

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

Welcome pack for New Ahmadis



Website: <http://www.ahmadiconverts.org.uk>

Email: newahmadis@ahmadiyyauk.org

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Front cover Image: New Ahmadis taking Bai'at (initiation) at the hand of His Holiness (aba), the Fifth Khalifa to the Promised Messiah, during a Group Mulaqaat (meeting) in Fazl mosque, London

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1. INTRODUCTION – Congratulations (*Mubarak*)! You have obeyed God Almighty and accepted the Promised Messiah^(as), who was prophesised to come by the Holy Prophet of Islam^(saw), and in all of the great religions. The purpose of our initiation (*Bai'at*) is to win the pleasure of God Almighty. Everything is achieved through Allah's Grace and Mercy. As new Ahmadis we must always safeguard and protect this sincere intention, while striving to worship Allah Almighty and serve His creation. We pray that this handbook will assist you on your path, offering both spiritual and practical guidance.



Image: The Holy Kaaba, Al-Masjid al-Haram (Holy Mosque), Mecca

2. TEN CONDITIONS OF BAI'AT (INITIATION) - The Promised Messiah^(as), Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, established the Ahmadiyya Muslim community purely on the foundations of the Holy Quran and the Practice (*Sunnah*) of the Holy Prophet of Islam^(saw). The ten conditions directly reflect these perfect teachings. We must always reflect upon, and seek to embody, these noble principles:

1. “The initiate shall solemnly promise that he/she shall abstain from *shirk* [associating partners with God] right up to the day of his/her death.
2. That he/she shall keep away from falsehood, fornication/adultery,

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trespasses of the eye, debauchery, dissipation, cruelty, dishonesty, mischief and rebellion; and that he/she will not permit himself/herself to be carried away by passions, however strong they might be.

3. That he/she shall regularly offer the five daily prayers in accordance with the commandments of God and the Holy Prophet and shall try his/her best to be regular in offering the *Tahajjud* [prayers] and invoking *Durood* on the Holy Prophet. That he/she shall make it his/her daily routine to ask forgiveness for his/her sins, to remember the bounties of God and to praise and glorify Him.
4. That under the impulse of any passion, he/she shall cause no harm whatsoever to the creatures of God in general and Muslims in particular, neither by his/her tongue, hands, nor any other means.
5. That he / she shall remain faithful to God in all circumstances of life, in sorrow and in happiness, in adversity and in prosperity, in felicity and in trial; and that he / she shall in all conditions remain resigned to the decree of God and keep himself / herself ready to face all kinds of indignities and sufferings in His way and shall never turn away from Him at the onslaught of any misfortune; on the contrary, he / she shall march forward.
6. That he/she shall refrain from following un-Islamic customs and lustful inclinations and shall completely submit himself / herself to the authority of the Holy Qur'an; and that he/she shall make the Word of God and the sayings of the Holy Prophet his/her guiding principles in every walk of his/her life.
7. That he / she shall entirely give up pride and vanity and shall pass all his / her life in humbleness, cheerfulness, forbearance and meekness.
8. That he / she shall hold faith, the honour of faith and the cause of Islam dearer to him than his / her life, wealth, honour, children and all other dear ones.
9. That he / she shall keep himself / herself occupied in the service of God's creatures for His sake only and shall endeavour towards the beneficence of mankind to the best of his / her God-given abilities and powers
10. That he/she shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of God, pledging obedience to me in everything good for the sake of God, and remain faithful to it until the day of his/her death.

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3. NEW AHMADI CHECKLIST:

Progress Milestones	Deadlines(since Bai'at)
Bai'at (initiation) form approved by centre Complete and send the Tajneed (ID) form along with the Bai'at form	Day 1
Set up a car pool for new Ahmadi to bring them to mosque for prayers	1 week
House visit: give welcome gift and welcome into Jamaat (NOT if family are opposed)	1 week
Invite new Ahmadi to mosque or Sadrs house for dinner	2 weeks
Mawakhaat (Brotherhood) scheme set up	2 weeks
Start local Tarbiyyat (training) class in local Jamaat on weekly basis	2 weeks
Host welcome session in local Jamaat (branch) with the national secretary	4 weeks
Arrange subscription to Review of Religions	4 weeks
Complete Mulaqaat (meeting) form to book Mulaqaat with Huzoor ^(aba) (provided no security concerns):	4-12 weeks
Explain and invite New Ahmadi to pay Chandas (financial sacrifices)	6 weeks
Allocate local Jamaat (branch) duty (if appropriate) e.g. Assistant roles	12 weeks
Book second local visit with national sec. to review progress	6months
Book 2 nd Mulaqaat with Huzur(aba) using Mulaqaat form	6-12 months
Host local and/or regional new Ahmadi Ijtema (gathering)	Annual
Attend Jalsa Salana	Annual
Arrange righteous Rishta if not yet married	After 1 year

4. THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY – The Supreme Head of the *Jama'at* (Community) is Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^(aba). Following democratic elections, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V approves an Amir (National President) for every country. The Amir heads the National Aamila (Executive Body) which consists of National Secretaries of various departments. In each country, a local *Jama'at* (branch) will be formed and every member will be attached to the nearest *Jama'at*. The local *Jama'at* will elect a local President - with the approval of the Amir. The local President will have a local Aamila (executive body) to assist him to run the local *Jama'at*. To help the Amir, he has appointed Regional Amirs to look after a Region on his behalf. A Region will consist of a number of local *Jama'ats*.

Within this structure there are secretaries whose sole task is to care for and support new Ahmadis: the '*Additional Secretary Tarbiyyat (training) and Waqfe Jadid (new devotion) for new Ahmadis*'. There is one such national secretary, and a local secretary in each local community.

To help in the spiritual development of the members, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V has appointed Missionaries to each country. These Missionaries are then given a Region(s) by the Amir to oversee.

To further help the members there are sub-organisations which function at National and Local levels: Ansarullah (Male members above 40 yrs); Khuddamul Ahmadiyya (Male members from 15 to 40 years old); Atfalul Ahmadiyya (boys aged 7 to 15 years old); Lajna Imaillah (Women members from 15 years and above); Nasiratul Ahmadiyya (girls aged 7 to 15 years old).

5. BROTHERHOOD (MAWAKHAAT) – In the times of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ^(saw) he established a system of Brotherhood/sisterhood (*Mawakhaat*) to support the new migrants (*Muhajireen*) who left their lives in Mecca, in order to live with him in

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Medina. The Helpers (*Ansar*) in Medina cared for their new brothers/sisters as if they were family, or closer still. His Holiness, the Khalifa Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad ^(aba), has instructed that we should establish the same scheme for new Ahmadis in the community.



Image: Huzur-e-Aqdas^(aba) (*His Holiness*) the Fifth Khalifa ^(aba)

Huzoor ^(aba) emphasized during a meeting with the New Ahmadi Department in July 2014 that *Mawakhaat* is very important, and instructed that a Helper must have the following qualities:

- a) **“They should be of a similar age to the respective New Ahmadi, with compatible interests;**
- b) **They should be well versed in the teachings of Islam Ahmadiyyat;**
- c) **They must be humble and modest, not arrogant or proud;**
- d) **They must have a natural inclination to care for new Ahmadis;**
- e) **They must develop personal contact with the new Ahmadi, and love them as a brother.”**

For this reason, at the local level we will work to pair you with the best possible person to support you as a brother/sister. With Allah's help, they will support you in everything you need, whether this be transport to the mosque, religious advice, as well as close friendship -

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God willing (*inshaAllah*). Your local secretary will seek to find the best brother/sister for you ASAP after you have taken initiation (*Bai'at*).



Image: The Holy Kaaba, the Mosque of the Holy Prophet (saw), and the Minaret of the Promised Messiah^(as)

6. TRAINING (TARBIYYAT) COURSE – His Holiness, the Fifth Khalifa Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^(aba), has instructed that we set up training (*Tarbiyyat*) courses for new Ahmadis across the UK. Huzur^(aba) instructed that new Ahmadi *Tarbiyyat* (training) classes should be held on a weekly basis in each local Jam'aat. In July 2014, Huzur^(aba) gave the the following instructions on the course:

- “Huzur^(aba) said that a monthly class would be insufficient. Like untamed birds, new Ahmadis will fly from the Jam'aat unless they are cared for on a regular basis. Thus the classes should be on a weekly basis.
- Huzur^(at) instructed that Missionaries, including those who have graduated from Jamia Ahmadiyya UK, should act as tutors for these classes.
- New Ahmadis should be categorised on the basis of their particular needs, with regard to their knowledge of Islam, and classes should be held to cater for all of these needs.
- The syllabus should start from the basics of learning the Salat (prayer) and Holy Quran, and should gradually rise to higher levels to cover all necessary elements of Islamic belief and practice.

