

KMWAALTR

#004

PREPARE FOR RAMADAN

KNOW YOUR TRUSTEES

Find out a bit more about the trustees that govern KMWA. P.6

SURVEY RESULTS

Have a read through the results of our survey. P.10

RAMADAN

Are you ready for the blessed month? P.12



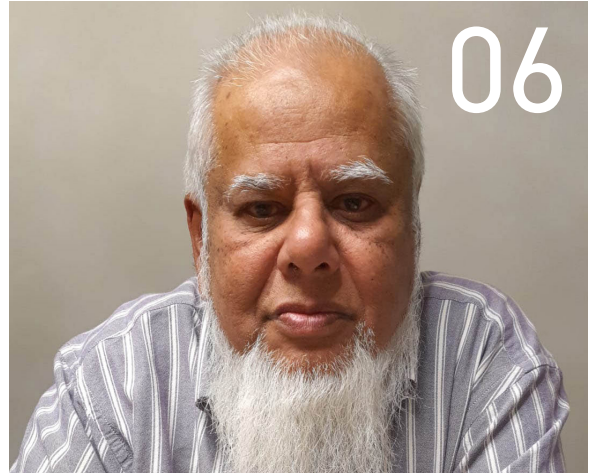
Ramadan is upon us

Lets make this the best ramadan ever!

04



06





KMWA GENERAL SECRETARY

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu.

We have had a busy month where we have hosted Kuwaiti embassy officials, reached out to the community, helped organise a careers event, continued with our usual and volunteer services. Been part of the film 'We are Med-way' showcased in Rochester. Started preparing the New Masjid site for ground works in preparation for building the framework as well as dealing with unexpected storm damage.

We are gearing up for Ramadan and our target is to raise £100,000.00 during this month to take us a step closer to raising enough money to start the next phase of building. Many people do not realise the extent of the building work carried out so far.

Our aim is to encourage and motivate people by arranging guided tours of the New Masjid site between 10.00am and 12.00pm every Friday in Ramadan. This will give an idea as to what the scale of the building will be. We hope that people will be motivated and encouraged by this. May Allah guide us and have mercy on us.

Azeem Nader
General Secretary KMWA.

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THE JOURNEY TO THE NEW MOSQUE SO FAR

One of the many questions that we receive, is how has the donations been used so far and what has the money been spent on. Sometimes this is from new members to the community or members who can't regularly attend the mosque. This information has been widely published and distributed, it is also displayed on the Mosque notice board as well. For new and old members that don't know the history we have decided to do a series, of articles over the next few months, on the build to date.

Kent Muslim Welfare Association was formed in the early - mid 1970s and its primary purpose was to provide worship for the Muslim community of Kent. The members of the organisation acquired an old Irish drinking club in the 1970's and renovated it to form the Mosque, which we still use today. It has been expanded and renovated over the years to utilize all the existing land space and we have now reached a point where we cannot expand the Mosque anymore.

The Board of Trustees had continually approached the local authorities, requesting relative improvement in the provision of facilities to cater for their social and cultural needs.

A report was commissioned by the late **Syed Ikram Ali**, which explored the possibility of expanding the existing Masjid or moving, the conclusion was that we had to move and that the building could not be ex-

panded. The council would not for example allow us to build another floor on top.

The first presentation was to the Kent County Council Commissioners for Social Services on 27 September 1994 at the current Mosque. The plan was accepted and referred to the Finance and Scrutiny Committee. The Finance and Scrutiny Committee approved the proposal on 22 October 1995 and the Commissioners gave their final approval. They also allocated emergency funds for hiring an additional premise to supplement the deficient facility while search for a suitable site/building continued. The case had been put to the Mayor and any other dignitaries but this had little impact.

It was the late Ali Sahib that spearheaded this plan. Although it proved unfruitful in the end, it was pivotal in starting the motions and conversations that KMWA needed to have.

In the year 2000 the Medway Council became proactive and the search for an appropriate site/building was vigorously resumed. It remained on the agenda of monthly meetings of the Community Cohesion Committee headed by the Chief Executive of the Council. KMWA served as a full member on the committee.

Around 2004 we met with the then chief executive, Judith Armitt. At the time and had put together a document for them. Other representatives from lo-

cal Mosques also attended and the case was successfully made.

The Council started to try to identify areas of land close to the Masjid in Gillingham that could be used. Most were really inappropriate and so it seemed as though this approach was not going to lead to a positive result. After a chance meeting with an ex Councillor in East London, we changed our approach to lobbying the representative Councillors' from each party.

This took a series of meetings whereby the Councillor was shown around the Mosque and we highlighted our issues with the space.

After adopting this approach KMWA were asked to a meeting, with Sir Rodney Chambers and Allan Jarrett, who were the heads of the property portfolio at Medway Council. We were able to discuss our needs with them.

A week later, In 2008. The Land at Railway Street known as Croneen Car Park was identified by the Council and was put up for disposal (via sale) on the open market.

We had to bid in a sealed bids process which in itself required a lengthy report, justification and demonstration of employment etc.

On 15th September 2008, the Medway Council informed us that the disposal of the land had been

approved by the Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee subject to amongst other terms, "adequate replacement of the loss of public parking within the area being obtained, prior to the disposal". The decision of the Committee was approved by the cabinet and forwarded to the Department of Regeneration Community and Culture for provision of alternative public parking. We understand that the Planning Permission for the replacement car park has been granted thus avoiding a net loss in parking. At this stage our offer for an option to purchase the land for £450,000.00 (negotiated down from £520,000.00) was accepted.

As part of this we had to seek pre planning advice and table an outline design for the mosque, which incurred fees of £68066.60.

To get to the planning permission stage, we employed the services of a team of architects, structural engineers, quantity surveyors, mechanical engineers and building control services so that we have been able to proceed from the design phase to the construction phase. Our total costs for this stage amounted to around £264,190.18.

On the 15th August 2014 we were granted planning permission with conditions

to build the Mosque, under planning reference MC/13/0102.

In April 2016, the land was purchased for £469,643.00 (including fees).

We then had to refine our design and dispose of some of the conditions under a further application, this was done and approved, un-

der planning reference MC/16/4403 on the 21st May 2017.

As you can see it took great many years and a combined effort of the late Anwar Khan, Issa Rumjaun and Azeem Nader, to get us to the stage of where we had the land and could start

building. At this stage KMWA had spent £801,899.78, and were ready to start building the new Mosque.

