Restore England’s First Mosque
Help to refurbish the mosque founded by Abdullah Quilliam 1887

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Inside of England’s first Mosque 1889
About Abdullah Quilliam

William Henry Quilliam, a local Liverpool solicitor and resident embraced Islam in 1887 (aged 31), after returning from a visit to Morocco, and took on the name Abdullah. He claimed that he was the first native Englishman to embrace Islam. His conversion led to a remarkable story of the growth of Islam in Victorian Britain. This history is now beginning to emerge and has important lessons for Muslims in Britain and around the world.

After embracing Islam, Quilliam began a campaign of Dawah, which in the circumstances of Victorian England, has to be described as the most effective in the UK to date. He became an Alim, an Imam and the most passionate advocate of Islam in the Western world. In 1894 Sultan Abdul Hamid II, the last Ottoman Caliph, appointed him Sheikh-ul-Islam of the British isles.

The Emir of Afghanistan recognised him as the Sheikh of Muslims in Britain. He was also appointed as the Persian Vice Counsel to Liverpool by the Shah. He became a prominent spokesman for Islam in the media and was recognised by Muslims around the world. He is the only Muslim in Britain to have officially held the position of Sheikh Ul Islam of Britain. He issued many Fatwas in his capacity as appointed Leader of Muslims in Britain. These fatwas are relevant even today.

He established the Mosque and Liverpool Muslim Institute at No. 8 Broughton Terrace and later purchased the remainder of the terrace, and opened a boarding school for boys and a day school for girls. He also opened an orphanage (Medina House) for non-Muslim children whose parents could not look after them, and agreed to for them to be raised in the values of Islam.

In 1893 the Institute published a weekly magazine, named ‘The Crescent’, and later added the monthly ‘Islamic World’, which was printed on the Institute’s own press and distributed to over 20 countries. The Crescent was published every week from 1893-1908 (nearly 800 editions), and was effectively a diary and record of Islam in Britain and around the world. There are hundreds of archive copies of these magazines in the British Library. Without this unique weekly record we would not know of the existence of this native Muslim community of around 200 people in Liverpool, and many other parts of Britain. These offer the first attempt at Muslim journalism in the UK and offer a unique insight into a British Muslims view of events and issues in Liverpool, the UK and the Muslim world, at a crucial period of Muslims living under colonial rule.

He also wrote and published a number of books. In particular his “Faith of Islam” had three editions translated into thirteen different languages, and was so popular that Queen Victoria ordered a copy and then re-ordered copies for her children. The Institute grew, and at the turn of the century held a membership of 200 prominent English Muslim men, women and children from across the local community. Quilliam’s dawah led to around 600 people in the UK embracing Islam, many of them very educated and prominent individuals in British Society, as well as ordinary men and women. His efforts also led to the first Japanese man embracing Islam.

Quilliam eventually had to leave England after facing hostility and persecution, the first Muslim experience of “Islamophobia” in the UK. He eventually returned to the UK and adopted the name Haroun Mustapha Leon, and passed away in 1932 near Woking, and was buried in Brookfield Cemetery where Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Marmaduke Pickthall and Lord Headly are also buried.

Foreward by the Chair

“Abdullah Quilliam Society was formed with the aim to re-open England’s First Mosque and create an Islamic Heritage Centre in the birthplace of Islam in Victorian Britain. It took us 15 years to finally reopen the original mosque in June 2014. The long struggle and was made possible due to the continued support received from the British Muslim Community.

The interest generated by the local congregation and new visitors coming to the Mosque motivated us to embark on the next stage of development. Work on Islamic education, developing links with Victorian Islamic heritage, inter-faith works, health and wellbeing activities required development of the rest of the Brougham Terraces.

We also felt the need to make this Centre financially more sustainable by creating income streams with the provision of residential accommodations second and attic floors. Our proposed plans are presented in this leaflet.

A major portion of the works are being financed by Quard-e-Hasna (about £175,000) from local Muslims and Halal organisations in UK.

The Abdullah Quilliam Mosque is open to non-Muslims. We have also had a few new converts who took the Shahada in this mosque.

During the Open Mosque Day recently, we had over 100 non-Muslim families visit us.