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- Huzur^(aba) advised that all new Ahmadis should be trained in such a manner that they realise the importance of the Bai'at, and live according to the true teachings of Islam, with love for the Promised Messiah^(as) and Khalifa^(aba).”



Image: New Ahmadi visit to Hartlepool Jamaat

Syllabus: The syllabus brings together a number of different resources covering *Salat* (prayers), the foundations of Islamic knowledge and practice, onwards to the revival of Islam during the time of the Promised Messiah^(as). All resources can be accessed online at our website: <http://www.ahmadiconverts.org.uk/training-course>

The stages of the course are as follows:

- **Foundations of Islam:** The initial stages focus on the foundations of Islam, including the five pillars of Islam, the Islamic prayer, the articles of Faith; onwards to Islamic issues in the contemporary age, such as Jihad, equality of men and women, and Islamic marriage. This is ideal for former non-Muslims (e.g. Christians, agnostics etc.), as well as acting as an ideal refresher course for all Muslims;
- **Islam Ahmadiyyat:** The higher stages cover more advanced topics relating to Islam Ahmadiyyat, including the Seal of Prophethood, the Death of Jesus^(as), the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah^(as), and the system of Khilafat in the modern age;

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- **The Holy Qur'an:** Running alongside these courses, we provide resources and training to enable new Ahmadis to learn the recitation and meaning of the Holy Quran, using the the [Yassurnal Quran](https://www.alislam.org/quran/YassurnalQuran-EN.pdf) Qur'an (see link: <https://www.alislam.org/quran/YassurnalQuran-EN.pdf>) and online resources.

Again, resources for each of the above stages can be accessed online at our website: <http://www.ahmadiconverts.org.uk/training-course>

7. MEETINGS (*MULAQAAT*) WITH HIS HOLINESS, THE 5TH KHALIFA ^(ABA)

— It is the way of Allah Almighty that Prophets are followed by Successors (Khulafa). Jesus^(as) was followed by Peter. Muhammad^(saw) was followed by Abu Bakr^(ra). The Promised Messiah^(as) was also followed by Successors (*Khulafa*). His first Khalifa was Hazrat Maulvi Noorudin^(ra). There have been five successors. Currently, His Holiness, Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba), is the Fifth Khalifa. We are truly blessed that the Khalifa of Islam lives in the UK. We are even more blessed that we are able to meet with him.



Image: Mulaqat (Meeting) with His Holiness ^(aba), the Fifth Khalifa to the Promised Messiah in Fazl mosque, London

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We have both individual and group meetings (*Mulaqats*):

- a. **Individual meetings with His Holiness^(aba):** The process is as follows - the local presidents fill out a form approving for the new Ahmadi to meet His Holiness; the national New Ahmadi secretary verifies this form; the form is passed to the national president who gives final approval; the national secretary then books the meeting on a convenient date for you, the new Ahmadi. New Ahmadis are humbly advised to dress smartly and modestly when meeting *Huzur^(aba)*, and to follow the Qur'anic guidance of bringing a gift. A photo may also be requested with His Holiness, if time allows.
- b. **Group meetings:** In addition, the national department also seeks permission to host a group meeting (*Mulaqaat*) with His Holiness once a year. If approval is granted, then new Ahmadis are contacted through their local new Ahmadi secretaries to attend. This can be with slightly shorter notice due to the very full schedule of His Holiness. We will notify you as soon as possible when the next group meeting is booked.

8. EVENTS, MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS:

- a. **The Annual Convention (*Jalsa Salana*)** currently takes place each summer in Surrey at *Hadiqatul Mehdi* ('Garden of the Mehdi'), (Oaklands Farm, Green Street, East Worldham, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 3AU). The purpose of the *Jalsa* is to develop closeness with Allah Almighty, and to build bonds of brotherhood. We help new Ahmadis to attend. The process is that local presidents send a list of all new Ahmadis approved to attend *Jalsa*. This list is then approved by the national president. We will then send you your individual security code by text, as well guidance on getting to *Jalsa*. When you arrive at *Jalsa*, come to meet us at the new Ahmadi Marquee which is at the front of the *Jalsa* venue, next to the car park and the registration and reception tents. Using your code, we will then issue you with a New Ahmadi *Jalsa* Pass. You can

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receive assistance through your local presidents/secretaries for both transport to, and accommodation at, *Jalsa*. (See also our website <http://www.ahmadiconverts.org.uk/jalsa/>).



