



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the Name of Allah, Most Merciful, Ever Merciful

Visit My Mosque 2019

Template Friday Prayer Sermon (*Khutbah*)

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Part 1: Why a Mosque Open Day?

Salamun-alaikum, Peace be with you,

On **Sunday 3 March 2019**, our mosque - [Insert Your Mosque Name] - will be holding an open day *inshaAllah* (God Willing) for our neighbours and local community.

We will be inviting in our non-Muslim neighbours and members of the local community, sharing tea and refreshments with them, allowing them an opportunity to learn about Islam and Muslims, and for us to learn more about our neighbourhood and community from them too.

Our visitors will observe and hear how Muslims call to prayer, how we perform *Wudu* (ablution), how we connect with Allah (Most High) and how we pray in congregation. [Insert more information about your mosque's open day]

This event is part of a national initiative called '**Visit My Mosque**' day. Over 250 other mosques across the UK will also be holding a similar open day like us on **3 March** and the initiative is facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB).

Good relations with our neighbours is *highly* emphasised in Islam. The beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is reported to have said: **"Whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgement, let him do good to his neighbour."**

As you know, there is a lot of misconceptions about Islam and Muslims in Britain today. At a local level, some of our neighbours may also be curious about us – if they have never been invited inside our mosque, then all they may see of our community is large crowds of people going in for Friday *Jumuah*, or Ramadhan *iftars*, or other mosque programmes, and then leaving the building again - and they must be wondering what all these people do inside our mosque.

So, through this open day, we want to breakdown the misconceptions they may have, for example that it is a religion of violence, or that it promotes terrorism etc. We want British society to be open-minded to our *masajid* rather than being suspicious of them. We want our society to condemn attacks on Muslims – as well as other faith groups - as hate crime and Islamophobia. As Muslims, we do not want to be secluded from society, rather we should want dialogue and friendship.

When we examine the life of the Prophet Muhammad (upon whom be peace), we see that:



- He loved addressing the needs of the people. He would engage with them and work jointly with them, to understand their needs and how to solve them.
- The mosque of the Prophet (pbuh) in the city of Medina was a community hub designed to serve *all* the people of the local community. It was used for weddings, funerals, public engagements, education, publicising the values of our *deen* (religion) and addressing the real social needs of the community, e.g. homelessness, poverty or mental health.
- He always encouraged showing kindness and care to all human beings, whatever faith or background they come from. He said, **“The closest of you to me in the Next Life are the best of you in morals (*akhlāq*).”** In another *hadith*, he is also reported to have said: **“To smile is an act of charity”**.

On **3 March 2019**, our mosque will be hosting an open day and inviting our neighbours of all faiths and none. You can get involved in 3 ways:

- 1) **Make *Dua’a*** (supplication) for us that this event and the 250 mosque open days across the UK are successful, with the Blessing of Allah (swt).
- 2) **Invite and bring other people** to walk through these doors to see our humble place of worship on **3 March**. Remember, this is a great opportunity for you to engage with your friends, colleagues or neighbours. How about asking your next-door neighbour if they’d like to drop in to the *masjid* for an hour of their day for some tea? Or you could invite your friend or colleague at work? How about taking some photos together and sharing it on social media with hashtag *#VisitMyMosque*?
Men and women, young and old, black and white should all be welcome in our *masjid*. It is our duty to show them that Muslims are people just like them, and that we are welcoming, open, tolerant, kind and caring people.
- 3) **Participate and be a volunteer**. Please contact the mosque management team to let them know if you would like to join the organising team or be a volunteer on **3 March**. [Insert Contact Details]

Finally, let us also take this opportunity to say that the doors of our mosque do not just open and close on **3 March**. Rather the doors of this mosque should be open to wider society all the time – visitors are welcome on any day of the year so do not hesitate to bring a non-Muslim friend or visitor to visit at any time of the year.

Whenever we may have non-Muslim visitors in our mosque, let us make them feel at home and welcome. Let us show them the true *akhlāq* (ethics) and values of humanity that our Prophet (pbuh) has taught *insha’Allah* (God Willing).

Part 2: Islam & The Environment

In the first speech (*khutbah*), we spoke about the importance of welcoming and building relationships with our neighbours, such as through our mosque's 'Visit My Mosque' day taking place at [Insert Your Mosque Name] on **Sunday 3 March 2019**.

The national theme for Visit My Mosque day in 2019 is **Islam & the Environment**, so in this second Khutbah, I will outline some key points about what our *deen* (religion) says about the environment.

In particular, I'd like to focus on our responsibilities of keeping our local environment **clean** and **tidy**. The beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is reported to have said: "**Cleanliness is half of faith**"

It is important to remember that our *deen*, Islam, contains countless beautiful attributes. These are gems that need to be admired and shared. Islam is a religion of beauty.

So why then, do we see outside our mosques and in our local communities, litter often being dropped on the streets, or rubbish left outside and not placed in bins? And not just by children, but by the adults too! All while our *deen* (religion) tells us we should have the highest standards when it comes to cleanliness? Did you know that:

- In Britain, every year an estimated **25 million tonnes** of litter is dropped annually costing the UK taxpayer over **£1 billion** a year (Keep Britain Tidy 2017)
- Litter can also **harm wildlife**. According to the RSPCA, 7,704 calls were received to report incidents of animals injured because of litter in Britain in 2017.
- And because it's so visible, litter affects people and their sense of love and belonging to their neighbourhoods. **MPs get more letters about litter and dog fouling**, than about any other issue!

So, what can we do about it?

- Firstly, we must educate ourselves and our children about what our faith tells us about the environment:
 - The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "**When you remove stones, thorns and bones from the road... it counts for you as *Sadaqah* (Charity)**"
 - And in the Quran (6:165), Allah (Swt) says we are *khalifah* (successors) on this Earth: "**And it is He (God) who has made you successors (*khala'ifa*) upon the Earth...**"
- Secondly, we must put our words into action.
 - The national charity **Keep Britain Tidy** organises an annual campaign that will see 500,000 people across the country pick-up litter, between 22 March and 23 April 2019. You can pledge to do your bit, and post it on social media with hashtag **#GBSpringClean**.
 - [Our mosque] is also planning to organise a Community Street Clean Event. [Insert information about event]. If you would like more information or to get involved, please contact [Insert Contact Details]

Let us remember, that the role of the *masjid* is to be relevant to the lives of the people, such as through event like this Street Clean, or Visit My Mosque days for our local community, etc. And it is our duty as members of this local community and followers of this *deen*, to invite to mutual cooperation, to be ambassadors for our faith and to share this message of goodness far and wide.

I ask Allah (swt) to bless you and me in all our endeavours and efforts in this short life.

I ask Allah (swt) for forgiveness for you and me, for He is All Forgiving and All Merciful.

ENDS.