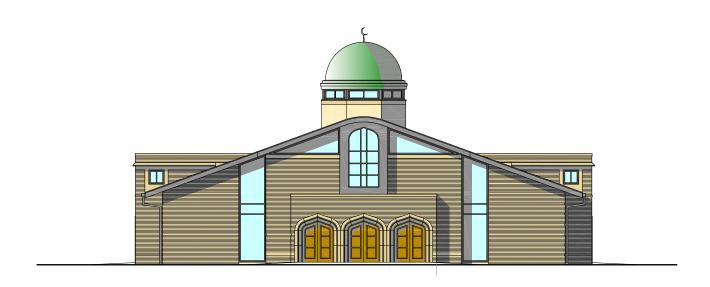


#### THE ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN

Presents



## The Lincoln Mosque Project

History in the Making

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In the name of Allah,
The Most Beneficent,
The Most Merciful.

## Message from Trustees

"And hold fast, all of you together, to the rope of Allah, and be not divided amongst yourselves" [al-Imran 3:103]

Assalaamu 'Alaykum Warahmatullaahi Wabarakaatuh

The Islamic Association of Lincoln (IAL) aims to promote a true message of Islam and unite Muslims in Lincolnshire as well as to build sound relations with all communities. We are embarking on a new mosque project and would kindly request that you read through this brochure. For our vision of a new mosque to be realized we need your duas, help and support.

May Allah reward you.

Dr R Zafar, Dr T Ahmed, Dr M Z Qureshi, Mr M A Rafique (Trustees)

#### Introduction

The city of Lincoln is situated in the county of Lincolnshire, which is in the East Midlands of the United Kingdom.

The Islamic Association of Lincoln is a registered Charity (Charity Reg. No. 1090992). Our objectives are to promote Islam to Muslims and Non-Muslims and increase awareness of Islam in the Community. It's important, particularly in this current political climate; that we project a true image of Islam to non-Muslims. Over the past few years we have had over 15 non-Muslims who have converted to Islam. Lincoln has the largest Muslim community in Lincolnshire, which is the second largest county in the UK. We have links with other Muslim communities in the County such as Boston, Sleaford, Grantham and Louth. We are keen to develop our networks in the County in order to promote unity and brotherhood.

We are very much in need of funds and would like to sincerely request help for this noble project, so we can obtain the pleasure of Allah, improve our Community and brotherhood but most importantly to bring all Muslims under one roof.

## A Brief Background

Back in 1980, there were only a few Muslim families in Lincoln. They decided that a mosque was needed for prayers, so when a Baptist Church had come up for sale it was purchased for £5,000 in 1981.

With the most basic and tightly packed amenities, this building has been our mosque for over 35 years now. This building has a maximum capacity of only 60 people.

Since its foundation, the mosque has undoubtedly become an invaluable centre for worship and activity, with an important role of uniting and serving the community.

However, it has been felt for a long time that the current facilities at the mosque are inadequate for the development of ideas and any kind of services that are much needed for our community.





Our Current Mosque at Orchard Street

#### Community Involvement

The Islamic Association of Lincoln is very active and makes every effort to integrate with the wider community. We receive many requests from local schools and regularly welcome them to visit our mosque. This gives an opportunity to students and teachers to visit us as part of their Religious Education classes to better understand the teachings of Islam and ask questions to the Imam.

The guide gives a small presentation, and a little history on how the Lincoln mosque came about. The teachers can also take a pack containing leaflets introducing them to Islam with some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

We recently hosted the Interfaith walk organised by the Lincoln Interfaith Forum took place on Saturday 21st November 2015. The walk consisted of visiting the Jews Court and then the Mosque. Around 40 people attended the event which included a talk about Islam as well as a the question and answer session which was well enjoyed by the group.

