# KMWALTR

**#001** PROJECT ARK IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

# WHAT IS PROJECT

Project Ark have a pipeline of amazing fundraising projects. We plan to launch over the course of the next few years . p.5

#### WORLD NEWS

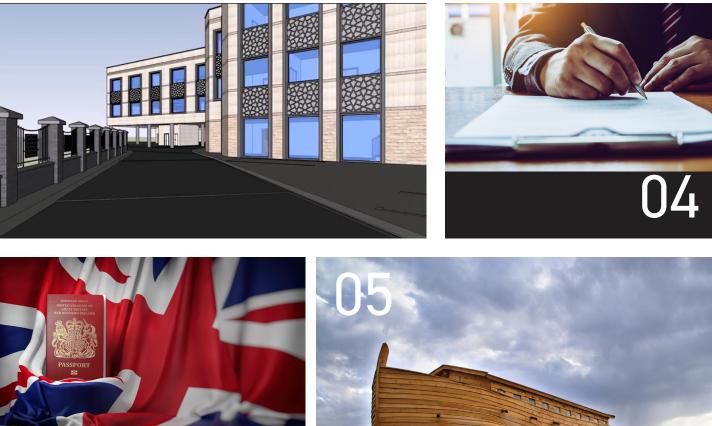
Our segment of current affairs that impacts our community will help gain an understanding of our brothers and sisters around the globe. P.8

#### **DISCUSSION TOPIC**

Every month we have a stimulating topic of discussion that affects the Muslims. You decide which side you stand. p7

### PROJECT ARK IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!

Project ARK is the fundraising project for the new Mosque to help raise £5Million 2 KMWALTR

















## KMWA GENERAL SECRETARY

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wo barakatuhu.

I pray that you and your families are well.

I am really pleased that we have a newsletter whereby we can improve our communication with the community. Please read it and your ideas and help and contributions to it are always welcome.

We have had our challenges with COVID and it seems as though just as we think things are going to become more normal, then another challenge befalls us. These challenges are from Allah and we have to work together to overcome them. COVID rates remain high in Medway and the Masjid is a relatively small building and in busy times such as Salaat ul Jummah it would be sensible and considerate to at least wear a mask. We may find that we have to enforce this as a requirement as this is necessary now in shops and public transport and so please cooperate with us as much as you can.

Our membership has dwindled in the wake of COVID and suspension of Trustees elections for the last two terms but we aim to resume our usual elections next spring in shah Allah. We will post details regarding how to become a member of KMWA in due course with online membership forms. The annual fee is modest -  $\pm 10$  - but we will need to review this. Please renew your membership to have more of a say and become more involved.

Our main focus remains the New Masjid building project. Unfortunately, we have had episodes of recent vandalism and graffiti mainly by youths who gain access via the disused railway track from as far away as Pier Road. We will have to spend some money to secure the site and clean up the mess. If you can contribute towards the cost of this please do so to prevent the house of Allah being disrespected in this way.

May Allah protect and guide us all. Azeem Nader General Secretary KMWA.

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### WHY DID WE CALL IT PROJECT ARK?

When we first started talking about fundraising and the new mosque, the story that came to mind was the story of Nuh AS. Which has so many applicable messages to our project.

The prophet Nuh (known as Noah in English) is an important character in Islamic tradition.

Nuh was called as a Prophet to his people, sharing the universal message of Tawhid: believe in One True God (Allah), and follow the guidance He has given. Nuh preached this message patiently and kindly for many, many years. Nuh's only concern, however, was to help the people and fulfil his responsibility, and so he persevered.

The Ark was a huge ship with no precedence. Nuh, Working and the few believers with him diligently over a great period of time, constructed a huge vessel, very probably unlike anything ever built before or since. Allah alone knows the truth about the magnitude of such a vessel. which he completed despite great difficulty.

People doubted him, said it couldn't be built and didn't get much help from his non Muslim community

We need to look to our own community to help build this New Mosque.

# STANDING ORDER CAMPAIGN



The current climate of the last two years has proved that we need a bigger and better Masjid that better serves the community, in both good times and bad. A place to pray, laugh, seek advice and comfort in trying times.