89 / 1000

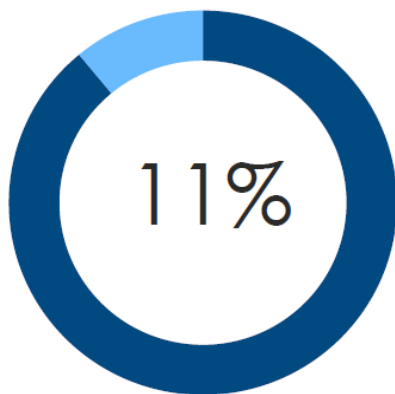
As of Jan 2022, we had 89 standing orders of the target of 1000. If you haven't setup a standing order, please use the form on the last page.

Our aim at ARK is to increase this total tenfold, which means that the standing orders will need to increase.

FUNDRAISING PROGRESS

KMWA ARK FUNDRAISING SUMMARY FOR JANUARY 2022

Percentage of Monthly target



Summary

MONTHLY DONATION TARGET

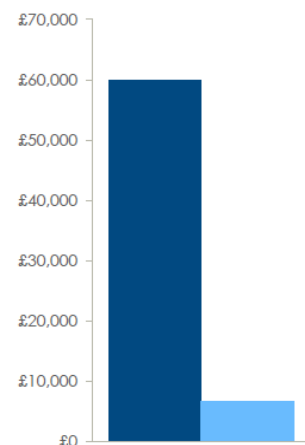
£60,000

TOTAL MONTHLY DONATIONS

£6,601

SHORTFALL

£53,399



Monthly Target
Total Monthly Donations

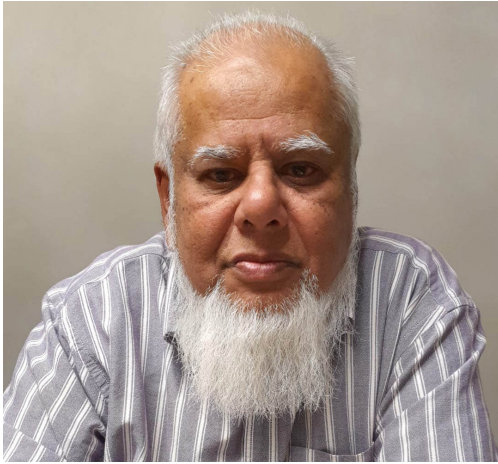
Monthly Target

ITEM	AMOUNT
Donation Target	£60,000.00
Other	

Monthly Donations

CAMPAIGN	AMOUNT
Standing Orders	£2,569.96
Jumma Collections	£3,711.11
Coffee Afternoon	£320.00

ASK THE TRUSTEES



ISSA RUMJAUN

Q What is your favourite story from the Quran?

I really enjoyed the story of Ibrahim (AS) when he destroyed the idols because of the way they he (AS) got the elders and the leaders of the community to their logic to the problem presented to them to question why they are committed to worshipping something that wouldn't benefit them.

Q What is your role as a trustee?

I am the Chairman of KMWA

Q What have you been most passionate about within KMWA?

I am most passionate about the work done to get the mosque build to this stage, all the way from inception to the current state. I am also glad I was involved with establishing a successful sisters circle at the mosque.

Q What is your 5 year Vision for the Gillingham community?

I see in 5 years that we would have a fully united community, and be able to fully support and welcome every nationality into the fold of the mosque. I am also working towards developing a number of Hafiz from within the Gillingham madrasa within 5 years.

Q Where can KMWA improve in supporting the community?

Engaging the community much more closely, one of the strategies I am supporting is a KMWA Surgery to address the communities needs.

Q How can the community support KMWA?

By getting to know who the trustees are and be able to contact them and engage them.

I am always available and you can email and call me for any of your community needs.

KNOW YOUR TRUSTEES

AZEEM NADIR

20 YEARS AS GENERAL SECRETARY
GENERAL DENTAL SURGEON

ISSA RUMJAUN

25 YEARS AS CHAIRMAN
RETIRED NURSING

SAJID KHAN

12 YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
TAXI DRIVER

CHAUDHRY BASHIR AHMED

25+ YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
RETIRED RETAIL

EMANUL HOQUE

15 YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
KMWALTR IMAM

AGAH NAEEM KHAN

12 YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
TOOL SETTER

RIZWAN CHOWHAN

12 YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
BUSINESS MANAGER

AMIR A QURESHI

15 YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
RETIRED TOWN PLANNER

WASEEM MIRZA

5 YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
ACCOUNTANT

ZAKI A RAWFY

9 YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
NETWORK ENGINEER

SHERBAZ KHAN

25+ YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
RETIRED FACTORY WORKER

MAJID ARSHAD

5 YEARS AS A TRUSTEE
DRIVING INSTRUCTOR

CO-ORDINATORS

AJAIB HUSSAIN

8 YEARS AS A CO-ORDINATOR
ELECTRONICS CONSULTANT

RIZWANA SHELLY

15 YEARS AS A CO-ORDINATOR
RETIRED MAGISTRATE

THE BOOK CORNER:

5 children's books about Ramadan and Eid



We'll recommend books by and about Muslims to add to your reading list. First up, these five books are great for teaching children - Muslim and non-Muslim - about Ramadan and Eid.

Ramadan Around the World by Ndaa Hassan

This picture book introduces children to how Muslims from a variety of countries and cultures mark Ramadan.

£18.99, Anafiya Gifts

The Most Exciting Eid by Zeba Talkhani, illustrated by Abee-ha Tariq

A beautiful picture book about a little girl who doesn't want to share a bike on Eid, but who soon learns the value of kindness.

£6.99, Scholastic

Ramadan Moon by Na'ima B. Robert and Sharon All

This lyrical picture book follows the journey of the moon over Ramadan and shows why the month is so special for Muslims.

£6.99, Frances Lincoln Children's Books

Baby Touch: Happy Eid!

This touch and feel board book will engage a baby's senses while introducing them to Eid.

£5.99, Ladybird

All About Eid by Sarah Shaffi, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel

This activity book includes recipes and crafts, as well as facts about Ramadan and Eid.

£6.99, Scholastic

A TWIST ON DATES

There are few things better than opening a fast with a date, but if you're looking to do something a bit different - perhaps you want a change or are planning on delivering treats to family and friends - here are four quick suggestions for a twist on plain dates. Use one, or mix a couple of the ideas to create your own twist.

For all the following, you will need to take the stones out of your dates first - but only cut from one side so your dates remain in one piece rather than being cut in half.