Image: Members of the New Ahmadi delegation, Jalsa Salana 2016

- b. Auxiliary gatherings (Ijtemas):** Each auxiliary organisation (see above) hosts an annual gathering (Ijtema) for its members. Members compete in sports and academics, listen to inspirational talks, and come together for congregational prayers at the Ijtemas. You will be notified of the dates each year through by the auxiliary organisations.
- c. Local meetings:** There are monthly meetings in each local community, where local activities are announced/discussed. By attending you can keep up to date and fully participate in your local chapter.

9. NEW AHMADI GATHERINGS (IJTEMAS) - Each year there is an annual Gathering for New Ahmadis at the national, regional, and, if possible, local level. These Gatherings involve congregational prayers, academics, sports, as well a blessed opportunity to build bonds of brotherhood/sisterhood with other converts. We will let you know each year when the national Ijtema date is planned, and the regional and local office-bearers will get in touch to invite you to their new Ahmadi Gatherings.

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Image: Amir sb UK (National President) presenting prizes at the national new Ahmadi Ijtema 2016

10. FINANCIAL SACRIFICE – The Holy Quran states: “*Never shall you attain to righteousness unless you spend out of that which you love; and whatever you spend, Allah surely knows it well.*” (Ch.3 v.93). Allah Almighty has established financial sacrifice as a means of worship. There are two main types of financial sacrifice: a) *Zakat* and b) *Spending in the way of Allah*. All Ahmadi Muslims are exhorted to engage in financial sacrifice. The local Finance Secretary and/or new Ahmadi secretary will advise you on all of these sacrifices (*chandas*):

Zakat: *Zakat* is one of the five pillars of Islam. This is for those people who have money, gold, silver, property etc. which are not in use for one full year. We sacrifice at a rate of 2.5%.

Chanda Aam: This is for all working members of the community. We contribute 1/16th of our income from all sources after taxes. The money is used for the various activities of the Jama’at.

Tahrik-i-Jadid: This is a scheme to establish new missions, construct Mosques, provide Missionaries etc. The suggested rate is 1/5th of one’s monthly income.

Waqfe Jadid: This is a scheme which looks after all the missions in the Indian subcontinent and now has been extended to Africa and Russia.

Sadaqa: A voluntary donation for the poor and needy - it is usually given to gain extra blessings

Eid Fund and Fitran: These are paid at the time of Eid to help the poor and those less fortunate.

Sub-Organisation Fund: Members are requested to contribute to their sub-organisations. There is a fixed rate set and auxiliaries collect for their *litemas*, which are held once a year.



Image: New Ahmadis attending a Mulaqat (meeting) with Huzur(aba)

11. AHMADI MUSLIM ID (AIMS) CARDS: The Ahmadiyya Community has an ID scheme which enables all Ahmadis to freely enter mosques and events. This ensures security, at a time when threats are high for Ahmadis across the world. All new Ahmadis can, and should, be entered onto this ID scheme, which is known as the AIMS system. To do this, presidents complete a *Tajneed* (registration) form for each new Ahmadi. They then send this to our dept. This form is sent with a passport photo of the new Ahmadi. We will then verify it and get the necessary approvals at the centre. You will then be issued with an AIMS ID number. If your President sends a photo with your form, then you will receive a temporary AIMS card at this stage. This

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can be either by post, or can be collected at the General Secretaries Office, Baitul Futuh mosque. The temporary card will enable you to enter all mosques and events, except for *Jalsa*. The above mentioned new Ahmadi *Jalsa* card will still be used for *Jalsa* entry. A permanent card will be issued after a period of review (usually after one year).

