



EAST LONDON MOSQUE
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Annual Review

2013-2014





OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE, EDUCATE AND INSPIRE.

The East London Mosque & London Muslim Centre is in the heart of Tower Hamlets, a diverse borough with a rich history, and home to the UK's largest Muslim community. It is our belief that our primary concern should be to serve the needs of the local community and to work towards the common good.

Contents

Chairman's Foreword	4
Executive Summary	5
Director's Report	6
Religious Services	8
Education and Training	10
Social Welfare	12
Community Cohesion	18
Economic Development	20
Premises	22
History and Archive	24
Fundraising Report	26
Conclusion	28
Board of Trustees	23
Financial Statements	30

Chairman's Foreword



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

The facilities of the East London Mosque Trust (ELMT) have become a hub of activity, as thousands of people access the services that meet their spiritual and community needs. I am humbled that Allah has placed so much of His Grace on this institution.

The new Maryam Centre has been operational for the past year, and I have been delighted to see how well it has been used as its services have been established. The full potential of the Maryam Centre will be realised in years to come, when it will become an instrumental factor in providing women access to mainstream services that they would have otherwise never used. Thus helping to bridge huge gaps in inequality that we so often see in some of the poorest parts in the country.

One of our key priorities and focuses remains on helping young people. How we engage with them with the many hurdles that they face in contemporary society, and how we empower and equip them with life skills, so that they may become model citizens is certainly a challenge. However, we will not waiver and remain committed to our young people. We are ready to engage with them and address their concerns, and even at times we share their frustrations.

As ever, we are always ready to address the pertinent issues of our times. Matters that directly affect our communities and impact those that we serve, play a key part in the way we shape and deliver our services. We are constantly striving to better shape policies and help part take in any consultation that can be of benefit to all our communities.

We have maintained and developed upon our existing partnerships, to continue building a more cohesive community in London. It is through the valuable work of our partners, that at times is not clearly recognised, which helps us to maintain positive attitudes, which makes London amongst one of the most progressive cities in the world.

I would like to thank all who have helped to contribute to another successful year. The work of the ELMT to serve, educate and inspire must continue, and I open my arms to all who can help us in this endeavour to improve the well-being of all in our communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Muhammad Habibur Rahman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Muhammad Habibur Rahman
Chairman

Executive Summary



Alhamdulillah (praise be to God), this was another eventful year, the first full year of operation for the Maryam Centre. Prayer facilities for men and women have increased and improved. Women's user groups relocated to the Maryam Centre in September 2013, and a Projects Manager for the Maryam Centre was recruited from January 2014.

There is growing demand for counselling services for women; we provided a limited service, with a part-time counsellor and qualified volunteers. Demand for advice from our Imams also continues to increase; there is now a need for an additional Imam.

The full-time schools continue to perform well. The new secondary school for girls, provisionally named the Maryam Academy, is scheduled to open from September 2015. The ELM Evening Madrasah was restructured, and class sizes reduced to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Faith in Health continued to promote healthy living in the community through a variety of initiatives.

The ELMT received pledges of just over half a million pounds for the Maryam Centre through fundraising initiatives, such as Run 4 Your Mosque, Ramadan Appeal and TV Appeal. A fundraising month in March 2014 emphasised setting up standing orders. Staff and

volunteers managed to sign up about 1500 people to set up regular standing orders, worth £14,000 per month.

The Funeral Service now functions fully from the Maryam Centre basement; the new facilities make it more efficient and accessible. It is still the most popular Muslim funeral service in UK; on average the mosque hosts a dozen funeral prayers every week.

Part of the sixth floor of the Maryam Centre has been fitted out as a fitness gym for women only. ELMT partner organisation, Hayaa Fitness will be delivering this service; their existing provision in the LMC basement is now for men only.

There was a rise in Islamophobia after the Woolwich Murder in May 2013; many mosques were attacked. As a consequence the ELMT employed night security throughout the year. In addition, an improved CCTV system was installed throughout the complex.

A very small section of the media continues to demonise the ELM and LMC; the ELMT media department responded to inaccurate and false allegations.

Three open days were held and many visits by schools, professionals, and faith and community groups were facilitated. Engagement with wider society to promote the common good was

sustained and improved.

Maintaining a high standard of repairs and maintenance in the three buildings with an increasing number of users continues to be a challenge. A new ventilation system was installed in the ELM basement; it now works well and people found it comfortable during prayers in Ramadan.

May Allah give us the ability to continue to serve and inspire the community, and bring about positive change in society for the benefit of all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ayub Khan'.

Ayub Khan
Honorary Secretary

Director's Report



It has been a very productive year for us. As the Maryam Centre has become operational, we have strived to improve all our projects and services, and also offer a more tailored service for the needs of women.

We continue to be true to our trust's vision: '...to serve, educate and inspire.' Our focus and resolve in these tough times of austerity and cut-backs is unwavering. Our staff regularly looks at innovative ways to fundraise and diversify the income for the trust, so that we can keep providing the valuable services our users demand.