Go for a chocolate coating

Melt some chocolate (white, dark or milk) and then dip your dates in it. Leave to cool and set before doing anything with them. And while it might be tempting to coat the whole date in chocolate, just doing half will be more visually striking. If you have a really, really sweet tooth, you can also use caramel in place of the chocolate.

Add walnuts

Dates are wonderfully soft, but if you want to add a contrasting texture, put a walnut half where the stone would be. Alternatively, you can use whole pistachios or almonds.

Stuff with peanut butter

The sweetness of dates can be offset a little by stuffing them with a nut butter. You can stick with standard peanut butter (crunchy or smooth, whatever you prefer) or, if you want something a bit different or have a peanut allergy, you can use almond, cashew or another nut butter.

Use coconut

Desiccated coconut can transform a date when used in conjunction with melted chocolate or a nut butter. If pairing with the chocolate, sprinkle over while the chocolate is still warm to ensure it sticks.



CLASSES AT GILLINGHAM MOSQUE

KMWA is pleased to be running a Quran tajweed course for ladies - at Gillingham Masjid.

Classes will run on SUNDAYS in the Masjid

They will be every Sunday for one hour between 1pm and 2pm.

They will start from Sunday 9th January 2022 in shah Allah.

It is expected that participants will already be familiar with reading the Quran.

If you would like to sign up for this course or have any questions, please contact or leave your details with

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

NEW TAJWEED & AQEEDAH CLASSES AT GILLINGHAM MASJID

KMWA is pleased to be running a second course that will cover Quran tajweed as well as Aqeedah for boys (aged 11 to 18) at Gillingham Masjid.

Classes will run on Monday evenings in the Masjid

They will be every Monday night for six weeks after Isha Prayer between 7pm (at Salaat -ul-Isha) for one hour until about 8.15pm.

They will run from Monday 10th January 2022 for six weeks inshAllah.

It will be a six week course with classes taught by Maulana Irfan.

It is expected that participants will already be familiar with reading Arabic.

KUWAIT VISIT

We have hosted representatives from the Kuwait embassy and had a productive meeting.



STORM EUNICE

Assalamu alaikum.

On Friday 18th February, storm Eunice hit the UK leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.

There were many trees, fences and roofs uprooted and displaced. Included in the statistics will be the fencing around the new Masjid site which was an early casualty on Friday morning.

It was a miracle that no cars in the adjacent car park were damaged or no person was hurt.

We were already concerned that this may happen and our worse fears were confirmed.

The conditions over the weekend were difficult and dangerous, yet something had to be done. We were already in the process of improving and repairing the fencing

around other parts of the perimeter. We also had delivered about £7000.00 worth of materials to make a scaffolding tower to cover over a large hole forming part of the central structure. We needed to make the site as safe as possible in order for us to continue with the work.

With a difficult situation under difficult conditions, members of our community and our Trustees stepped up to repair the fencing making it much stronger than before. They even guarded the open site at night to ensure that the new materials were not stolen.

It was an amazing effort by a few people who worked so hard in difficult conditions.

May Allah reward them for all their sacrifice as this was not easy to do. We are lucky to have such people in our community.



LIGHTS FESTIVAL ROCHESTER

LIGHTS FESTIVAL

This year on February 11th-12th Rochester lit up with Medway Lights Festival transforming Rochester's historic iconic buildings and spaces into works of art. KMWA's Azeem Nader, Rizwana Shelly and Ajaib Hussain participated with a discussion on what makes Medway great and beautiful and what we love about it. It was fantastic to see the whole community come together in praise of Medway from young

to old who have arrived in the UK and are trying to build a better life.

International Holocaust Memorial Day

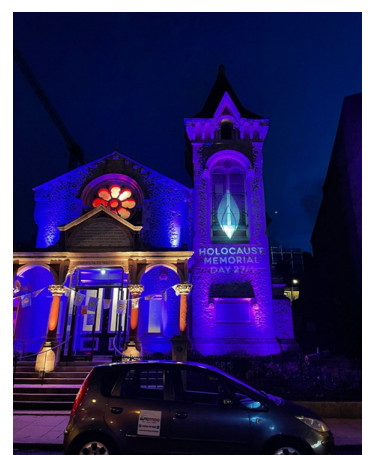
Every year the International Holocaust Memorial Day is held on the 27th January and remembrance services are held locally, alternating between the Chatham Memorial Synagogue and Rochester Cathedral.

As well as prayers, exhibitions, and poems there are also plays by school children to commemorate and remember not only the Holocaust atrocities and persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany during World War II but also the recent genocides that have happened in Darfur, Bosnia, Cambodia, Rohingya Muslims in Burma/Myanmar and more recently the Uyghur Muslims genocide/persecution in China.

If you would like to support more of these humanitarian activities,

Please get in touch with Ajaib Hussain:

a-hussain@gmx.de, 07824445346



WHAT IS THIS SURVEY

KMWA have a commitment to serve the Medway Muslim community for their community needs. We are ready to facilitate these activities for the community.

We Asked

We are reaching out to you to discover what is in real need for the community, and what services that you want us to provide for you. The community was asked to indicate their needs and these results indicate their needs

KMWA need to deliver

The trustees have been informed and some of these projects are already in the pipeline. This opens up to pathway for more and more activities.

Important note: These services will be delivered based on resource and demand. We have a great delivery team now and their function is to enable these projects.

We are also looking to increase our grant funding applications to ensure we have the resources.

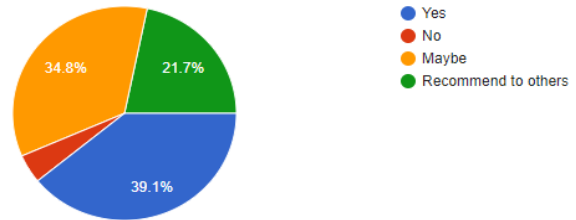
If anyone wants to get any project they feel is needed for the community please get in touch, our doors and ears are open.