The current Masjid generates a lot of its funds for the year and for the new Masjid, via attendance. This has been greatly diminished for the last two years.

With changing times KMWA has to adapt to raise funds differently, part of this is the need to ask our community to donate a small amount on a regular basis, so that KMWA can continue raising funds even if people cannot attend the Masjid.

The first of the many planned initiatives is the Standing Order Campaign. Alhamdulillah we are an ever-growing community and as such we are now asking all adult members (male and female) to donate a minimum of £3.50 a week or £15 a month via standing order. If you are able to donate more per month, we encourage you to do so.

While this is a small amount and only equates to the cost of one item of indulgence a week, if all the members donate as a community, as one group, we can achieve greatness.

For example, if we had 3000 people giving £5 a week, that would equate to £780k per year and we can use gift aid to increase that by 20%, which in turn would mean that we could build our Masjid in 3-4 years.

#### Qurbani

Qurbani or Sacrifice is often seen at Eid Ul Adha, as a once in a year occasion. When we read about sacrifice, it means sacrificing animals in the path of Allah in the remembrance of Hazrat Ibrahim AS, who was asked by Allah SWT to slaughter his son Hazrat Isma'il AS. But in the abstract sense, sacrifice in Islam basically means to let go of what you love and are attached to for the sake of Allah SWT.

Sacrifice for the sake of Allah SWT nourishes our Iman and in-

creases our faith in Allah SWT. It is mentioned in the Quran that sacrifice is that key without which closer doors do not unblock. (Surah Al Bagarah)

Sacrifice is the nourishment without which the tiny seeds of Iman will not grow into mighty, leafy trees, providing shade and fruit to the countless caravans of mankind (Ibrahim 14:24-5).

As such I ask you all to sacrifice a little time to firstly talk to your family members about the standing order project and then to fill in using the link below. To sacrifice an indulgence like coffee, cake, toys, games regularly is the true sacrifice of materialistic things so that our Iman can grow.

You can download the Standing Order by scanning the QR code



# WHAT IS PROJECT ARK?



The current climate of the last tivities, such as dinners, sports, two years has proved that we need a bigger and better Masjid that better serves the community, in both good times and bad. A place to pray, laugh, seek advice and comfort in trying times.

The New Medway Jamia Masjid is at a critical stage- the foundations, basement and ground floor slab structure have been completed and we now need to build upwards. The KMWA and amazing community has brought us to this stage. However, at the current rate of money generation, it would take 20 years to complete the Masjid.

The current Masjid generates a lot of its funds for the year and for the new Masjid, via attendance. This has been greatly diminished for the last two years. The pandemic has decimated our community presence and with it the fundraising. Rather than just give up, we have taken this as a test from above of our resolve.

As such, KMWA are very excited to announce the start of The ARK Project @KMWA, which will help raise money and support the building of the new Masjid.

We will be asking individuals and businesses to support the charity. There are also a number of acfestivals and social gatherings that we will call on you to participate in.

We are particularly looking for sisters and young adults to participate in leadership roles in each activity and to setup their own teams. So that we can drive the new Masjid and our community forward.

Project Ark have a pipeline of amazing fundraising projects to help raise the funds. That we desperately need. We plan to launch these campaigns over the course of the next few years and we encourage everyone, man woman and child to participate either with their money, hands or voice.

Project ark are people of experience in industry, technology and proven delivery and have the chairman of KMWA and general secretary that regularly attend the meetings. We are working hand in hand with the KMWA committee. The committee members individually be fully involved with each campaign that we run, and we are fully endorsed by our Imams of Gillingham Mosque.

Please email your details to Ark@kmwa.org.uk and ideas on how you can help.

## CLIMB ABOARD THE ARK

To help raise the fundraising target of £5million, if you can't help with money, we need your time.

Our vision is to create a modern vibrant community, a genuine and attractive alternative to the distractions of Netflix, YouTube and tiktok. Not only for us but for our children too.

We want to be able to dictate the narrative that is given to our children, have a learning and social experience that is far superior to what society and its friends currently offer them. We want to create an Islamic culture that is an easy choice for us, our children and the non Muslims that want to know more about us.

