



How Religious Communities Locally Responded to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Name of Religious Tradition: Islam

Location: Mosques in Coventry

Place of Worship: Mosques/Madrassahs

During the Pandemic, the main changes to our ways of worshipping were:

- During full lock down between March and July 2020, all places of worship were closed and people developed their homes into mini-mosques or identified a space they called a Mosque and continue with their five times prayers. The Muslim Community during this lockdown celebrated Ramadhan and Eid-Ul-Fitr at home and normally at these times Mosques are overflowing with worshipers.
- Outside this lockdown period, prayers in Mosques have been done whilst complying with Government guidance. Detailed risk assessments were undertaken and prayers took place with the congregations complying with social distancing guidelines, bringing their own prayer mats, holy Quran and prayer beads. Toilets and ablution areas were closed and everyone had to wear a face masks and avoid physical contact.
- In August, we celebrated Eid-Ul Adha during the Haj season and the prayers took place in 3 parks in the open air. We were not in lockdown at this stage and thousands of people - men, women and children got together to say their Eid prayers. Security and stewardship were provided by members of other faith groups
- We continued to deliver our sermons and religious talks using the radio systems, online and social media.
- Our Madrassahs have continued to deliver religious education lessons online and ensure that engagement with the children to ensure their safety and progress.
- Funerals Services have continued to take place at the Mosques but

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again in line with Government guidance.

- We have also undertaken religious marriage ceremonies during this period in line with our risk assessments

During the Pandemic, the ways in which our religious community reached out to the local community were:

- Our community has engaged with people at home from all faiths to support via:
 1. Food banks
 2. Delivery of food to families that were shielding
 3. Providing contact details to all neighbours in case they wanted to make contact for whatever reason. Even if they just wanted someone to do their shopping or even just a have a chat
 4. Deliver presents during Eid, Christmas and other religious festivals to people in isolation
 5. We have also collected funds, clothing, medical aid and emergency aid to support people across the world suffering from political persecution or natural disasters.