KMWA SURVEY RESULTS

KMWA Counselling

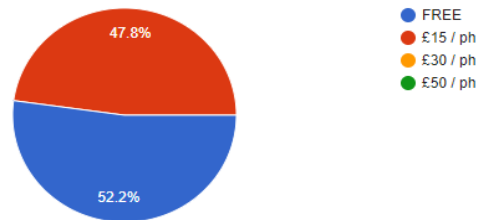
Is a confidential counselling / therapy service something you would use

23 responses



How much would you pay for the service

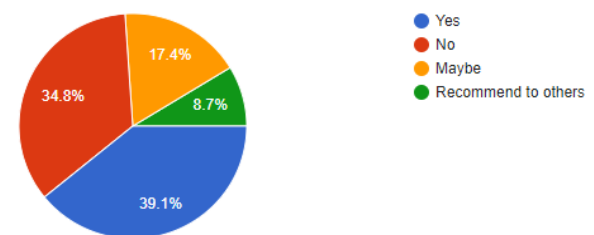
23 responses



KMWA Tuition

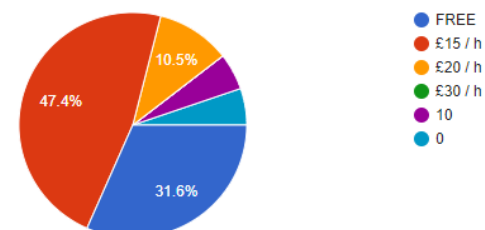
Is a Tuition Service something you would use

23 responses



How much would you pay for the service

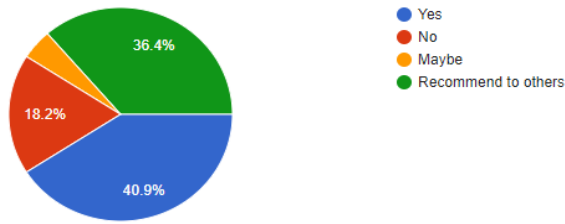
19 responses



KMWA Mother and Toddler group

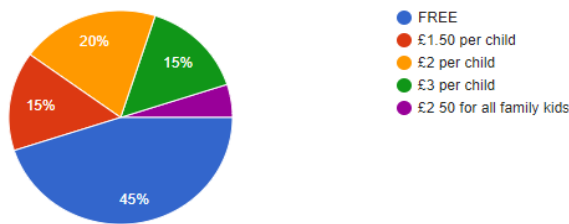
Is a mother and toddler group something you would use?

22 responses



How much would you pay for the service

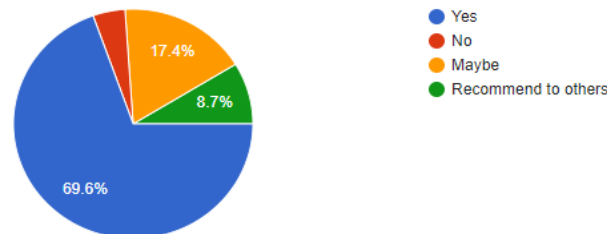
20 responses



KMWA Surgery

Is a free surgery something you would use?

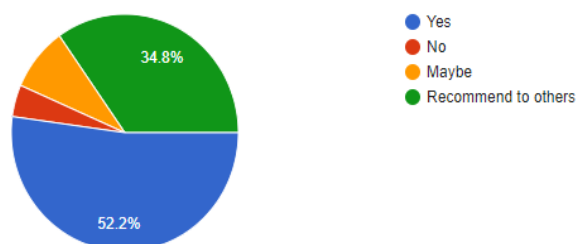
23 responses



KMWA Sisters Coffee Morning

Is a sisters coffee morning something you would use?

23 responses



SURVEY SUMMARY

From these results we can clearly see that there is a demand for additional services for KMWA to provide.

Confidential Therapy/ Counselling services.

Having good mental health of our community allows the space for everyone to function at a more productive level.

Totalling up the number of people who would use it or recommend someone to use it comes to over 60% of respondents.

KMWA Surgery

Having someone to turn to when you are in trouble is the cornerstone of the surgery and a whopping 70% of respondents would love to come to a regular surgery at the Mosque.

Sisters Events

With sisters of the community totalling up to 50% of the population, they are the backbone of our community and they will nurture the future attendance of the Mosque.

We surveyed the demand for a number of activities for sisters for coffee mornings, and mother and toddler groups and there was significant demand for these.

Why is Ramadan so special?

By Molana Irfan



Ramadan is so special

Ramadan is one of the most significant month in the Islamic calendar (Hijri) and it is obligatory for Muslims to fast in this month. Here is why Ramadan is so special;

- Holy Quran was first revealed in the month of Ramadan.
- Fasting in the month of Ramadan is the fourth Pillar of Islam among the five.
- Fasting helps to attain Taqwa (performing of actions which please Allah and abstaining from those actions that displease Him).
- Ramadan is known to be the month of Quran. It is highly recommended in Ramadan to read and study the Holy Quran and to share with others.
- The Night of Decree or The Night of Power (Laylat al-Qadr) is in this month, which is better than a thousand months.
- In this Holy month, the gates of Paradise are opened, gates of Hell are closed and the devils are chained up.
- Umra'h (shorter/minor pilgrimage) in Ramadan is equivalent to Hajj (major pilgrimage).
- Muslims observe I'tikaaf (resid-

ing in the mosque for worship) in Ramadan especially in the last 10 days of this Holy month.

- It is very rewarding act in Ramadan to offer Iftaar (sunset meal to break the fast) to those who are fasting.
- It is also highly recommended to give Zakat (obligatory charity – 2.5% of wealth/savings/assets) and Sadaqah (voluntary charity) in Ramadan.
- It is said in an authentic Hadith of Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) that fasting in the Ramadan sincerely out of faith and in the hope of reward, we will be forgiven all our previous sins, provided the major sins are not committed.

A good deed is multiplied manifold in the month of Ramadan.

Qur'an in the Month of Ramadan

The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey – then an equal number of other days. Allah intends

for you ease and does not intend for your hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful. [Quran 2:185]

Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree. And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn. [Quran 97:1-5]

HADITHS ABOUT THE RAMADAN

It was narrated that Abu Hurairah said: "The Messenger of Allah said: 'Whoever fasts Ramadan out of faith and in the hope of reward, he will be forgiven his previous sins.'"

[Sunan an-Nasa'i Book-22 Hadith-116]

Narrated Abu Huraira:

I heard Allah's Messenger saying regarding Ramadan, "Whoever prayed at night in it (the month of Ramadan) out of sincere Faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his previous sins will be forgiven."

[Sahih al-Bukhari Book-31 Hadith-1]

Narrated **Abu Huraira:**

Allah's Messenger said, "When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of the heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are chained."

[Sahih al-Bukhari Book-30 Hadith-9]

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

Messenger of Allah said, "The five (daily) Salah (prayers), and from one Jumu'ah prayer to the (next) Jumu'ah prayer, and from Ramadan to Ramadan are expiations for the (sins) committed in between (their intervals); provided the major sins are not committed".

[Sahih Muslim Book-1 Hadith-130]

Narrated **`Aisha:**

Allah's Messenger used to practice I'tikaf in the last ten nights of Ramadan and used to say, "Look for the Night of Qadr in the last ten nights of the month of Ramadan."