On Sunday 7th February 2016, we joined the national #VisitMyMosque initiative facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain. We opened our doors to the local community and received a great response with over 130 people attending. Some of the guests included the Mayor of Lincoln Councillor

Andrew Kerry, Mayoress Sharon Longthorne, Karl McCartney MP and local faith leaders. We were able to engage with the community and give them the opportunity to see our current mosque as well as learn more

about Islam and Muslims.

The feedback and media coverage for the event was excellent and most visitors hoped we would host the next open day in our new mosque.

Group photo of the volunteers and some of the guests on the day. Photo: Lincolnshire Echo



Mayor and Mayoress speaking to Chairman Tanweer Ahmed. Photo: Lincolnshire Echo



Inter-Faith Walk





Friday Prayers at the Lincoln Grandstand

## The Case for a New Mosque

In 2006, The Islamic Association of Lincoln (IAL) with the kind donations of the local community purchased the St. Matthews Church, a Grade II listed prefabricated Church and Church Hall constructed in 1912 and extended in 1924 at Boultham Park Road, with the intention of converting it into a mosque. We had collected over £80,000 in a few weeks. The IAL would like to thank all those brothers and sisters who donated generously in purchasing the St. Matthews Church building.

The City Council gave planning and listed building consent approval in July 2008 but unfortunately, the building was destroyed completely by fire in August 2008. After consultation with the community and the City Council, the Association had applied for planning approval for a purpose built mosque, but planning was refused on the grounds that there would not be enough car parking facilities to cater for those coming to pray, a concern shared strongly by the local community.

Hence the community continued to pray in the mosque at Orchard Street.

Our current premises are too small now to cater for our needs. To overcome this limitation, the IAL committee has been renting The Lincoln Grandstand, a community centre from the Lincoln City Council to host Friday and Eid prayers. We also use the hall to host Muslim gatherings and lectures. For Friday prayers, this facility is hired out on a weekly basis. Since the council also rents out the hall to other members of the public for functions and gatherings, there is not much we can do to the hall for it to suit the specific needs of our community.

Over the past few years the Muslim population of Lincoln has expanded rapidly. Lincoln has Muslims from diverse backgrounds (Arabs, Pakistanis, Indians, Bangladeshis, Africans, etc.) – we have professionals such as doctors, dentists, engineers and there are several food and restaurant businesses owned by members of the Muslim community. In addition, there are also approximately 500-700 refugees who have come mainly from Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo. We now have approximately 2,000 Muslims in Lincoln and the surrounding areas. This number is steadily increasing and so are the needs of our growing community.

#### Our Vision

We endeavour to improve the understanding of Islam both within our community and the wider population. Our aim is to offer opportunities to learn about Islam and become a point of contact for all people wanting to know more about our religion. We also aim to make this mosque a community centre and a focal point for our youth, as well as support student activities for teaching of the Qu'ran, Hadith and general Islamic Education

The new mosque will have parking space for 68 cars and will provide the following facilities:

- Praying facilities for both men and women
- Madrasah for boys and girls
- Da'wah work and education classes
- Wudhu and toilet facilities
- A community centre allowing for a wide range of activities
- Funeral Services
- Library
- Kitchen

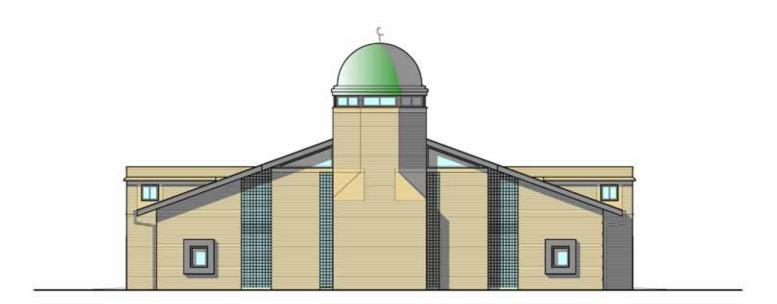
## **Our Project**

The Islamic Association of Lincoln continued its efforts to find a new location for a mosque. By the Grace of Allah, in 2011 a new plot of land with ample car parking facilities was identified. We were very pleased that upon submission of our plan, the Lincoln City Council granted out-line planning approval for a purpose built mosque on 19 June 2012 at the Old Boultham Park Dairy site. The detailed planning permission was also later granted in November 2012.

