

The Community in Action

There are over 90 branches of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community throughout the UK and they actively work to spread the peaceful message of Islam. It is our belief that tolerance and respect are the foundations of a peaceful society and we are committed to working with people of all faiths to enable everyone to practise their religion without hindrance. We are also dedicated to serving society, whether it is through raising funds for charitable causes or by giving our time to make our neighbourhoods cleaner, we believe it is our duty to serve our country in every way we can.



FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND TOLERANCE IN ISLAM SEMINAR



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Hundreds step out for good causes

MORE than 600 Muslims put their walking shoes on in a bid to raise £50,000 for charity. Islamic group the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK chose Hartlepool for its annual charity walk. The event attracted 600 Muslims from across the UK, many more than the organisers had expected. The 12-mile walk started at the town hall, on Hartlepool's seafront, and ended at the town's main shopping street. The group's regional president, former politician, Iqbal, said: "It was a lovely day and there was a brief shower to add to it. It would be a shame to miss the walk with the sun. The charity raised from the charity walk will be distributed to various charities including Hartlepool and District Hospice, Buterwick Hospice, Hartlepool Children's Hospice and Cancer Research UK." **By Gary Miles**

Unique meeting of two world religions

Report by the Revd STEVE FLASHMAN

ONE-hundred-and-fifty Muslims and Christians sat down for a meal together at an historic meeting which took place on the 11 February at the Ahmadiyya Muslim community centre in Tilford.

For the first time in the history of the disease, Sir Sir John Glavin, Bishop of Chichester and his wife Lydia, were honoured guests at the function, which was organised by Mr Rafiq Hayat, the UK President of the Ahmadiyya Association.

"It was a unique occasion this evening which brought us all closer together," he said, "and will ensure the many misunderstandings that exist within the communities." Referring to the tragic events of September 11, Mr Hayat commented: "No religion that in Jesus God teaches such destruction. Today we are sending out a strong message to all those people who would create discord and disharmony in this society."

Rev John Glavin at the Ahmadiyya Muslim community centre, Tilford

Star-ringing role aims to provide vital shelter

MORE than 600 tents were collected for the Oxfam appeal to help relieve the plight of thousands of homeless people struck by the Asian tsunami - and most are already being used in Indonesia in field hospitals and as temporary homes.

The appeal called Sending Tents for Asian Relief (STAR) by the international charity Humanity First was organised by retired physicist Peter Harbour, from South Avenue, Alington, in conjunction with the international relief agency Humanity First.

Tents were collected in five centres in Cheshire - the Thurston Suburban Centre and the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Oxford, Christchurch, Alington, the Church of St James in Salford and at the UKAEA Science Centre at Culham. Argos contributed £25,000 worth of tents. Topshop Sports donated 20 Homebase and Wags Carpets gave packaging materials. THE Plant Hire of Alington and Hildon Construction of Grove donated two generators and the donated help from Scouts and Guides.

Mr Harbour said: "The generosity of people has been astonishing. To have collected over 600 tents in three weeks has been an extraordinary achievement. People from all faiths, car clubs, groups and individuals have contributed." Called out by Andrew Smith and the Lord Mayor Brian Keen met individuals and representatives of the organisations involved in the appeal at the Ahmadiyya Mosque. The director of Humanity First, Faz Ahmed praised everyone's efforts and particularly the collaboration of the local religious groups.

He said the continuing crisis in Banda Aceh in Indonesia was "desperate" and there was a need for more medical assistance. He said that Humanity First was planning a seven-month presence in the affected areas.

Andrew Smith, Lord Mayor of Alington, and Peter Harbour, founder of STAR, with other volunteers at the tent collection site.

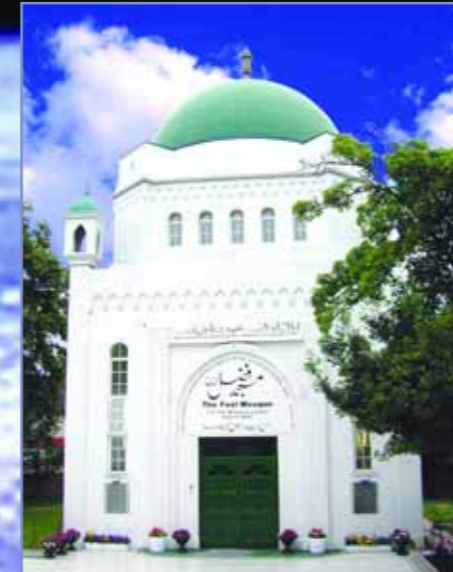
MTA International Television

Muslim Television Ahmadiyya emerged in 1992 with the aim of providing a positive alternative in the broadcasting world. It was the brainchild of the fourth Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya community, Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (ru) and ever since its inception, MTA International has been a unique channel in many respects. Its focus lies in producing programmes enjoyed by people of all ages at all times.



www.mta.tv

The Ahmadiyya community has built over 8,000 mosques worldwide, including the first mosque in Spain for 700 years and one of the largest mosque in Sydney, Australia. In Toronto, Canada it has also built one of the largest mosques in the North American continent.