[Sahih al-Bukhari Book-32 Hadith-7]

Umm Ma'qil narrated that:

The Prophet said: "Umrah during Ramadan is equal to Hajj."

[Jami' at-Tirmidhi Book-9 Hadith-132]

It was narrated that Ibn **'Umar** said: "The Messenger of Allah enjoined the Zakah of Ramadan on everyone, young and old, free and slave, male and female, a Sa of dates or a Sa of

barley."

[Sunan an-Nasa'i Book-23, Hadith-0]

Narrated **`Aisha:**

Allah's Messenger said, "Whoever died and he ought to have fasted (the missed days of Ramadan) then his guardians must fast on his behalf."

[Sahih al-Bukhari Book-30, Hadith-59]

Abu Ayub narrated that:

the Messenger of Allah said: "Whoever fasts Ramadan, then follows it with six from Shawwal, then that is (equal in reward) to fasting every day."

[Jami' at-Tirmidhi Book-8 Hadith-78]

By Molana Irfan



MOTHER'S DAY IS EVERYDAY.

When you were **1 year old**, she fed you and bathed you. You thanked her by crying all night long.

When you were **2 years old**, she taught you to walk. You thanked her by running away when she called.

When you were **3 years old**, she made all your meals with love. You thanked her by tossing your plate on the floor.

When you were 4 years old, she gave you some crayons. You thanked her by coloring the dining room table.

When you were **5 years old**, she dressed you for the holidays. You thanked her by plopping into the nearest pile of mud.

When you were **6 years old**. She walked you to school. You thanked her by screaming. "I'M NOT GOING.!"

When you were 7 years old, she bought

you a baseball. You thanked her by throwing it through the next-door-neighbour's window.

When you were **8 years old**, she handed you an ice cream you thanked her by dripping it all over your lap.

When you were **12 years old**, she warned you not to watch certain TV shows. You thanked her by waiting until she left the house.

When **you were 13**, she suggested a haircut that was becoming. You thanked her by telling her she had no taste.

When **you were 14**, she paid for a month away at summer camp. You thanked her by forgetting to write a single letter.

When **you were 15**, she came home from work, looking for a hug. You thanked her by having your bedroom door locked.

When **you were 16**, she taught you how to drive her car, you thanked her by taking it every chance you could.

When **you were 17**, she was expecting an important call. You thanked her by being on the phone all night.

When **you were 18**, she cried at your high school graduation. You thanked her by staying out partying until dawn.

When **you were 19**, she paid for your collage tuition, drove you to campus, carried your bags. You thanked her by saying good-bye outside the dorm so you wouldn't be embarrassed in front of your friends.

When **you were 20**, she asked whether you were seeing anyone. You thanked her by saying, "IT'S none of your business."

When **you were 21**, she suggested certain careers for your future. You thanked her by saying, "I don't want to be like you."

When **you were 22**, she hugged you at your college graduation. You thanked her by asking whether she could pay for a trip to Europe.

When **you were 23**, she gave you furniture for your first apartment. You thanked her by telling your friends it was ugly.

When **you were 24**, she met your fiancé and asked about your plans for the future. You thanked her by glaring and growling, "Muu-hh-ther, please!"

When **you were 25**, she helped to pay for your wedding, she cried and told you how deeply she loved you. You thanked her by moving halfway across the country.

When **you were 30**, she called with some advice on the body. You thanked her by telling her, "Things are different now."

When **you were 40**, she called to remind you of a relative's birthday. You thanked her by saying you were "really busy right now."

When **you were 50**, she fell ill and needed you to take care of her. You thanked her by reading about burden parents had become to their children.

And then, one day, she quietly died. And everything you never did came crashing down like thunder... ah, if only.....

IF YOUR ARE LUCKY AND SHE'S STILL AROUND, MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR HER- AND THANK HER PROPERLY...

Muawiyah-bin-Ja'hema(R.A.) reported that Ja'hema(R.A.) came to the messenger (sallallahu alaihi wassallam) and said: "O Messenger of Allah! I intend to join a battle and have come to you for consultation".He(Sallallahu alaihi wassallam) enquired: "Have you got a mother?", "Yes", replied he. He (sallallahu alaihi wassallam) said: "Keep near her, because paradise is at her feet." (AHMED, NISAI, BAIHAQI)

Extracts from Inspirations by Molana Irfan

The Significance of Sha'bān

Sha'bān, the eighth Islamic month is second only to Ramadān in virtue, blessings and greatness. It is due to this virtue and greatness that the Prophet sallallāhu 'alayhi wasallam used to emphasise its importance not only verbally but practically too.

Ā'ishah radhiyallāhu 'anhā narrates, "Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wasallam used to fast till we would say that he would never stop fasting and he would abandon fasting till we would say that he would never fast. I never saw Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wasallam fasting for a whole month except the month of Ramadān and did not see him fasting in any month more than in the month of Sha'bān." (Bukhārī, Muslim, Abū Dāwūd, Nasa'ī)

Ā'ishah radhiyallāhu 'anhā narrates, "Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wasallam used to fast the (whole) month of Sha'bān except for a few days." (An-Nasa'ī)

Usāmah radhiyallāhu 'anhu asked, "O Rasūlullāh! I do not see you fasting in any month as much as in Sha'bān." He replied, "It is a month people are negligent of between Rajab and Ramadān. It is a month in which deeds are raised towards the Lord of the worlds. Therefore, I like my deeds to be raised whilst I am fasting." (An-Nasa'ī)

Fifteenth of Sha'bān

Amongst the days and nights of Sha'bān, there is one night called Laylat-al-Barā'at or Shabe Barā'at, a night noted for its great blessings and virtues. The Glorious Qur'ān describes it as the blessed night.

Lo! We revealed it on a blessed night. (44:3)

According to 'Ikrimah radhiyallāhu 'anhu and a group of mufasssīrīn, the 'blessed night' referred to in this verse is the fifteenth night of Sha'bān.

Fortunate indeed are those who attain the full blessings and benefits of this night by spending it in performing good and refraining from evil. One must strive his utmost to attend to 'ibādah (worship) in this auspicious night as this night indeed is a great favour of Allāh ta'ālā for the believers. There are a number of ahādīth in regard to this night.