We want you if you are passionate about making the community flourish, bringing your skills, your energy and your creativity to Medway. There is so much low hanging fruit in which you can make a real difference and your efforts can become an ongoing reward for you.

Our near-term goals are to make the newsletter successful, consistent and maintainable.

We need people who can contribute to this newsletter.

Ark are also planning larger scale projects to help raise funds for the new mosque. So your skills in project management and entrepreneurship would be valuable.

We want to utilise technology to the maximum, so any social media savvy people, we even have NFT ideas bubbling away.

So in three simple words We Want You!

Join us on the Ark Team ark@kmwa.org.uk 07957600997



# INDONESIA HAS DECLARED BITCOIN HARAM We look at the arguments for and against.



# **SHOULD BITCOIN BE BANNED?**

# YES

1. NOT PEGGED TO TANGIBLE ASSETS

2. ITS VOLATILITY IS AKIN TO GAMBLING

3. NOT ADOPTED WIDELY AS A CURRENCY

### NO

- **1. BITCOIN IS ANTI INTEREST**
- 2. NOT CENTRALLY REGULATED FOR MANIPULATION
- 3. ITS SUPPLY IS FINITE, UNLIKE FIAT CURRENCY

You must already be aware that cryptocurrency is a digital currency used to buy services and goods digitally. It uses an online ledger that has strong cryptography to keep online transactions secured. Many countries have made it official to do business in cryptocurrency. However, some countries have completely banned the use of Bitcoin and their likes.

Muslim countries, particularly, have reservations about using cryptocurrency. That is why the countries with reservations against this mode of payment have the Islamic countries at the top of the list.

Indonesia has banned the use of cryptocurrency on a state level with a fatwa. It was deemed forbidden by the "National Ulema Council" MUI because a level of uncertainty, harm, and wagering can happen by its use.

However, there is an exception in the rule against cryptocurrency introduced on 11th November 2021 by Asrorun Niam Sholeh. He said that if the currency is used for digital assets and as a commodity for the benefit that abides by Sharia laws, then it can be used for trading. The MUI holds the most weighting in the country for the World's largest Muslim population. Their hold is so widespread that even the finance minister consults them on Islamic finance issues. The Indonesian government has been highly supportive of cryptocurrency, Before the fatwa was issued, the government hoped to introduce cryptocurrency as a mode and form of easily usable currency by the end of the year. Still, now only Rupiah is legally used in the country.

Nevertheless, the noticeable thing is that the decision against cryptocurrency is not against all kinds of cryptocurrency. Instead, it is against Bitcoin. This means that cryptocurrency trading can still happen in Indonesia. However, a ruling or verdict can dissuade Muslims and institutes from investing and using it.

Earlier this year, cryptocurrency was not banned in Indonesia. International transitions for crypto amounted to \$35billion. This amount was just a tiny fraction of global crypto investment, which was \$4.5 trillion, but it was still a big amount from one country in just five months.

This rule against using a digital currency in Indonesia is swerved from the stance of other Muslim countries like Bahrain and the UAE. Because both these countries have given cryptocurrency its place in their economy and allowed people to use and invest in it.

An Islamic interpretation that made millions of Muslims invest in virtual currency was provided by Mufti Muhammad Abu-Bakar, the Sharia advisor of 2018 (former employee of Blossom Finance). His stance was that Bitcoin is halal under Sharia law. Because it is just like other currencies, he gave for crypto to be halal because blockchain's base is anti-interest

In 2017, Nigeria officially banned the use of any type of virtual currency. But later on, a committee was set up by the central bank of Nigeria to look and study the possibility of the country using the virtual currency. But, until a definite decision was taken, the layman was advised against using it.

Similarly, Tanzania's national bank advised the people against using and investing in cryptocurrencies, but they have not made it illegal. And people can use it for legal transactions.

However, UAE is the international hub, along with being a Muslim country, has slightly different rules for the cryptocurrency. They have legalized all kinds of cryptocurrencies officially. They have separate departments which deal with digital money. Since they have people coming in from all over the World, they have kept all the currency options open.

Despite the World moving rapidly towards accepting digital currencies, many Muslims and Islamic countries are still sceptical about it, like Indonesia. An excellent reason for this scepticism is that Muslims must follow the Sharia law set by Allah, the Holy Prophet (SAWW), the Holy Quran, and the Islamic Scholars.