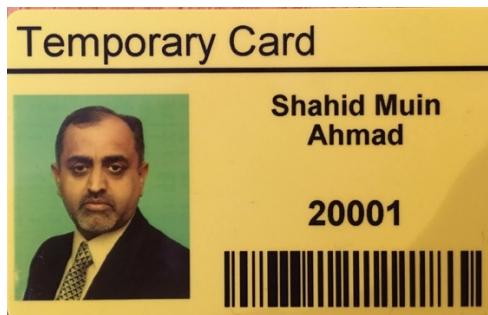


Image: An example of a new Ahmadi temporary AIMS card

12. ASYLUM –

- a. **Seeking refuge:** Some new Ahmadis are currently claiming asylum. This is not a problem. Many of the Prophets, and their Successors, have sought refuge in foreign lands. Even the Holy Prophet ^(saw) of Islam migrated to Medina due to religious oppression. However, we must always remind ourselves that while being granted asylum is important to prevent persecution, the true purpose of seeking refuge as an Ahmadi is to be able to worship Allah in safety.
- b. **Verification:** The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community cannot provide verification for any new Ahmadis in relation to their asylum case, for the first two years after their Bai'at. After these two years, permission may be sought to obtain verification for an asylum case. This should not be a cause for concern. The Home Office are aware of this two-year policy, and it is mentioned in their Country of Origin Information report concerning Ahmadis from Pakistan.

13. MARRIAGE - The Holy Prophet (saw) instructed that we should select a marriage partner on the basis of righteousness. Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Whoever Allah provides with a righteous wife, then Allah has assisted him in half of his religion. Let him fear Allah regarding the second half". Thus, marriage is an essential part of spiritual life.

a. Finding marriage: Having taken Bai'at, and then dedicated time to develop one's faith and knowledge, one will naturally seek to complete their religion through marriage. *Rishta Nata* (relationship of marriage) is the department responsible for arranging marriage. There is a Rishta Nata secretary at the national level, and there is also an equivalent Rishta Nata secretary in each local community. They run a database of eligible persons seeking marriage. You can contact them in order to seek to find a suitable life partner (See: <http://www.rishtanata.org.uk>). We can also help you to make contact with them.

b. Introductory period: for brothers who have taken Bai'at there is a one-year introductory period before they can enter into marriage with an Ahmadi lady. This is to enable brothers to focus on their spiritual development after Bai'at, and to ensure that the rights and security of ladies are protected. After this one-year period then brothers may enter into marriage, provided all necessary steps are taken (e.g. Nikkah, civil ceremony etc.). If a brother would like to seek permission to marry an Ahmadi lady sooner than this one-year period, they should discuss this with their local president.

14. LETTERS TO THE KHALIFA – As Ahmadis, we strive to establish a close bond with the Khalifa. An initial letter introducing yourself, and requesting prayers, is an ideal way to begin to build this bond. We should then strive to write at least one letter to the Khalifa each week. The Khalifa is the person who, in this age, is closest to Allah Almighty. His prayers are a source of great blessings. He receives

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thousands of letters every week from Ahmadi Muslims throughout the world. Whilst it may take time for him to reply to your letter, every letter (or a summary) is presented to him and you will receive a reply, inshaAllah. The address is: **Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V**, The London Mosque, 16 Gressenhall Road, Southfields, London, SW18 5QL.



Image: Fazl Mosque, London (Built in 1924 – London's oldest mosque)

15. SUGGESTED READING

As mentioned above, we have an educational training course available on our website (see above). However, there are many other excellent resources which we would also recommend.

The majority of the books mentioned below can be found online at the Al Islam website library section (See <http://www.alislam.org/books/>), and can be purchased at <http://store.alislam.org/> or at bookshops in the main mosques. We have compiled a list of books (below) that we feel would be good for you to read in order to progress in your spiritual development.

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Beginning: **Salat** - Prayer book; **Yassurnal Quran** - Learning to read Arabic; **Life of Muhammad** - very good book on the Holy Prophet's^(saw) life; **Wisdom of the Holy Prophet** - short Ahadith (sayings) about how to conduct oneself; **Pathway to Paradise** - useful spiritual guide book; **Book of Religious Knowledge** and **Basics of Religious Knowledge** - two books which give foundational teachings.