The first overseas mission of the Ahmadiyya community was established in London in 1913. It built the first mosque in London, the Fazl Mosque (pictured above) in 1924. It is the only mosque known as 'The London Mosque'. Pictured below is the Baitul Futuh Mosque.



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 (UK Registered Charity: 299081)



The Baitul Futuh Mosque (cover and above), based in South London is one of the biggest in Western Europe: the total complex can accommodate up to 10,000 people. Baitul Futuh Mosque was voted as one of the top 50 buildings to visit IN THE WORLD by *The Information* - a supplement magazine of *The Independent* national newspaper.

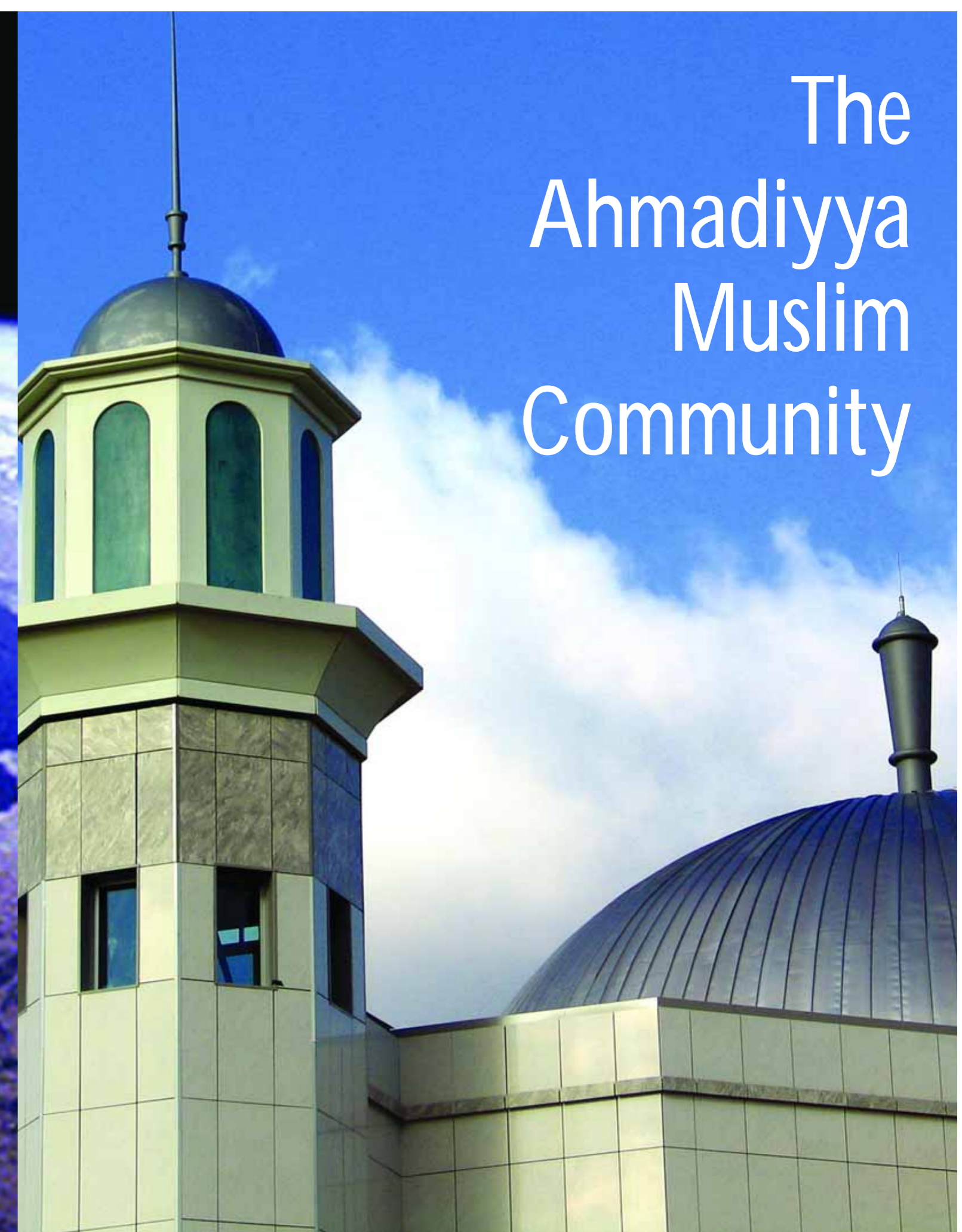
"I Will Cause Thy Message to Reach the Corners of the Earth"