(1) 'Alī radhiyallāhu 'anhu narrates that Rasūlullāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wasallam said, "When it is the fifteenth of Sha'bān, then stand (in worship) at night and fast during the day. Because Allāh ta'ālā descends in this night at sunset to the first heaven and says: 'Is there any seeker of forgiveness, that I may forgive him? Is there any seeker of sustenance, that I may sustain him? Is there anyone in affliction, that I may remove his affliction? Is there anyone like this, like that (and so on)'. This continues until Fajr." (Ibn Mājah)

(2) Abū Mūsā Al-Ash'arī radhiyallāhu 'anhu narrates that the Messenger of Allāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wasallam said, "In the fifteenth night of Sha'bān, Allāh ta'ālā manifests and forgives all His creation except for the Mushrik (idolater) and the spiteful." (Ibn Mājah)

(3) Ā'ishah radhiyallāhu 'anhā narrates: "The Messenger of Allāh sallallāhu 'alayhi wasallam came to me (one night) and took off his clothes, but he had hardly sat down when he got up again, put on his clothes and left. A strong ghayrah (sense of honour and self-respect) overtook me as I thought he was going to one of his other wives. I followed him and found him in the graveyard of Baqī' seeking forgiveness for believing men and women and the martyrs. I said (to myself), 'May my parents be sacrificed for you. You, (the Prophet) are in want of your Lord and I am in want of the world.'

I returned to my room (quickly) and I was breathless. The Prophet sal-

lallāhu ‘alayhi wasallam arrived shortly and said, ‘Why are you breathless, O ‘Ā’ishah?’ I said, ‘May my parents be sacrificed for you. You came to me and took off your clothes, but you had hardly sat down when you got up and put on your clothes (and left). A strong ghayrah overtook me and I thought you were going to one of your (other) wives until I saw you in (the graveyard of) Baqī’ doing whatever you were doing.’

He said, ‘O ‘Ā’ishah! Did you fear that Allāh and his Messenger will treat you with injustice? Jibra’īl came to me and said, ‘This night is the fifteenth night of Sha’bān. Allāh sets free from Hell during this night, souls equivalent to the hair (and wool) of the goats of Banī Kalb.’ (Banī Kalb possessed the largest number of goats in the Arabian peninsula.)

‘However, Allāh will not look (with mercy) even on this (auspicious) night towards idolaters, one who harbours ill-will against his fellow beings, one who cuts himself off from his near relatives, one who dangles his clothes over his ankles, one disobedient to parents and a habitual drunkard.’”

‘Ā’ishah radihiyallāhu ‘anhā says, “He took off his clothes, then said, ‘O ‘Ā’ishah! Will you permit me to spend this night in worship.’ I replied, ‘Certainly. May my parents be sacrificed for you.’ The Prophet sallallāhu ‘alayhi wasallam got up and remained in sajdah (prostration) for a very long time until I thought he had passed away. I got up to inquire and placed my hand on his feet to feel that he was alive, thus I became happy. I heard him say in his prostration:

I take refuge of Your forgiveness from Your punishment. I take refuge of Your pleasure from Your anger. I take refuge from You. Great is Your eminence. I cannot praise You (as You are worthy of praise). Your eminence is exactly as You have praised yourself.

In the morning I mentioned these words to him. He said, ‘O ‘Ā’ishah! Learn them and teach them (to others) because Jibra’īl taught me and ordered me to repeat them over and over again in sajdah.’” (Al-Bayhaqī)

Note: Muftī Taqī ‘Uthmānī hafizahullāh states: “Although the chain of narrators of some of these traditions suffers with some minor technical defects, yet when all these traditions are combined together, it becomes clear that this night has some well founded merits, and observing this night as a sacred night is not a baseless concoction as envisaged by some modern scholars who, on the basis of these minor defects, have totally rejected giving any special importance to this night. In fact, some of these traditions have been held by some scholars of hadīth as authentic and the defects in the chain of some others have been treated by them as minor technical defects which, according to the science of hadīth, are curable by the variety of their ways of narration. That is why the elders of the Ummah have constantly been observing this night as a night of special merits and have been spending it in worship and prayers.”

The Fast of the Fifteenth

The fast of the 15th of Sha’bān can only be derived from a hadīth that has a weak narrator in the chain of narration, due to which it cannot be relied upon in the matter of the injunctions of Sharī’ah. Thus, the fast of the 15th of Sha’bān cannot be termed as Sunnah or Mustahab in the strict sense of the term. Nevertheless the fast could be kept without taking it as a Sunnah or Mustahab considering other factors such as:

- The fasts of the first half of Sha’bān have special merits as can be seen from the practice of the Prophet sallallāhu ‘alayhi wasallam;
- The virtues of the fasts of Ayyām-al-Bīd (i.e. 13th, 14th and 15th of the Islamic month) have been mentioned in the ahādīth.

Recommended Deeds

The following practices are derived from the traditions of the Prophet sallallāhu ‘alayhi wasallam which have been mentioned above for Sha’bān and its virtuous 15th night.

(1) It is desirable that one fasts in the month of Sha’bān as much as one can. However, if fasting in Sha’bān is going to affect the fasting of Ramadān then one should refrain from it.

(2) Although salāh should be performed in Jamā’ah (congregation) everyday, on this auspicious night, one must participate with deep and solemn care in the Maghrib, ‘Ishā and Fajr Salāh.

(3) Spend as much time of the night as possible in worship individually. No specific du’ā or method of worship has been prescribed. One may engage in dhikr, recitation of the Qur’ān, salāh, learning and teaching or any other form of ‘ibādah. However, one must refrain from worldly talk and wasting of time. If ‘ibādah is not possible then at least avoid all sinful and useless acts and go to bed as soon as possible.

(4) In one hadīth it has been mentioned that Rasūlullāh sallallāhu ‘alayhi wasallam visited the graveyard of Baqī’. However, one may not establish the practice to be Sunnah as there is no mention of Rasūlullāh sallallāhu ‘alayhi wasallam making it a general practice of this night. Hence, if one visits the graveyard once in a while it will be permissible.

One must refrain in particular from all those practices that are contrary to the Sunnah. Many of us deprive ourselves of the blessings of such auspicious moments and the Favours of Allāh ta’ālā by following those customary acts which have no basis in the Qur’ān and Sunnah.

May Allāh ta’ālā guide us all on the straight path and enlighten us with the blessings of this sacred month and its blessed night. Āmīn.

Taken From IDA By Molana Irfan

BOULDERING LOCALLY



The Climbing Experience is Kent's largest indoor climbing centre featuring a mind-blowing fun wall adventure area, state-of-the-art bouldering facilities and so much more.

Our fun wall offers everyone and anyone the chance to take their first steps of their climbing journey in a safe (yet fun) setting. While in G13, our dedicated bouldering gym, you'll find a 30-metre competition wall, a steep cave, plenty of slabs, and two standalone boulders, one requiring you to bravely top-out and the other a low-hanging arch to test your upper body strength.