Welcome to England’s First Mosque which was established in 1889 and re-opened after 106 years of closure. Your support and donations would be a Sadqa-e-Zaria. May Allah reward us all in the hereafter.”

Galib Khan
Chair of Abdullah Quilliam Society

Our Supporters

“I am pleased to give my warm and wholehearted support to the development of the Abdullah Quilliam Heritage Centre. This is a very exciting and innovative project and I believe it can play a valuable part in promoting harmony and understanding between those of different faiths. I believe that only as those of different faiths begin to speak and to work together can there be hope for peace in the world.”

The Rt Revd James Jones
Former Bishop of Liverpool
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Liverpool City Council
Bishop of Liverpool
Duchy of Lancaster

Euro Quality Charitable Trust
Comtechsa
Muslim Council of Britain

Muslim Association of Britain
Islamic Foundation
MEDS
The Abdullah Quilliam Society (AQS) is a UK registered charity founded in 1998 by a small group of Liverpool Muslims, including Dr. Muhammad Akbar Ali, Galib Khan, Zia Choudri, Mrs. Abassi, Somaya and Rashid Macteer. They became aware of a unique heritage of Islam in Victorian Britain, in the city of Liverpool. This history was located in the Liverpool City Council registry office for births, deaths and marriages. This building was once the site of the historic first UK Mosque, Muslim community institutions and Dawah activities of Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam from 1889-1908. Staff at the registry office would often refer to the room where all the files of births, deaths and marriages were stored as 'the little Mosque' without realising the significance or history behind it. So by an amazing coincidence of history, almost every Liverpool resident for a decade has visited this historic building and many have had their marriage ceremony performed in it.

AQS first objective was to obtain possession of the building and restore it back to the original historic mosque. In the year 2000 Liverpool City Council vacated the property and handed it to the AQS and Muslim community to look after and develop. It was handed over in poor condition and in need of renovation. Once the AQS has funds to renovate the building, Liverpool Council will transfer ownership to the Society.

Over the years AQS has given numerous talks on this important history and hosted many visitors and media. The Society has now completely renovated the roof, which was decaying and leaking. The Mosque and remainder of the building still need renovation. The Society has kept this unique history alive through many talks, visits and media interviews. It has also encouraged people to further research this heritage. Last year, a new book was published, "Islam in Victorian Britain: The Life and Times of Abdullah Quilliam" by Professor Ron Geaves. This book gives a unique insight into the building, the life of Sheikh Quilliam and the first established Muslim Community in Britain.

The Society has exciting plans to re-create and develop the First Mosque and the Liverpool Muslim Institute fit for the 21st Century needs in Europe. The principal purpose of this project is to re-create and develop the First Mosque and the Liverpool Muslim Institute. The Phase III proposals of this project proposes development and usage as follows:

**Ground Floor:** Mosque and Heritage Centre including Café and Display Area.
**First Floor:** Educational, Training, and Inter Faith Zone.
**Second Floor:** Residential Accommodations
**Attic Floor:** Residential Accommodations
**Basement Floor:** Health, Fitness and Service Area.
**Rear Garden Area:** Garden and Children's Area.

The future plans of the AQS

The residential accommodation included in this project make the centre financially sustainable and vibrant as well as bringing back accommodation facilities that existed for young people during the time of Abdullah Quilliam.
Donate and save our Heritage
The AQS wants to restore the historic Mosque and its original features. We wish to recreate a library, museum, lecture hall, residences, school and dawah centre. We will create a visitor centre where Muslims and non-Muslims can come to see this historic site and learn about Islam and Muslim history in the UK and Europe.

“Whosoever builds for Allah a masjid, Allah will reward him similar to it in paradise.” (Bukhari)

DIRECT
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Branch Identifier: MIDLGB2139A

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Donate 100% securely on-line using the PayPal online secure platform: www.abdullahquilliam.org/donate

CHEQUE
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8-10 Brougham Terrace, Liverpool, L6 1AE

STANDING ORDER
A Standing Order enables you to make regular donations to The Abdullah Quilliam Society. A standing order form can be obtained from our website: www.abdullahquilliam.org/donate