

Meet our new Imam

Swansea Mosque welcomes Dr Muhammad Hedayatul Islam

Dr Islam, an Islamic scholar and thinker, has completed his PhD in Islamic Theology and Comparative Religion and Master's in Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Heritage both from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

He also graduated from Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.

Dr Islam has worked and taught in various Universities across Malaysia as a Research Fellow and Lecturer at IIUM, University Technology Petronas (UTP) and University Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) for more than a decade. Dr Islam is able to converse in English, Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and Bahasa Melayu.

Mission and vision:

As an Islamic Scholar and academy-oriented Researcher, Dr Islam's main interest is to transform knowledge and virtue through community-based institutions like Swansea Mosque and Islamic Community Centre (SMICC).

Working alongside Mufti Eunos Ali and other local scholars, his vision for SMICC is to make it a beacon for knowledge and excellence with enhanced madrasah education, engagement with young and old, development programmes for sisters and strengthening partnership with local and national organisations including the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) and the Muslim Council of Wales (MCW).

We request and encourage members of the community welcome him to the Masjid and the city. May Allah bless this appointment for the Masjid and the Muslim community in Swansea.



Ramadan @ Swansea Mosque

Ramadan is always a very special time for the Muslim community, but also a very busy time for Swansea Mosque.

So much to plan, and so much to do! Planning for Ramadan at Swansea Mosque can start at least four months in advance.

We want to make sure that the community is able to focus on their ibadah and spirituality during this blessed month. Considering this, the following arrangements have been made:

The Ramadan Timetable

The Ramadan timetable is with the printers and as soon as printing is completed, we will announce and distribute it to the community, Insha-Allah.

Taraweeh Programme

Swansea Mosque will provide 20 rakah of taraweeh prayer each evening, with the aim to complete the recitation of the entire Quran by the end of the month. We have an amazing line-up of huffaz!

Iftar at Swansea Mosque

Swansea Mosque will provide a full iftar meal every day during the entire month of Ramadan, catering for up to 200 people. The food is freshly cooked by our chef and served in the sports hall.

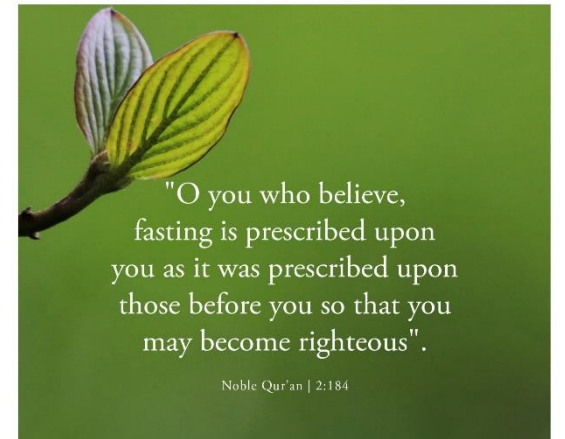
The cost of providing iftar is £400 per day. Why not sponsor a day with your family and friends or join our campaign '£30 for 30 days' this year and reap the reward for the entire month!

Itikhaf

This year we will make provision for itikhaf during the last 10 days of Ramadan. The numbers will be limited due to capacity and operated on a first come first served basis. There will be no cost for this service.

Daily Quran Halaqah

Ramadan is also known as the month of the Quran. Our imams will deliver a daily Quran halaqah, covering the parts of the Quran that will be recited in the evening during the Taraweeh prayers, helping all of us to get closer to the Quran.



Weekly Halaqahs led by our Imams

★ Tuesday evenings ★
Reminders by Mufti Eunus

★ Thursday after Zuhr ★
Bangla Tafseer by Dr Islam

★ Friday evenings ★
Study of hadith from Bulugh Al Maram
by Mufti Eunus

More programmes coming soon...

For your security and safety, CCTV is in operation

Swansea Mosque recognises the rights of all to enjoy the protections on personal data provided for by regulation and law. We treat all such data as an "amanah" or "sacred trust". We are registered with the Information Commissioners Office, also known as the ICO.

ICO is an independent body that upholds information rights in the UK. As the UK regulator, the ICO oversees all aspects of data protection.

For security and health and safety purposes CCTV recording is in operation in most shared spaces with the exception where personal privacy is necessary. Signage indicating "CCTV in operation" is displayed in most areas of the Mosque.