Revelation received by Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) (The Promised Messiah and Mahdi)

"For the information of non-Muslim readers, '(saw)' after the words, 'Holy Prophet', or the name 'Muhammad', are used. They stand for 'Salallahu alaihi wassalam' meaning 'Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him'. Likewise, the letters '(as)' or 'as' after the name of all other prophets is an abbreviation meaning 'Peace be upon him' derived from Alaihi salato wassalam' for the respect a Muslim reader utters. The abbreviation 'ra' or (ra) stands for 'Radhiallahu Ta'ala anhu and is used for Companions of a Prophet, meaning Allah be pleased with him or her (when followed by the relevant Arabic pronoun). Also ru or (ru) for Rahemahullahu Ta'ala means the Mercy of Allah the Exalted be upon him.

For further information about the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, please visit: WWW.alislam.org

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



Love for All Hatred for None

Ahmadiyyat

The Renaissance of Islam

Islam, the Holy Prophet (saw) and the Holy Qur'an.

Islam means 'Peace and submission to the Will of Allah'. It was a message brought by the Prophet Muhammad (saw) nearly 1400 years ago in Arabia. Muhammad (saw) received a revelation from Allah in which he was told that Allah alone was worthy of worship and nothing else was equal to Him and that Islam was the final and complete religion for mankind. Muhammad (saw) helped the poor, liberated slaves and established equal rights for women. He told his followers to be patient during hardship and to pray to Allah. His mission was to eradicate evil and iniquity, implant goodness and piety and draw mankind nearer to its Creator. Muhammad (saw) led a simple, pious and peaceful life.

The Holy Qur'an is the holy book of Islam. It is the word of Allah and was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (saw) over 23 years. It has 30 parts and is divided into 114 chapters. It contains a vast array of teachings and is a comprehensive code of conduct for mankind. It also contains numerous prophecies many of which have been fulfilled and many that remain to be fulfilled.

ISLAM and OTHER RELIGIONS – Islam believes in all the prophets and religious teachers appointed by God, including Muhammad, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Krishna, Buddha, Confucius, and Zarathustra (peace be upon them all). Islam regards them all as heavenly teachers sent to reform humanity and establish communion with God — the Creator. Islam testifies that the original teachings of various faiths come from the One same God.

ISLAM and EQUAL RIGHTS: Islam also emphasises that men and women and people of all races are equal before Allah and only righteous deeds elevate one person above another. It permits no exploitation, be it social, political, economic or religious.

ISLAM and MANKIND: Islam reinforces the concept of humanity and respect for individual liberty. It also reminds man of his fundamental human right of being free to choose his own religion. The Qur'an states that there is no compulsion in religion.

THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

The followers of all great religions awaited the advent of a Promised One in the Latter Days as predicted in their Holy scriptures. The Hindus awaited Krishna, the Jews and Christians the Messiah, the Buddhists the Buddha and the Muslims the Imam al-Mahdi, as well as the Messiah. Under Divine guidance, Hadhrat Ahmad (as) declared that in fact only one person representing all the qualities of the one promised in different religions was to appear and humanity would ultimately be

brought into the fold of one universal religion. Hadhrat Ahmad (as), the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, claimed to be that Promised One awaited throughout the world in various faiths.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community teaches the true Islam, in all its purity. Islam is a religion of peace. It is a religion that meets the demands and challenges of the changing world.

Islam believes in absolute morality and enjoins justice and fairness to friends and foes alike, in every sphere of human interest. It is the firm belief of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community that Islam is the cure for all maladies and ailments of suffering in humanity today.

Islam teaches us that unless man learns to live at peace with himself and his fellow human beings, he cannot live at peace with God. In Islam, you shall find peace and tranquillity of the heart which is the fruit of submitting to the Will of God.

With this conviction the Ahmadiyya Muslim community has grown rapidly and is truly international in scope, with communities established in over 180 countries spanning all the continents.

