## *Places of Worship: Preparing for Phased Re-Opening - Continued*

### **Which services / prayers can be run?**

The answer to this depends on exact details of the phasing approach which is yet to be announced by the UK Government and devolved administrations. Also, different mosques, madrasas and community centres have different numbers of people typically attending their regular services and the ability to run a service is likely to be strongly linked to how well physical distancing measures can be ensured.

### **Should we continue to deliver online services?**

This is strongly recommended, especially for services which can easily be delivered online via video/teleconferencing software. In addition, only a fraction of attendees are likely to be able to be inside your building at any one point in time in the “new normal”, and highly vulnerable will be discouraged from attending at all, therefore many community members will miss out on your services if you do not deliver anything online.

### **Who Makes the Decision to Re-Open?**

The decision on how and when to re-open your mosque, madrasa or community centre ultimately lies with your trustees or persons who are legally liable for your organisation. At a minimum,

they must be able to demonstrate that they:

- have thought through the full range of considerations for re-opening; and
- are complying with the relevant regulations in force at the time; and
- are discharging their legal duties to the best of their abilities.

Here are some specific issues that will require your attention and consideration:

- **Safety** - The safety of your community members and volunteers/staff should be of paramount importance and all available protection measured should be considered

- **Insurance** - Consult your insurers on the re-opening options you are considering as they may have certain requirements of you which you need to take into consideration and the validity of your public liability or other insurance may be dependent on this

- **Risk Assessments & Procedures** - Reviewing and updating your building risk assessment and operating plans is essential and documenting this as this may be required by your insurers should claims arise at a later date.

- **Charitable objects** - If you are significantly changing what you deliver, you will

need to check whether you are still operating within your charitable objects or whether you need to make special arrangements to enable you to do so.

- **Record keeping** - Any key decisions are recommended be taken at a virtual meeting of the relevant trustees/directors and minuted/recorded to demonstrate that all material considerations were taken into account in arriving at the decisions.

### **Planning Steps**

**Step 1:** Allocate – COVID Safety Officer

**Step 2:** Conduct – Risk Assessment of your building

**Step 3:** Calculate – Estimate your ‘new capacity’

**Step 4:** Identify – New equipment you will need

**Step 5:** Train – your volunteers and staff

**Step 6:** Communicate – expectations of the wider community

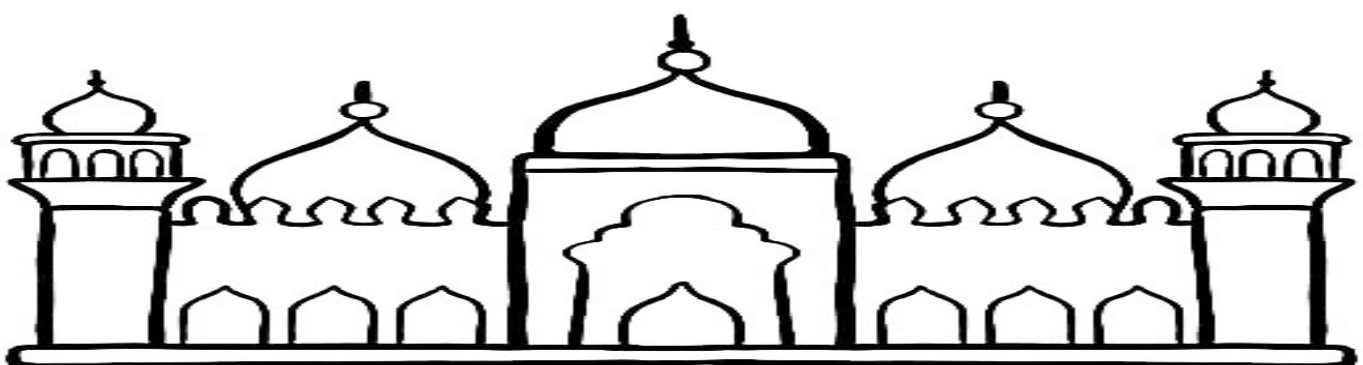
### **Conclusion**

The “new normal” for the foreseeable future for our mosques, madrasas and community centres will be markedly different to what we were used to before. To assist in this transition, it is important that Muslim institution leaders plan early, consult widely and take a holistic approach to re-opening to members of the

public when it is safe to do so, in-line with public health regulations.

Ultimately, the decision on how and when to re-open lies with the trustees or persons who are legally liable for the organisation. Allocating a dedicated COVID-19 Safety Officer is essential to be a focal point for the transition. It is important that the decisions to re-open are not rushed and that all necessary preparations, training and measures are in place well in advance. Trustees have significant legal responsibilities to keep their community members safe and community members will rightfully have an expectation that trustees do not neglect their duties.