Land area is approximately **0.75 acres / 2,776m**<sup>2</sup>

Ground Floor 575m<sup>2</sup>

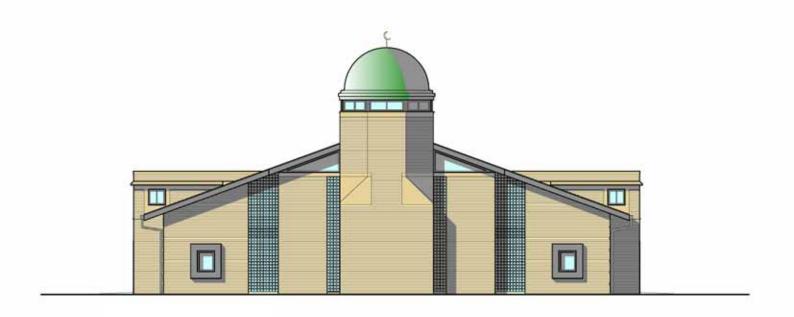
First Floor 492m<sup>2</sup>



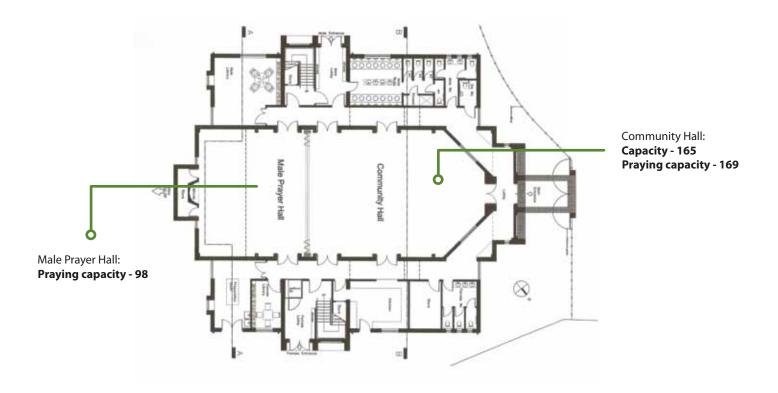
Front Elevation/ Main Entrance of the Mosque



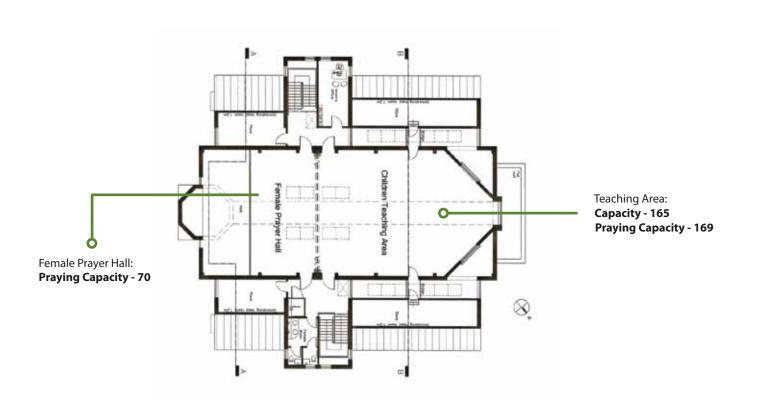
Side View of the Mosque



Rear view of the Mosque



**Ground Floor** 



First Floor

#### The Start of Construction

By the Grace of God, the construction work officially started on the 15th of April 2015 with a ceremony to celebrate this momentous milestone.