Sheikh Shawki Allam: the grand mufti of Egypt, warned that digital currencies like Bitcoin could be used for fraud, dishonesty, and lack of understanding. This can happen because any solid base does not back the virtual money, and it is also not regulated by any official body. Furthermore, it can also harm communities, people, and institutes.

Similarly, a British Islamic Jurist, Shaykh Haitham al Haddad, said that Bitcoin is not Halal because they don't have any tangible worth. He argues that just like fiat currencies are valueless now after the Bretton-woods agreement for decoupling the dollar from gold. So, it doesn't have any real value or reliability. In the same way, cryptocurrencies are not reliable enough that we heavily invest in them. He is open to accepting cryptocurrency as halal if the evidence is found that it is backed by gold or physical currency. But, until then, it is considered haram.

#### Mufti Billal Omarjee

My view is that Bitcoin in itself is halal to purchase and trade. However, in the UK context, I do not currently see it as a recognised currency from a shariah perspective.

# THE WORLD THIS MONTH

AZEEM RAFIQ TELLS MPS THAT 'INHUMAN' RACIST ABUSE COST HIM CRICKET CAREER

 $\mathbf{\Omega}$ 

Rafiq delivered a damning verdict on the culture of English cricket. He agreed that it was "institutionally racist" and said it needed to face up to an institutional

YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF MALCOLM X, MALIKAH SHABAZZ DIES AGED 56



The youngest child of the iconic African-American Muslim leader and civil rights campaigner El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz – better known as Malcolm X– has been found dead at her home in Brooklyn, New York. Malikah Shabazz, 56, had reportedly been unwell for some time

BRITISH CONSUL GENERAL IN SAUDI ARABIA CONVERTS TO ISLAM

#### BRITISH GOVERNMENT SEEKS WITH-OUT-NOTICE CITIZENSHIP REVOCA-TION POWERS



A clause that was added to a Bill earlier in November, the government seeks to exempt itself from giving any notice to those whom it wishes to strip of their British

#### ERDOĞAN PROMISES "CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC FINANCE"



We are seeking to become one of the important centres in the world with the Istanbul Finance Centre. We want this project to become a centre for Islamic finance as

CALIFORNIA BASED VENTURE CAPI-TAL 500 GLOBAL LOOK TO INVEST IN PAKISTAN START-UPS



In a great initiative by the government of Pakistan to bring closer collaboration between Industry and Academia, special Technology Zones will be setup across the country

A In a tweet, the consul-general said: "I am very happy to return to my favourite city – Madina – and perform the Fajr prayer at the Prophet's Mosque."

#### 10 KMWALTR

### IPAG



Ajaib Hussain and Rizwana Shelley are members of the IPAG (Independent Police Advisory Group) representing KMWA and working closely together for community cohesion with the local Police.

On Tuesday 9th November 2021, Kent Chief Constable Alan Pughsley shared the plans of Kent Police to tackle "violence against women and girls"

The plans are wide ranging and very informative with a lot of good work already being done in this regard

The Chief Constable was made aware of the unacceptable rise in Islamophobic and other hate crime. A lot is done already but a lot more can be done which was acknowledged by the chief inspector; especially on increasing the victim satisfaction levels of hate crime which were 82.2% for various reasons he explained.

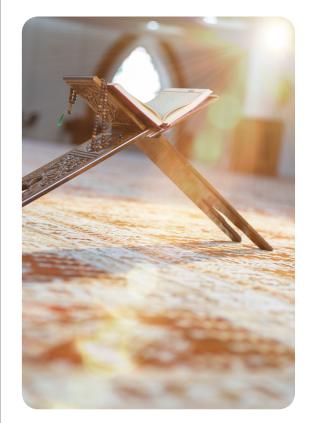
#### **IPAG**

a-hussain@gmx.de 07824445346 Or Rizwana Shelley rizwanashelley@gmail.com 07857 196560

# KMWA ACTIVITIES

We have a number of activities available at the mosque, please get involved.

# **ADULT & YOUTH TAJWEED**



KMWA have been pleased to be running Quran tajweed courses at Gillingham Masjid.