The membership of the worldwide Ahmadiyya community is in the millions and is increasing everyday. It is the most dynamic and positive religious force on earth today. Members of the community are law-abiding, peaceful, hard-working and benevolent citizens all over the world.



SERVING HUMANITY

Islam states that service to humanity is a part of faith. In this spirit the community has established schools – open to all – in many countries. Many of the schools have become some of the most sought after institutions in their respective countries.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community is also noted for its active engagement in social welfare and in meeting the medical and educational needs, not only of its own members but also of the communities in which they reside. The community has also opened up many medical clinics and hospitals that offer free medical assistance. In Africa these efforts have served the local people for decades.



The community has launched several social projects to help developing countries in Africa and Asia, and assist the victims of wars and natural disasters in India, Japan, Turkey, Bosnia, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Kashmir. The Ahmadiyya community supports Humanity First – a UK based international NGO, that is devoted to promote and safeguard the preservation of human life and dignity. It is a non-political, non-sectarian international relief and development agency that works with communities around the globe to improve the quality of life for some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Members of the community serve humanity through selfless sacrifices, devotion and love and have organised marathon walks to assist other charities such as Save the Children, Imperial Cancer Research, the British Heart Foundation, Great Ormond Street Hospital etc. in the UK.



Spiritual Leadership



Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
The Promised Messiah and Mahdi

One of the greatest bounties of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community is that it has been blessed with the institution of Khilafat in Islam. Khilafat, (God's vicegerent, or successor to a prophet) – the spiritual system of leadership – was reinstated by the Promised Messiah (as) and after his demise it has served to unite the community on one platform. The first successor of Hadhrat Ahmad (as) was Hadhrat Maulvi Nooruddin (ra), a renowned scholar of the Holy Qur'an and an eminent physician. In 1914, he was succeeded by Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (ra) – a renowned scholar of Islamic studies who also enjoyed a vast knowledge of other religions. He led the community for 51 years and firmly laid the administrative structure of Ahmadiyyat as an international community. The third successor was Hadhrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad (ru), a distinguished educationalist, who placed great emphasis on service to Africa. In 1982, Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (ru) was elected as the fourth successor. His leadership projected the wonderful teachings of Islam into the 21st century on a truly global scale through numerous community projects and the creation of a unique satellite television channel.

The Ahmadiyya community is now passing through another golden era of a fifth Khalifa, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, who holds the worldwide Ahmadiyya community together as one. He ensures that every step taken is in the right direction, fulfilling the mission of the Promised Messiah (as). The Khalifa is particularly dedicated to ensure that Islam is viewed and understood as a religion of peace throughout the world. He has repeatedly emphasised the fact that Islam rejects violence in any form and for any reason as it is completely at odds with Islam – a word which itself means peace.'



Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad
Head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya community



THE ANNUAL CONVENTION



One of the main highlights of the UK Jalsa are the speeches that always attract record number of listeners by the leader of the worldwide Ahmadiyya community, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, during each of the three days.

On December 27, 1891, a gathering (Jalsa) of the Ahmadiyya community was held in Qadian, India, in which 75 people participated. The conference was a great success. The Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), announced that such a gathering of the Community for three days should be held every year. The event is now one of the main highlights of the community's calendar and it is held at different times in a number of countries. The UK Annual Convention attracts visitors, dignitaries and other VIPs from all over the world.

The purpose of these gatherings is to review the work done in the previous year and benefit from talks and speeches presented by learned scholars and the Khalifa on topics covering God, Islam, Ahmadiyyat, comparative religions, and economic, social and political problems and their remedies. Ahmadi Muslims participating in these gatherings come from all parts of the world. They not only increase their religious knowledge and spiritual energy but also revive old friendships. Over 25,000 people attend the UK Jalsa each day. They also listen to speeches by VIPs and other distinguished guests from different faiths. Shown here are just a small selection of recent Jalsas held in the UK.



ANNUAL CONVENTION: The highlight of the year is the UK Convention (Jalsa) which is attended by thousands of delegates from all over the world and watched by millions live on television. It is truly a unique gathering.



Speeches by VIPs at previous Jalsas: (1) and (2) Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad presiding over speeches by Jeremy Hunt (MP for South West Surrey) and Stephen Hammond MP for Wimbledon; (3) Lord Eric Avebury; (4) Baroness Emma Nicholson MEP; (5) Rafiq Hayat, the UK National President presiding over a speech given by Laura Moffat MP for Crawley; (6) John Bowis MEP for London; (7) Stephen McCabe MP for Birmingham and (8) Alan Keen MP for Feltham and Heston.

