

A Visit to Masjid Umar Mosque Evington Drive Leicester



Key Facts About Islam

The foundation of Islam is belief in the “Quran”. This is the word of god that was relayed to the prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) from the Angel Gabriel “jibrael”.

It was the last testament believed to have been sent after the Bible, Torah, Psalm etc. as the final chapter of god's message. This was later written down to form the Quran. Many people memorise this holy book.

There are 5 pillars of Islam:

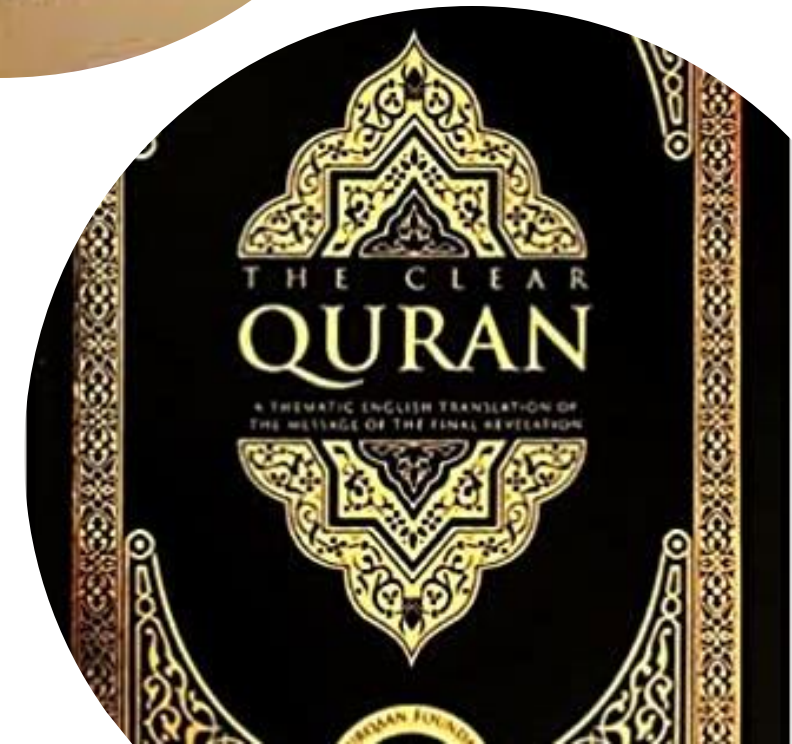
SHAHADAH - Declaration of faith

SALAH - The prayers which can be performed in the mosque

ROZA – Fasting and withholding of food and water mainly in the holy month of Ramadhan. Muslims believe they feed their body for 11 months of the year and for the month of Ramadhan, they feed their soul and perform extra good actions like prayer, charity and sharing.

ZAKAT - Compulsory charity contribution of 0.025% of profitable wealth e.g. savings given annually

HAJJ – The pilgrimage to Makkah/Mecca should be undertaken at least once in a lifetime if people have the ability.