Classes are currently running on Monday and Tuesday evenings in the Masjid.

The course lasts for 6 weeks and is after Isha Prayer between 7pm (at Salaat -ul-Isha) for 1 hour until about 8.15pm.

The classes are taught by Maulana Irfan. It is expected that participants will already be familiar with reading Arabic. We can cater for a maximum of 10 people per course.

Course packs or books are provided on starting the course.

#### The cost of the entire 6 weeks is £30.

After the current courses finish, we will offer new 6 week courses and we hope that these will become regular courses which we offer. If you would like to sign up for a future course or have any questions, please contact Br Azeem.

# SISTER'S TAJWEED CLASS

We are also hoping to start a sister's Tajweed class on Sunday afternoons.

If you have any ideas or educational programmes and courses which you would like to see offered then please let us know.

Br Azeem Nader via WhatsApp/text message only on 07739008000.

AGENDA FOR THE

IN NOV

**Medway Inter Faith** 

Action (MIFA)

**Kent Muslim** 

Welfare Association

(KMWA)

Medway Baha'i

Community

Medway Ahmadiyya

Muslims

Medway Sikh

Community

Chatham Memorial

Synagogue

MIFA

(TBC)

St Margaret's Church

Rainham

INTERFAITH MEETING HELD

One Planet, One People, One Future

Transition into Hereafter

Speaker – Sheikh Abdur Rehman

Abdu'l-Bahá, Champion of universal Peace

Presented by Luz Moshtael and Hugh Hawkins

**Climate Change** 

**COP26 Better Late Than Never** 

Presented by Dr Kulwant Jhita Sing

Friday Evening Service Live broadcast from Chatham Memorial Synagogue

An Open Discussion Evening

(An opportunity for everyone to share stories and take

part and discuss how we can further strengthen the

bond between people of all faiths and none)

Faith and Environment

Rev Nathan Ward, Kayleigh Ward and Liz O'Hanlon

# INTERFAITH

#### **INTERFAITH WEEK 14-23 NOV**

KMWA participated in the event organised by MIFA (Medway Interfaith Action www. medwayinterfaith.org.uk) to promote the Islamic values and bring harmony and understanding in the community.

Ajaib Hussain from KMWA is currently the Chairman of MIFA and can be reached for any further information on this or if you would like to be involved next year.

The full program for the week was done via Zoom and the participation was very good with daily average of 15-20 people in attendance. An excellent delivery of the topics by the speakers and a healthy questions and answer sessions followed.

#### **The Hereafter**

Shiekh Abdhur Rehman representing KMWA, an Imam at HMPS, put a great Islamic perspective on the transition to the hereafter after death and the journey of the soul. As everyone has been touched or impacted by COVID-19 this was a great reminder and education for every one of the Muslim beliefs

#### MIFA

www.medwayinterfaith.org.uk ajaib@medwayinterfaith.org.uk 07824445346

### **FOOD VOLUNTEERS**

KMWA and Magdalene Ministry Church in Chatham have been working together for over a year to take leftover or perishable food from the Co-ops in Gillingham, Strood, Rochester, Chatham, and Sittingbourne to shelter homes and homeless needy people in the Medway Towns.

Sister Dr Rizwana Shelly has been the main coordinator, organiser, and driver from the KMWA side and Councillor Lady Lola from the Magdalene Ministry side.

This is a wonderful and very rewarding collaboration between the Masjid, Church and Co-Ops. It shows how; when the community pulls together, great things can be achieved, not just to feed the needy but in many other important projects too. Every week a rota is put together by sister Rizwana and volunteers from the community from all walks of life pick up the bags of food from the various participating Co-Ops in Medway and deliver the food to the allocated drop-off points.

#### Come and Help

May Allah (swt) reward all the volunteers and their families for doing this noble work. There are over 60 Volunteers in the WhatsApp group. If anyone is interested to participate, please contact sister Rizwana.

**Rizwana Shelley** 

rizwanashelley@gmail.com 07857 196560



An example of how much food on a daily basis KMWA have helped take to the homeless needy people of Medway.

### BLESSINGS OF IMAMS

An imam is an exalted leadership position in the Islamic faith. The imam provides council, guidance, inspiration and spiritual education. In addition to providing leadership to individuals, he also provides social and political leadership for the practice of Islam.