The ceremony started just before 3.30pm on the 15th of April 2015. It was well attended with members of the Lincoln community and local residents coming to witness the historic event.

Dr Tanweer Ahmed, chairman of the Islamic Association of Lincoln, said: "It's very exciting news that work is finally going to get underway and thanks to Allah that we're here today to start the construction that we've been waiting a long time for."

At the event, Reverend David Osbourne of Boultham Park spoke on the significance of the mosque as an opportunity to build and strengthen our communities.

The City of Lincoln Council Leader, Councillor Ric Metcalfe also added that the mosque was long overdue and praised the resilience and enthusiasm of the Muslim community in the face of challenges and setbacks.

Chairman of Local Boultham Park Road residents' association, lan Durrant said that current mosque has adequate car parking facility and stated that we will continue to work with Muslim community to build a good community relationship.

The event was widely covered by media outlets including ITV and the BBC Look North and local newspapers.



## The Next Stage

By the Grace of God, the project is progressing well and the contractor completed the piling and ground beam work in August and September 2015 respectively. The steel super-structure work was completed in November 2015. At the time of printing, the drainage and brick work had also started.

Despite this progress, the IAL still has major challenges ahead to raise funds to complete the project. We have managed to raise over £1,200,000 for the project, which shows the generosity of Lincoln Muslims. To complete the project, we estimate that we need to raise approximately £400,000. For a more up to date figure, please go to our website www.lincolnmosque.com.

We would like to thank all the families living in Lincoln and its surrounding areas to for helping us and plead to them to continue helping us. We would also like to ask our brothers and sisters in Islam all over the UK and beyond to support us and donate as much you can to build a much needed mosque and community centre in Lincoln, thereby gaining a great reward from Allah (SWT).

This is an opportunity for you to build your house in Jannah, so please donate generously.



#### THE MUSLIM COUNCIL OF BRITAIN



12 February 2016

#### To whom it may concern

Dear respected readers,

As-salaamu 'Alaykum Warahmatullaahi Wabarakaatuh,

The Islamic Association of Lincoln (IAL) has been an active affiliate of the Muslim Council of Britain since 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2003 and I am pleased to endorse the hard work and commitment of the association.

IAL has an open door policy, which encourages all community members from diverse Islamic backgrounds, to contact the association and avail its resources. At the same time, IAL continues to play a pivotal role within its own community in presenting Islam with its true meaning. Among various activities is the recent participation in the MCB national initiative #VisitMyMosque event on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016, where Muslims and particularly local non-Muslims were invited to ask questions and discover the true meaning of Islam. Alhamdulillah, the event was a great success where around 150 people visited the mosque, including the Lincoln Mayor, Lincoln MP, Chairman of Lincolnshire County Council, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire and many key faith leaders.

The current Lincoln mosque is a very small structure (a converted old Baptist Church) with a maximum capacity of 60 worshippers. On the need to acquire a purpose-built mosque that would satisfy the need of the Muslim population in the local and surrounding areas, which has grown multi-fold over the years, the Islamic Association of Lincoln has struggled to reach to this point, in a journey which took over 10 years. Alhamdulillah, the super steel sub-structure has now been erected - to build the first purpose-built Mosque in the County of Lincolnshire. I am pleased that brick work has also started.

It is very exciting that Lincoln community has raised £1.2 million within the last 3 years, which is a great success for a small community for their generosity. IAL is still short of about £380,000 to complete this exciting project and I hope and pray for the success of such a valuable project. It would be a proud achievement for IAL to have such an impressive centre, which in the near future, would undertake a variety of activities for people of all ages and also set an example for other similar organisations.

I sincerely urge Muslims to invest in their future by supporting the Lincoln Mosque project in order to achieve stability for our children and pray that this request receives support from the wider community.