CCTV footage is not retained permanently and is automatically overwritten periodically. Access to current footage is strictly controlled on a need-to-know basis and may be shared with law enforcement agencies in the event that they need assistance in an investigation into breaches of the law in or around the Mosque.

ico.
Information Commissioner's Office

Swansea Mosque funeral services

We will all remember the time when we had a make-do wet room at the back of the old mosque. Although, it may not have been the most ideal setting to say the least, it was widely utilised and served us many years to wash our loved ones before burial.

The management committee embarked upon an exciting new project to build a purpose-built funeral service for the community. It would provide a dignified and caring service when it is needed most. In 2022, it was by the grace of Allah and the support of the community, we completed the new funeral service. The new facility consists of:

- Large and spacious washroom
- In-house morgue facility (cold storage)
- Family viewing room
- Spacious garage and hearse loading area
- Office space

Since its completion, the community is utilising the service, and we are very pleased to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback.

The funeral facility is owned and managed by Swansea Mosque and is not leased out to any business or individual. It is operated on a pay-per-use basis and is open to any funeral service provider in our community.



**SPECIAL
RAMADAN
APPEAL
2023**



Help Swansea Mosque Foodbank to feed 20 Muslim families

Ramadan, the month of blessings and mercy is on its way to our doorstep. But many Muslim brothers and sisters in Swansea will unfortunately go without food and we will sadly not hear about it.

Insha-Allah with your support we wish to gift Ramadan food packs to 20 Muslim individuals and families this year.

Each pack will cost roughly £30 which will include basic food for iftar and sehri.

Donate on: <https://givi.ng/7is9>

Update on overclaimed Gift Aid *giftaid it*

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows us to reclaim the basic rate tax you pay as a UK taxpayer for your donations. It means that Swansea Mosque can claim 25p of tax for every £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you.

We were made aware that our online payment page for some of our services was accepting Gift Aid. The Gift Aid declaration option should have been reserved to donations only and we should not have processed Gift Aid for our services.

To rectify this, our services now have a separate online payment page which do not have a Gift Aid option. We have also reported this oversight to the Charity Commission and HMRC and are currently liaising with HMRC on settling the overclaim.

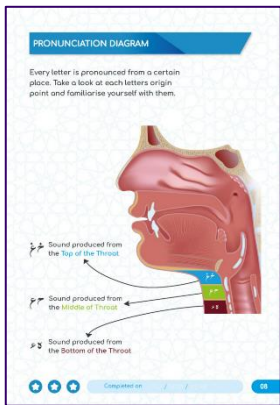
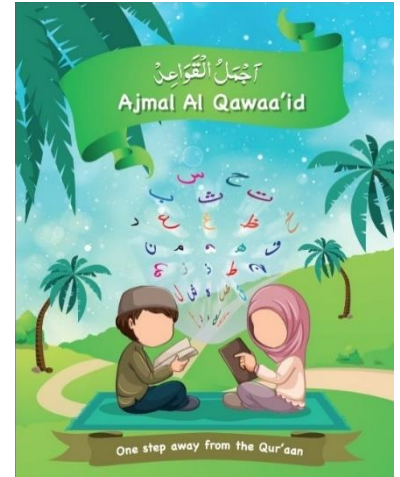
Swansea Mosque still welcome Gift Aid on our donation page, and will strongly appreciate eligible donors continue making a Gift Aid declaration with their donations.

Improving our madrasah education and services

We have successfully completed a comprehensive madrasah audit. The audit includes a questionnaire from parents, teachers and a three-week inspection from an independent audit team. The findings have been shared with parents on our open day in early January. Using this valuable information, the Madrasah team have been able to create a detailed SWOT analysis and have generated short, medium and long term objectives. To help achieve these goals we have created a Madrasah sub-committee consisting of teachers and external individuals with teaching experience.

As mentioned on the open day we hope to implement changes gradually enabling pupils, parents and teachers to transition with relative ease. For instance, the introduction of the new Qaidah is a welcome addition that offers visual examples and guidance to tackle each area of focus. Our teachers love the Qaidah as pupils will be able to use it all throughout the madrasah education including when they are on Quran.

After listening to feedback from parents we have changed our morning madrasah timing to 10.00 am. Therefore, the madrasah is closed to the public during madrasah hours and further supports our safeguarding expectation. We like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and the congregation for their patience and continuous support and understanding. The mosque doors re-open at 12:30pm ahead of Zuhr salah.