The list of imam's duties is extensive. Days are spent leading prayers at the mosque, visiting the sick, advising a family in crisis, educating youth on the ways of Islam, and officiating a wedding, funeral or other solemn occasion.

"PROPHET MUHAM-MAD SAID "THE BEST OF YOU ARE THOSE WHO LEARN THE QURAN AND TEACH IT TO OTH-ERS" – NARRATED BY 'UTHMAN SAHIH BUKHARI 5027 ان کےعقائدقرآن وسنت-گی کےمطابق درست کیے جائیں، سلف صالحین کے طور طریقوں سے ان کو اشنا کیا جائے، اور بدعات مالک، شافعی، ادمد) کی پیروی کی تلقین کی جائے، اور ان لوگوں کی مجالس اور پروگراموں میں جائے سےرو کا جائے جوبچوں کو

بیاولاد کیتربیتسے اورانلوگ چنداہمنکاتپیش اورپروگر تبیں سےروکا ماتھدینی تعلیم کے-کی سلف ماتھدینی تعلیم کابھی اوران انتظام کیاجائے،ان کو کےدلود نہ کیاجائے،بلکہان کو دہشت؟

ولادكى

# **ASK THE IMAM**

**إہو ک** 

۵ **لا ک** 

**ی ٹھنڈک** 

ىاولادكوب

بنائر امين

وة،حجوغيره)كاپابند

WE WANT TO BRING ACCESSIBILITY OF THE IMAMS TO YOU, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE IMAMS, THEN PLEASE SEND IN YOUR QUESTIONS TO **ARK@KMWA.ORG.UK** AND WE WILL PUB-LISH YOUR QUESTION ALONG WITH THE ANSWER IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

# IMAM ZAHOOR

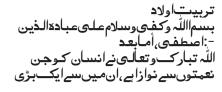


س*ک*اتوپھریہبگڑیاولاداس کےلیےدنیا واخرتمیںرسوائی کاسبب ہوگی۔

ایک حدیث میںوار دیے کہر سول اللّٰہ : صلی اللّٰہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا والد کا اپنی اولاد کے لیے حسن ادب (اچھی تربیت) سے بڑھ کر کَوئی تحفہ (نہیں۔ (جامع الترمذی:گی 9ی

انسان کےلیےفتنہ(آزمانش)قراردیاگیاہے ((سورۃالتغابِن:ٹی) یانسان اگراپنی اولاد کی چھی کے ان کونیک اور اچھاانسان اولاداس

اورسعادتِدارین کاذریعہبنےگی،لیکن بدقسمتیسےاگرادمیاولاد کیترہیت میںاپنیذمہداریاںپوریطرحادانہ کر



،نعمت اولادبھی ہے لیکن یہ ی اولاد اگر بگڑ جاہے تو پھر والدین کےلیے اس سے بڑھ کر کوئی در دِسَر نہیں۔ اس لیے قرآن مجیدمیں اولاد کو

# YOU ARE INVITED TO CHAI / COFFEE

# CHAI / COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISER THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER

ARK PROJECT WITH KMWA IS ARRANGING AN INFORMAL CHAI MORNING REASONABLY PRICED SNACKS AND TEA

TIME: 9.30AM -12.30PM LOCATION: ST MARYS ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE ST MARY'S ISLAND CHATHAM ME4 3EP

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO HELP OR USE YOUR BAKING SKILLS CONTACT ATIF ON 07957600997 OR ARK@KMWA.ORG.UK

# CONTACT US FOR ADVERTISING

WE ONLY NEED ENOUGH TO COVER THE COST OF PRINTING

#### Your Voice

Be heard and have your say!

#### Your Mosque

Please offer any suggestions on how the mosque can be improved.

#### Your feedback

We want to improve, and we desperately need your feedback

Your Time Please get in touch if you have some time to spare

#### Your Engagement

If you can offer any contribution to the newsletter, please get in touch we would love to feature you or your activity. Promote, develop and foster the community EDITOR: Fayaz Iqbal

#### www.kmwa.org.uk ark@kmwa.org.uk