With new routes set every week and a wide range of difficulties available there will always be a project waiting for you, whether you're totally new to bouldering or a well-known crusher.

Climbing isn't just great for your physical fitness, it's a fantastic mental workout too. Just as it challenges your body to become stronger and more flexible, it also stimulates your brain and focuses your mind and spirit, making it the ideal sport for people wanting to de-stress and increase mindfulness.

GET INTO BOULDERING



WHEN YOU RIDE YOUR BIKE, YOU'RE WORKING YOUR LEGS, BUT YOUR MIND IS ON A TREADMILL. WHEN YOU PLAY CHESS, YOUR MIND IS CLICKING ALONG, BUT YOUR BODY IS STAGNATING. CLIMBING BRINGS IT TOGETHER IN A BEAUTIFUL, MAGICAL WAY. THE ADRENALINE IS FLOWING, AND IT'S FLOWING ALL THE TIME. – PAT AMENT, CLIMBER AND AUTHOR

To understand Bouldering in an instant, think of Rock Climbing. The difference between the two is that rock climbing can get you very high up enough that you need safety ropes. Bouldering on the other hand and especially indoor bouldering is all about solving problems. You have many climbing techniques you can use but how do you get as far as you can with different a combination of the different techniques. Hanging off holds and pulling up your own weight does also build up strength, and agility.

If you have the choice of indoor bouldering or going to a traditional gym, I have found that I certainly get bored at the gym, at the bouldering venue I find I can spend over an hour of climbing without even thinking about the time, which means I will invariably go more often.

We go as a family. My Son was looking for a new activity that wasn't repetitive, was more social, and appealed to his logical mind of solving problems. He loves going. My younger son is very skilled at bouldering too, he reached the advanced levels very quickly. Bouldering allows you to measure your progress and improvements as you learn techniques, grow stronger and become more flexible until you can climb steep angled gradients whilst pulling up your body weight or even be able to grip the smallest holds at a perfect angle. The floor is structured like a very stiff mattress so that there is a low risk of injury if you fall. The incremental progress and increasing levels of difficulty is marked by having

coloured holds, pink holds being the easiest, then purple, then yellow etc. so there is a great level of scope for improvement and perfecting your skill, and to ensure things are kept interesting they create new bouldering problems at all colour levels every month, so the routes and hold types are taken down and rearranged to keep even the most ADHD individual satisfied.

What are the benefits of bouldering you may ask and will I be able to maintain a skill level? Well I am over 50 years old and slightly overweight, and have been going once or twice a week for the last 4 months. I am at a point now where I have improved onto the yellow routes which I do find very challenging and struggle with most of them.

At the moment, pink and purple I can do with ease however I know I have improved in strength. I can pull up my own body weight and it will take consistency and time to be able to do a series of pull ups. The other benefit, especially at my age is the ability to stretch high up which will keep my back and spine active, along with the strength you need in the legs and knees to help to get the lift. The overall thing to note is that just like cycling and swimming, the activity is low impact to your body and its something you can keep on doing till your very old age. For younger people, they will improve rapidly and its so much fun.

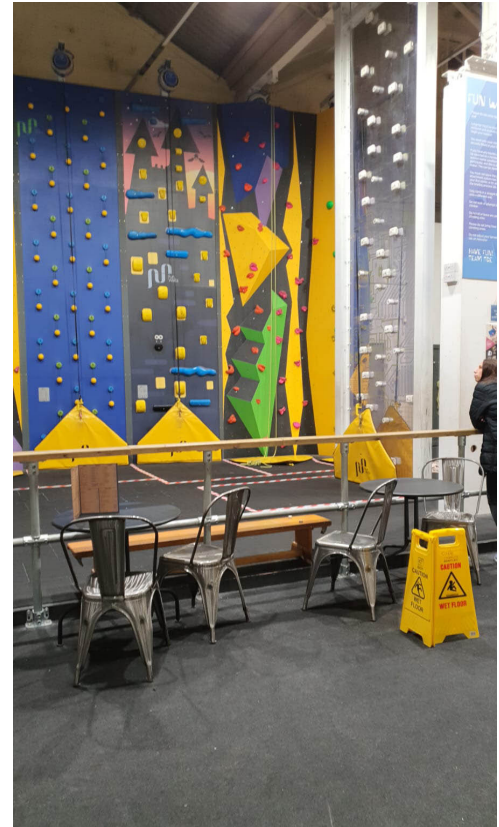
Bouldering has become an Olympic sport, and speed, technique and problem-solving skills are all tested. There are many bouldering and climbing heroes have emerged from the sport and demonstrate the human ability to do wondrous things Czech born Adam On-

dra is currently considered to be the strongest climber in the world. Documentaries such as free solo where Alex Honnold climbs a vertical rock formation called El-Capitan which is about 3000ft tall, even the most experienced climbers find this dangerous and challenging. Alex in the documentary climbs it with just his shoes and some chalk, no safety equipment at all and he climbed it in just under 4hrs.

There are a growing number of Muslim countries and organisations taking up bouldering and rock climbing. Vedriq Leonardo an Indonesian currently holds the world record for speed climbing for men. Aries Susanti Rahayu a sister from Indonesia nicknames 'spider-woman' held the world speed climbing record for women wearing her headscarf in 2019.

In the UK Muslims are starting to pick up the sport more and more there is currently a sister in East London who runs Bouldering events for sisters only called Climbmuz, you can search for her events on eventbrite, she also arranges meetup groups on the meetup website.

If you want to more information or want to tag along with me, email me at fayaz_iqbal@hotmail.com or ask around for my number.