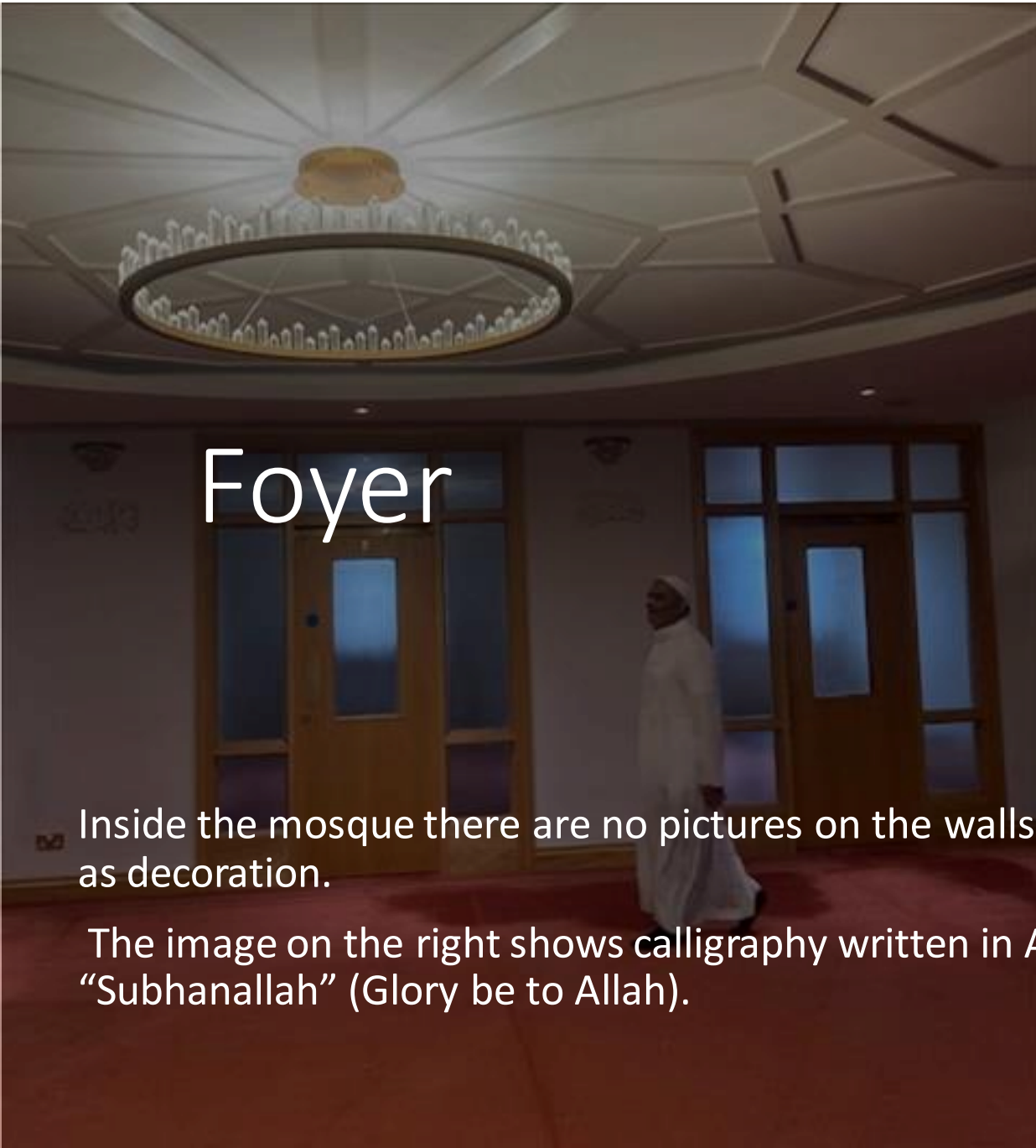
Celebrations

In Islam there are two main celebrations:

Eid – dul – Fitr, is celebrated at the end of Ramadhan and is a day of feasting and fun

Eid – dul – Adha, is celebrated at the end of the Hajj Pilgrimage. A goat is slaughtered and the meat is distributed to the poor and close family members.



A wide-angle photograph of a mosque's foyer. The ceiling is white with a geometric pattern and a large, circular, multi-tiered chandelier. The walls are light-colored with wooden-framed glass doors. A person in a white thobe and ghutra is walking across the red carpeted floor.

Foyer

Inside the mosque there are no pictures on the walls. Instead, intricate Islamic traditional designs are used as decoration.

The image on the right shows calligraphy written in Arabic. This is a praise to god, Allah which says "Subhanallah" (Glory be to Allah).

A close-up photograph of a wall in the mosque. It features a decorative, multi-tiered chandelier and a piece of Arabic calligraphy. The calligraphy is written in a stylized, flowing script, likely a form of Thuluth or Maghribi script, and is mounted on the wall.

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

Pre- prayer rituals

When people enter a mosque, they must remove their shoes. There is usually a dedicated area to store them close to the entrance. The cleanliness of a home and mosque has been a widespread tradition throughout all of the prophetic periods Moses, Jesus, Abraham and continues within Islamic teachings of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) today.

Muslims perform the “Wudhu”, the washing ritual, in preparation for prayer.

A [video clip](#) of special ablutions



Classroom facilities

These rooms are designated for children who attend Arabic classes after school and sometimes at the weekend. Children can partake in these lessons from six when they are ready to learn.

The desks are traditionally used in Muslim settings. Children all sit around the desks, on the floor, and this helps to build stamina and posture needed for prayers.

These classes are not only for the children to learn about Islamic values, but they also promote making a positive contribution to others and their communities e.g. respecting elders, valuing kindness and charity.

Children are encouraged to learn but also teach others about ways of moving forward within the Islamic faith.



Unique features of the mosque

Most mosques have grand domes. Natural lighting is considered when building a mosque, as the concept of light itself is very important in Islam.

In the Quran one description of God is "Light upon Light"

The image on the right shows calligraphy of a prayer meaning "Oh God, I enter your mosque to gain your pleasure and find a beautiful inner peace".

The doors and windows of a mosque are often shaped like a minaret.



Prayer Hall

Muslims attend prayers 5 times a day if they can.

All of the prayer mats face in one direction, towards Makkah (Kabah) in Saudi Arabia.

During prayer the usual position begins with everyone standing in rows shoulder to shoulder, signifying unity and a wall of strength in belief.

At the front of the hall there is a chair called a "mimber" where the "Imam" or leader of the prayer sits to give his sermon. To the right of chair, the Imam stands to lead the prayers.

Most mosques are especially busy at the midday Friday prayers and also in the evenings in the month of Ramadhan.





A [virtual tour](#) of a main prayer hall

Charity within the mosque

Muslims take great pride in giving funds towards the building of their mosque and its interior as they are seen as the house of god.

Contributions towards the prayer mats is particularly desirable, as it is thought to bring rewards as the mats themselves are used for the purpose of prayer.

Sadqah is an optional charity contribution which can be used within the mosque as well as for projects such as providing food, shelter, water to local and worldwide communities.

There is a great reward in helping others in this way. Muslims believe it is one of the direct ways to please god "Allah".





Resources

<https://visitmymosque.org/for-re-teachers/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zj3d7ty/articles/zfwphcw>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/search?q=virtual+tour+mosque>