In September 2023, we hope to introduce the Safar publication Islamic book and our newly created 'Madrasah resource team' have started making resources including PowerPoint slides and activity sheets. In the future we hope to create a Google classroom and upload all lessons for parents and pupils to use for revision. We hope to introduce more rigor and intend to have half termly assessments and an end of year exam. Our desire is to introduce regular 'Academic Review Days' that will give parents opportunities to meet the teachers and discuss their child's progress.

Training and development will be a key focus for the madrasah. We are pleased to inform you that we have developed a partnership with Pentrehafod School and they have agreed to come in to train our teachers on pedagogy, behavioural management and how to develop pupils' progress. In the next few months we hope to increase the number of first aiders in the establishment and plan to enrol further 8 teachers and/or TA on an accredited course.

Maintaining peace

Dealing with recent security disturbance

Every Thursday, Swansea Mosque's youth sub-committee had been running a weekly English halaqah in the Basement Hall.

There was however a recent disagreement with the schedule and format by members of the youth sub-committee. Unfortunately, as it was not possible for the team to all congregate beforehand, it was decided that the halaqah on 16th February be postponed so the team could discuss and agree on a way forward. It was always the intention that the halaqah will resume the following week.

Separately, outside of this sub-committee discussions, we were alerted of a security disturbance that may take place on 16th February and that it could lead to physical altercations. This posed a potential risk towards peaceful worshippers. The mosque has a duty of care to make sure we safeguard all those who use its premises. You will appreciate that this required mosque officials to act appropriately and adhere to the necessary protocols. Swansea Mosque contacted South Wales Police for support and advice.

South Wales Police in this instance took the decision to speak to the other party involved to try and diffuse the situation before it potentially got out of hand.

Furthermore, in the interest of safeguarding peaceful worshippers, mosque officials decided to close the mosque shortly after the Isha prayer at 8pm. Police informed us that they would be present in the mosque that evening.

Alhamdulillah, the proactive measures taken helped de-escalate the situation.

Where possible, Swansea Mosque would favour avoiding the need for police involvement in the masjid. We do however maintain a longstanding partnership working with South Wales Police and will continue to work together to keep our community safe.

Residential Development Project

In late 2019, we started work on our residential development project, converting the old premises on St Helen's Road into 9 flats. Unfortunately, Covid delayed this work in 2020. Alhamdulillah, since then we have completed all structural work including:

- Completing the external structure of the building including windows.
- New internal flooring completed for the four-storey development.
- Internal wall structures for each of the flats are now in place.
- 1 unit fully complete, 3 more near completion.

Currently, we are making the final arrangements to install the metal staircase for the four-storey building. As with all new builds any snagging issues that may arise will be addressed.



Our spending since we started the residential and funeral service project as per the accounts reported in 2020, 2021 and 2022 is approx. £364k. All costs are listed under 'Funeral Project & Residential Flats' on our accounts and does not include costs invested on our commercial space or current building.

Further progress and spending on the Residential Development Project will be reported to the community in the next published accounts.

We thank the community for all your support. The continued support of the community is critical to complete this project and generating long-term income revenue for the masjid.

Facilities upgrade, maintenance, and repairs

Swansea Mosque is upgrading some of its facilities in the building. We have started work on installing a new lift and putting in a security intercom system for both brothers and sisters entrances.

The two towers of the building are leaking, and rainwater is damaging the front end of the building. Scaffolding has now been erected and work has started to fix the two towers.

With energy costs continuing to rise, there are plans in place to put PV solar panels on the roof of the building to help reduce energy costs.

We will keep the community updated as these areas progress.

VOLUNTEER



What can you do for your masjid?

Want to join our volunteering team?

Find out how you can help during our Ramadan programmes, Jummah or in many other ways.

Volunteering opportunities available for brothers and sisters.

Email: info@swanseamsoque.org



Everyone has an opinion, and we understand that no matter what we do, we will not be able to keep everyone happy.

With the Blessing of Allah, Swansea Mosque strives to deliver and provide the best service and support to our ability.

Swansea Mosque is dependent on the hard work and efforts from all our volunteers, well-wishers, and staff. However, sometimes things will go wrong or could have been better.

As part of this we welcome honest feedback, comments, and constructive criticisms on where we could do things better.

Your feedback is important to us, if you would like to tell us about any improvements we can make or raise any concerns please email us on info@swanseamsoque.org.

Stay updated and join the official Swansea Mosque WhatsApp group



Scan this QR code using the WhatsApp camera.