MARCH 2022 - Rajab / Shabaan 1443 AH

Day	Date	Fajr Starts	Jammat	Sunrise	Zuhr	Jammat	Asr	Jammat	Maghrib	Isha	Jammat
TUE	1	04:52	06:15	06:42	12:11	01:30	03:48	04:30	05:39	07:25	07:45
WED	2	04:49	06:15	06:40	12:11	01:30	03:49	04:30	05:41	07:27	07:45
THU	3	04:47	06:15	06:38	12:11	01:30	03:51	04:30	05:43	07:28	07:45
FRI	4	04:45	06:15	06:35	12:11	01:30	03:52	04:30	05:44	07:30	07:45
SAT	5	04:45	06:15	06:35	12:11	01:30	03:52	04:30	05:44	07:30	07:45
SUN	6	04:40	05:45	06:31	12:10	01:30	03:55	04:45	05:48	07:34	08:00
MON	7	04:38	05:45	06:29	12:10	01:30	03:57	04:45	05:49	07:35	08:00
TUE	8	04:36	05:45	06:27	12:10	01:30	03:58	04:45	05:51	07:37	08:00
WED	9	04:33	05:45	06:24	12:10	01:30	04:01	04:45	05:53	07:39	08:00
THU	10	04:31	05:45	06:22	12:09	01:30	04:02	04:45	05:55	07:41	08:00
FRI	11	04:29	05:45	06:20	12:09	01:30	04:03	04:45	05:56	07:43	08:00
SAT	12	04:26	05:45	06:18	12:09	01:30	04:04	04:45	05:58	07:45	08:00
SUN	13	04:24	05:45	06:15	12:09	01:30	04:05	04:45	06:00	07:47	08:15
MON	14	04:21	05:45	06:13	12:08	01:30	04:07	04:45	06:01	07:48	08:15
TUE	15	04:19	05:45	06:11	12:08	01:30	04:08	04:45	06:03	07:50	08:15
WED	16	04:16	05:45	06:09	12:08	01:30	04:10	04:45	06:05	07:52	08:15
THU	17	04:14	05:45	06:06	12:07	01:30	04:11	04:45	06:07	07:54	08:15
FRI	18	04:11	05:45	06:04	12:07	01:30	04:12	04:45	06:08	07:56	08:15
SAT	19	04:09	05:45	06:02	12:07	01:30	04:14	04:45	06:10	07:58	08:15
SUN	20	04:09	05:30	06:02	12:07	01:30	04:14	04:45	06:10	07:58	08:15
MON	21	04:04	05:30	05:57	12:06	01:30	04:16	04:45	06:13	08:02	08:15
TUE	22	04:01	05:30	05:55	12:06	01:30	04:18	04:45	06:15	08:04	08:15
WED	23	03:58	05:30	05:53	12:06	01:30	04:19	04:45	06:17	08:05	08:15
THU	24	03:56	05:30	05:51	12:05	01:30	04:20	04:45	06:18	08:06	08:15
FRI	25	03:53	05:30	05:48	12:05	01:30	04:22	04:45	06:20	08:07	08:15
SAT	26	03:50	05:30	05:46	12:05	01:30	04:23	04:45	06:22	08:08	08:15
SUN	27	04:47	05:45	06:44	01:04	01:30	05:24	05:45	07:23	09:08	09:30
MON	28	04:45	05:45	06:41	01:04	01:30	05:25	05:45	07:25	09:09	09:30
TUE	29	04:42	05:45	06:39	01:04	01:30	05:27	05:45	07:27	09:09	09:30
WED	30	04:39	05:45	06:37	01:04	01:30	05:28	05:45	07:28	09:10	09:30
THU	31	04:36	05:45	06:35	01:03	01:30	05:29	05:45	07:30	09:10	09:30

APRIL 2022 - Shabaan / Ramadhan 1443 AH

Day	Date	Fajr Starts	Jammat	Sunrise	Zuhr	Jammat	Asr	Jammat	Maghrib	Isha	Jammat
FRI	1	04:34	05:45	06:32	01:03	01:30	05:30	05:45	07:33	09:11	09:30
SAT	2	04:31	05:45	06:30	01:03	01:30	05:32	05:45	07:34	09:12	09:30
SUN	3	04:28	05:45	06:28	01:02	01:30	05:33	06:15	07:36	09:12	09:30
MON	4	04:25	05:45	06:26	01:02	01:30	05:34	06:15	07:38	09:13	09:30
TUE	5	04:22	05:45	06:23	01:02	01:30	05:35	06:15	07:39	09:14	09:30
WED	6	04:19	05:45	06:21	01:01	01:30	05:36	06:15	07:41	09:15	09:30
THU	7	04:16	05:45	06:19	01:01	01:30	05:38	06:15	07:43	09:16	09:30
FRI	8	04:13	05:45	06:17	01:01	01:30	05:39	06:15	07:44	09:17	09:30
SAT	9	04:10	05:45	06:15	01:01	01:30	05:40	06:15	07:47	09:18	09:30
SUN	10	04:07	05:30	06:12	01:00	01:30	05:41	06:15	07:48	09:19	09:45
MON	11	04:04	05:30	06:10	01:00	01:30	05:42	06:30	07:49	09:20	09:45
TUE	12	04:01	05:30	06:08	01:00	01:30	05:43	06:30	07:51	09:21	09:45
WED	13	03:58	05:30	06:06	01:00	01:30	05:44	06:30	07:53	09:22	09:45
THU	14	03:55	05:30	06:04	12:59	01:30	05:46	06:30	07:53	09:23	09:45
FRI	15	03:52	05:30	06:02	12:59	01:30	05:47	06:30	07:56	09:24	09:45
SAT	16	03:49	05:30	05:59	12:59	01:30	05:48	06:30	07:58	09:25	09:45
SUN	17	03:46	05:15	05:57	12:59	01:30	05:49	06:30	08:00	09:26	09:45
MON	18	03:43	05:15	05:55	12:58	01:30	05:50	06:30	08:01	09:28	09:45
TUE	19	03:40	05:15	05:53	12:58	01:30	05:51	06:30	08:03	09:31	09:45
WED	20	03:36	05:15	05:51	12:58	01:30	05:52	06:30	08:05	09:32	09:45
THU	21	03:33	05:15	05:49	12:58	01:30	05:53	06:30	08:06	09:34	09:45
FRI	22	03:30	05:15	05:47	12:58	01:30	05:54	06:30	08:08	09:36	09:45
SAT	23	03:26	05:15	05:45	12:57	01:30	05:55	06:30	08:10	09:38	09:45
SUN	24	03:23	05:00	05:43	12:57	01:30	05:56	06:50	08:11	09:39	10:00
MON	25	03:20	05:00	05:41	12:57	01:30	05:58	06:50	08:13	09:41	10:00
TUE	26	03:16	05:00	05:39	12:57	01:30	05:59	06:50	08:14	09:43	10:00
WED	27	03:13	05:00	05:37	12:57	01:30	06:00	06:50	08:16	09:44	10:00
THU	28	03:10	05:00	05:35	12:57	01:30	06:01	06:50	08:18	09:46	10:00
FRI	29	03:06	05:00	05:33	12:56	01:30	06:02	06:50	08:19	09:48	10:00
SAT	30	03:02	05:00	05:31	12:56	01:30	06:03	06:50	08:21	09:49	10:00



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