Second Stage: **Invitation to Ahmadiyyat** - explains the differences between the Ahmadiyya community and other Muslim groups etc.; **Ahmad, the Guided One** - book about the life of the Promised Messiah^(as); **Man of God** - book about the life of the Fourth Khalifa^(ra); **Philosophy of the teaching of Islam** – a very deep book, which expounds upon the Qur'anic teachings; **Holy Quran with Commentary** - a Commentary to help you understand the teachings of the Holy Quran; **Introduction of the study of the Holy Quran** – sets the context of the Holy Quran in relation to different religions, the life of the Holy Prophet^(saw) and numerous Qur'anic prophecies; **Stories of early Islam** - collection of stories from the early history of Islam; **Gardens of the Righteous** – renowned book on the Hadith (sayings of the Holy Prophet^(saw)); **Jesus in India; Where did Jesus Die; Christianity facts to fiction** - books concerning the life and death of Jesus^(as).

Deeper reading: **Guideposts** – guidance on how to develop oneself morally and spiritually; **Islam's response to contemporary issues** - book by the Fourth Khalifa^(ra) on current issues; **Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth** – comprehensive book by the Fourth Khalifa^(ra) on science, philosophy and religion; **Essence of Islam I and II** - books by the Promised Messiah^(as) explaining in-depth the teachings of Islam.

There are various other books, audio tapes, CDs, DVDs and You tube videos available. Please let us know if there is a particular subject that you want to know more about.

Further, the main Community website is: www.Alislam.org. The www.free-islamic-course.org website also provides an excellent method of learning about the foundations of Islam. The www.WhyAhmadi.org website focuses on issues concerning the revival of True Islam, including Khilafat, the finality of Prophethood, the death of Jesus^(as) and the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah^(as).

16. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

- **Should people take Baiaat for the sake of marriage?** We should take Baiaat for Allah Almighty and not for marriage. Otherwise we run the risk of associating partners with God Almighty. However, all deeds are judged by intention. We cannot see into the heart of another. While some people may initially come to know of Islam through marriage, they often go on to develop a very sincere belief in Allah Almighty in their own right. Therefore, if you are in this position you should not feel worried or shy. Rather, you should feel full of hope in the mercy of Allah Almighty. We all can, and should, strive to develop our own spirituality, for the benefit of our own souls, ready to meet our Lord, in this life and the next.
- **When can new Ahmadis get married to other Ahmadis?** Ladies taking baiaat can marry Ahmadi gentlemen without an introductory period. Ahmadi gentlemen taking baiaat can only marry Ahmadi ladies after a one-year introductory period. If a an Ahmadi gentlemen wishes to marry an Ahmadi lady sooner, permission can only be granted by Huzur(aba), via Amir sb UK (see above section on *marriage* for further information).
- **Can asylum seekers take Baiaat?** Yes, they can and should take Baiaat. The acceptance of True Islam is a great blessing for all of humanity. Many of the Prophets and Khulafa (Successors) sought refuge from persecution in foreign lands. However, we must also ensure that we do not take Baiaat for the sake of asylum. We must only take Baiaat to win the pleasure of Allah Almighty. While being granted asylum is important to prevent persecution, the true

purpose of seeking refuge for Ahmadi Muslims is to be able to worship Allah in safety (see above section on asylum).

- **Asylum - can the Jamaat provide a letter verifying the Baiaat and activities of a New Ahmadi?** The Jamaat cannot provide verification for any asylum case within the first two years of baiaat. After this point, new Ahmadis can obtain letters confirming activities via the normal (*Umurama*) route.
- **Chanda - can new Ahmadis pay chanda?** Yes, you can and should engage in financial sacrifice as soon as possible after your bai'at (see above section on *Financial Sacrifice*). You can pay using your AIMS number, or if they don't have one, via a 999 code.



Image: Baitul Futuh mosque, London (largest mosque in Western Europe)

- **What should I do if meetings are being held in a language which I don't understand (e.g. Urdu)?** Huzur^(aba) has given guidance on this matter: all meetings must be in the language of the nation (e.g. English in England, Japanese in Japan etc.) and at the end, one-quarter of the content can be translated into another language (e.g. Urdu) if some members don't understand the national language. If you are facing this difficulty, please let us (the national

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dept), your local new Ahmadi secretary and local president know, and we will strive to resolve it ASAP.