Leaders of mosques, madrasas and community centres, as well as local Muslim networks/Council of Mosques, will have some very challenging decisions to make in the coming weeks. We hope that the 6-steps offered in these initial discussion guidelines helps you and your team to navigate through this process to ensure the safe and phased re-opening of your institutions. The situation is rapidly changing, therefore new public health announcements will be monitored closely. More detailed guidelines are also planned to be produced as further government guidelines are published.



In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful  
**Altrincham & Hale Muslim Association**  
 Registered Charity Number 1101378

## Prayer Schedule June 2020

Day	Date	Fajr	Fajr Jama'at	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Dhuhr Jama'at	Asr	Asr Jama'at	Ma- ghrib	Isha Jama'at	Isha
Mon	1	3:17	4:00	4:47	1:08	1:30	5:31	8:00	9:28	9:43	10:53
Tue	2	3:17	4:00	4:46	1:08	1:30	5:32	8:00	9:29	9:44	10:54
Wed	3	3:17	4:00	4:45	1:08	1:30	5:32	8:00	9:30	9:45	10:55
Thu	4	3:16	4:00	4:45	1:08	1:30	5:33	8:00	9:32	9:47	10:57
<b>Fri</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3:16</b>	<b>4:00</b>	<b>4:45</b>	<b>1:08</b>	<b>1:40</b>	<b>5:33</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:32</b>	<b>9:47</b>	<b>10:57</b>
Sat	6	3:16	4:00	4:44	1:08	2:00	5:33	8:00	9:33	9:48	10:58
Sun	7	3:15	4:00	4:43	1:09	2:00	5:34	8:00	9:34	9:49	10:59
Mon	8	3:15	4:00	4:42	1:09	1:30	5:34	8:00	9:35	9:50	11:00
Tue	9	3:15	4:00	4:42	1:09	1:30	5:35	8:00	9:36	9:51	11:01
Wed	10	3:15	4:00	4:41	1:09	1:30	5:35	8:00	9:37	9:52	11:02
Thu	11	3:14	4:00	4:41	1:10	1:30	5:36	8:00	9:38	9:53	11:03
<b>Fri</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3:14</b>	<b>4:00</b>	<b>4:41</b>	<b>1:10</b>	<b>1:40</b>	<b>5:36</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:38</b>	<b>9:53</b>	<b>11:03</b>
Sat	13	3:14	4:00	4:40	1:10	2:00	5:36	8:00	9:39	9:54	11:04
Sun	14	3:14	4:00	4:40	1:10	2:00	5:37	8:00	9:40	9:55	11:05
Mon	15	3:14	4:00	4:40	1:10	1:30	5:37	8:00	9:40	9:55	11:05
Tue	16	3:14	4:00	4:40	1:11	1:30	5:37	8:00	9:41	9:56	11:06
Wed	17	3:14	4:00	4:40	1:11	1:30	5:38	8:00	9:41	9:56	11:06
Thu	18	3:14	4:00	4:40	1:11	1:30	5:38	8:00	9:41	9:56	11:06
<b>Fri</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3:15</b>	<b>4:00</b>	<b>4:40</b>	<b>1:11</b>	<b>1:40</b>	<b>5:38</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:42</b>	<b>9:57</b>	<b>11:07</b>
Sat	20	3:15	4:00	4:40	1:11	2:00	5:38	8:00	9:42	9:57	11:07
Sun	21	3:15	4:00	4:40	1:11	2:00	5:38	8:00	9:42	9:57	11:07
Mon	22	3:15	4:00	4:41	1:12	1:30	5:39	8:00	9:42	9:57	11:07
Tue	23	3:15	4:00	4:41	1:12	1:30	5:39	8:00	9:42	9:57	11:07
Wed	24	3:16	4:01	4:41	1:12	1:30	5:39	8:00	9:42	9:57	11:07
Thu	25	3:16	4:00	4:42	1:13	1:30	5:39	8:00	9:42	9:57	11:07
<b>Fri</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3:16</b>	<b>4:00</b>	<b>4:42</b>	<b>1:13</b>	<b>1:40</b>	<b>5:39</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>9:42</b>	<b>9:57</b>	<b>11:07</b>
Sat	27	3:17	4:00	4:43	1:13	2:00	5:39	8:00	9:42	9:57	11:07
Sun	28	3:17	4:00	4:43	1:13	2:00	5:39	8:00	9:42	9:57	11:07
Mon	29	3:18	4:00	4:44	1:13	1:30	5:39	8:00	9:42	9:57	11:07
Tue	30	3:18	4:00	4:45	1:14	1:30	5:39	8:00	9:41	9:56	11:06
Jummah Khutba will start at 1:15pm & Maghrib and Isha will be combined from 1st June											