With best wishes for a swift completion of the project,

Dr Shuja Shafi Secretary General



rz/02/16 30 Jumada 2<sup>nd</sup> 1937AH 15 March 2016

## To whom it may concern

I am delighted to learn that the Islamic Association of Lincoln (charity number: 1090992) has started building the first purpose-built mosque and community centre in Lincolnshire.

It's heartening to learn that the Association has raised, for the project, over £1.2 million in the past few years from a small city like Lincoln. The proposed mosque & the centre will have all required facilities, i.e. gents & ladies prayer halls, separate wudu area for both genders, madrasah, library, community hall and the funeral preparation room. The mosque will cater the needs of Muslims from all backgrounds. The project needs further £400,000 for completion.

I strongly recommend that the noble project be supported wholeheartedly and fully co-operated in raising the remaining funds. I therefore urge the well wisher Muslims to invest in this noble cause. Surely, Allah will reward you the best in both worlds.

Dr. Ahmad Makhdoom Director





الرقم: رض/تع/١٦/٠٢ التاريخ: ٣٠ جمادى الأولى ١٤٣٧ الموافق: ١٥ مارس ٢٠١٦

## لمن يهمه الأمر

الحمد لله وحده والصلاة والسلام على من لا نبي بعده:

فإنه من دواعي السرور أن الجمعية الإسلامية في مدينة لينكون (رقم التسجيل الخيري: ١٠٩٠٩٩٢) بدأت بناء أول مسجد ومركز إسلامي في المدينة.

ومما يزيد فرحاً وسروراً أن الجمعية المذكورة قد استطاعت بفضل الله سبحانه وتعالى جمع ما يزيد المراد فرحاً وسروراً أن الجمعية المدينة الصغيرة. إن المسجد المزمع بناؤه سيضم قاعتي الصلاة للرجال والنساء، وأمكنة الوضوء، ومدرسة ومكتبة، وقاعة للإجتماع وغرفة لغسل الأموات وما إليها. وسيغطي المسجد حاجات المسلمين بغض النظر عن إنتماءاتهم الثقافية والإجتماعية.

تحتاج الجمعية إلى جمع مزيد من ٤٠٠،٠٠٠ جنيه أسترليني لإكمال المشروع.

فأناشد المحسنين الكرام مد يد مساعدتهم دعماً للمشروع النبيل. حقاً هذا الإستثمار منهم سيرجع بخير أضعافاً مضاعفة ويكون في ميزان حسناتهم يوم القيامة. والله من وراء القصد وهو الهادي إلى سواء السبيل.

المدير الإقليمي لمكتب رابطة العالم الإسلامي في لندن

د. أحمد بن محمد مخدوم



#### Ways to Donate

We would like to sincerely request your help and support for this noble project, so we can all obtain the pleasure of Allah, improve our community and brotherhood but most importantly to bring all Muslims under one roof.

We can accept donations in the following ways:

- Online Donations
- Bank Transfer
- Cheques and Postal Orders

You can also setup standing orders via our website.

#### **Online Donation**

You can donate online by visiting our website **www.lincolnmosque.com**.



#### **Bank Transfer**

Bank transfers can be made to the following account:

Account Name Islamic Association of Lincoln

Account Number **30505242**Sort Code **20-50-21** 

IBAN **GB32 BARC 2050 2130 5052 42** 

SWIFT BARCGB22

The bank address is: Barclays Bank Plc

City Office Park, Tritton Road,

Lincoln, LN6 7AR, England.

#### **Cheques and Postal Orders**

You can post your cheques or postal orders to:

Islamic Association of Lincoln, Orchard Street, Lincoln LN1 1XX, England Please make your cheques payable to: 'Islamic Association of Lincoln'.

# For further information please contact

**Dr Tanweer Ahmed** 

Mobile: +44 (0) 7801 541 611

Email: admin@lincolnmosque.com

Website: www.lincolnmosque.com

The Prophet (SAW) said:

"Whoever helps to build a Mosque, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise."

May Allah reward you all.

The Islamic Association of Lincoln