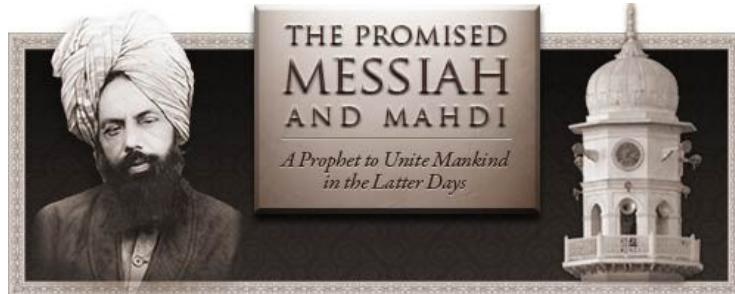
- **What should I do if only serve spicy food is being served at meetings?** The national *Ziafat* (food/hospitality) department seeks to ensure that non-spicy food options are always available for those who cannot eat spicy food. If you cannot eat spicy food (or have any other dietary requirements), and are facing this problem, please let us (the national dept), your local new Ahmadi secretary and local president know, and we will strive to resolve it ASAP.
- **How can I develop my knowledge about, and practice of, Islam?** His Holiness, the Fifth Khalifa Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad ^(aba), has instructed that training (*Tarbiyyat*) courses be run for new Ahmadis across the UK, on a weekly basis in each local Jam'aat. Attending these weekly classes is the best method to develop your knowledge. We have developed a syllabus which brings together a number of different resources covering *Salat* (prayers), the foundations of Islamic knowledge and practice, onwards to the revival of Islam during the time of the Promised Messiah^(as). All resources can be accessed online at our website: <http://www.ahmadiconverts.org.uk/training-course> (see above section on the *Tarbiyyat* course).
- **How can I attend Jalsa Salana (The Annual Convention)?** We help new Ahmadis to attend. The process is that local presidents send a list of all new Ahmadis approved to attend *Jalsa*. This list is then approved by the national president. We will then send you your individual security code by text, as well as guidance on getting to *Jalsa* (see above section on *Jalsa Salana*).
- **How can I meet with the Khalifa?** You can and should seek permission to meet with His Holiness ^(aba) as soon as possible. The procedure for doing this is set out above under our "*Meetings (Mulaqaat)*" section: the local presidents fill out a form approving for the new Ahmadi to meet His Holiness; the national New Ahmadi secretary verifies this form; the form is passed to the national president who gives final approval; the national secretary

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then books the meeting on an available date convenient for you. You will then be accompanied during the meeting with an appropriate person (new Ahmadi secretary or president) from the local community or a representative from the national Dept.

- **Any other questions:** Please contact us using the details below.



17. GLOSSARY - Many words are used in this welcome pack which can be hard to understand. For this reason, please see below a glossary of Islamic words and terminology to assist:

- ^(aba) – may Allah Almighty be his helper (commonly used in relation to the Khalifa)
- ^(as) – may Peace Be Upon Him (used in relation to Prophets - see also the English rendering of this abbreviation 'pbuh' below)
- Ahadith – Sayings of Holy Prophet Muhammad ^(saw)
- Bai'at – Declaration of initiation
- Durood – the invocation of blessings on the Holy Prophet ^(saw)
- The Holy Prophet ^(saw) – refers to Prophet Muhammad ^(saw)
- Huzur – means 'His Holiness' (this is a term of reverence and is most commonly used to refer to the Khalifa of the time)
- Jalsa Salana – Annual convention (the international Jalsa takes place each year in the UK)
- Jama'at – Community (or 'local branch' if used in this context)
- Ijtema – Gathering (see more details in the above *Events* section)

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- Khalifa – a Successor, usually to a Prophet (translated as Caliph in English)
- Khalifatul Masih – refers to a Khalifa to the Promised Messiah ^(as)
- Mawakhat – Brotherhood/Sisterhood
- Tarbiyyat – Moral and spiritual training
- Mulaqaat – Meeting (commonly used to refer to a meeting with the Khalifa ^(aba))
- ^(ra) – May Allah be please with him (*RasiAllahu Anhu* in Arabic)
- ^(pbuh) – may Peace be upon him (used in relation to Prophets)
- ^(saw) – may Peace and blessings of Allah Almighty be upon Him (*Sallalahu Allaihi Wasallam* in Arabic)
- Shirk - Associating partners with God Almighty
- Tahajjud – Voluntary prayers done in the middle of the night, before the Fajr ('early morning') prayers
- Umurama – the department for Internal Affairs within the Ahmadiyya Community, who deal with numerous matters, including the verification of asylum claims



Image: The door of The Prophet's Mosque (Mecca) bearing the blessed name of The Holy Prophet Muhammad ^(saw) in Arabic

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