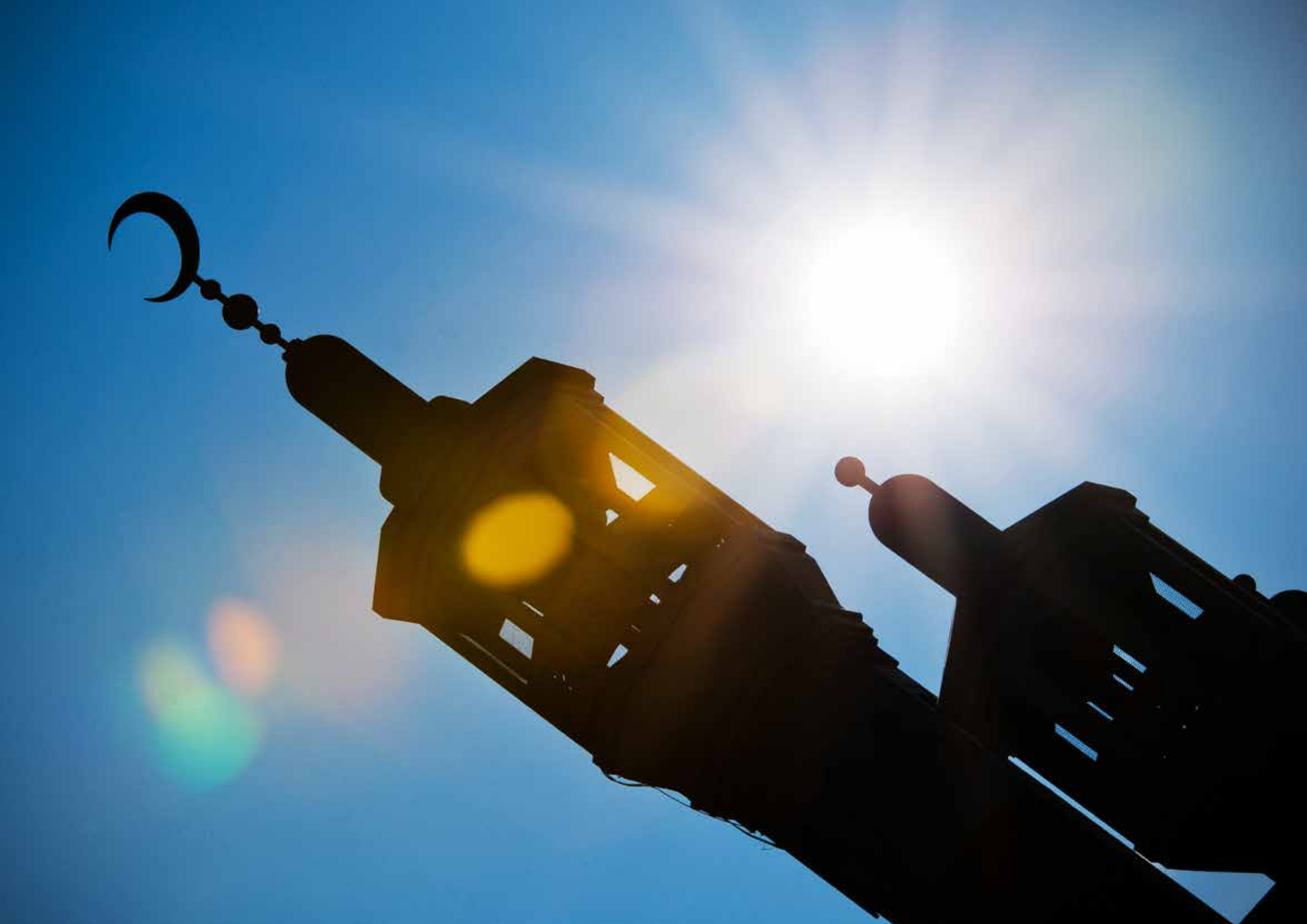
This annual review details how we've progressed together as an organisation and community, to provide projects and services, under our core work areas: religious services, education and training, social welfare, economic development and community cohesion.

As ever, we rely upon the generous support from our donors and well wishers to help us fundraise, to pay off the debt due to the capital build costs of the Maryam Centre.

I trust in the coming years, we will continue to deliver for the benefit of all society, and work hand in hand with our partners to tackle the challenges of alienation, Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. U. Khan'.

Dilowar Khan
Executive Director



Religious Services

Ramadan continued to be the busiest month of the year, with over 300,000 people passing through our doors.

Prayer Facilities

The additional facilities of the Maryam Centre increased the prayer capacity, yet congregations have grown so that occasionally the complex overflows onto the pavement, with the number of worshippers exceeding 7000.

The new prayer facilities for women have transformed their experience praying at the Mosque, with almost 1000 women praying every Friday for Jumu'ah.

The Mosque has British Sign Language interpreters for the Friday sermon and for the Eid prayers, and is planning to make this available through most of its complex using a picture-in-picture broadcast.

Islam Awareness Project (IAP)

IAP provides information, advice and support to those interested in Islam and to new Muslims. The weekly New Muslim Circle continues to support those new to Islam providing basic Islamic teaching and training in groups, and one-to-one support.

IAP supports other activities of the Mosque including fundraising, visits and exhibitions. IAP worked with TELCO on interfaith and community cohesion initiatives.

Religious Teaching

The Mosque tries to help people learn about their

religion. There are several weekly sessions in the English, Somali, Bengali and Arabic.

Hajj training seminars in English and Bangla were held with a combined attendance of about 1000 people. There were also two Umrah Seminars in Bangla and English with a total attendance of around 600.

Adhan Radio

This valuable service continues to provide access to the Adhan (Call to Prayer), Friday sermon, Tarawih (Ramadan evening prayers) and selected programmes for those at home.

Ramadan 1435 AH (2014)

Despite the long days of fasting, Ramadan continued to be the busiest month of the year, with over 300,000 people passing through our doors.

The new Maryam Centre increased capacity. Despite the extra space, people were over spilling onto the street on the first night of Ramadan for the Tarawih prayer, with over 7000 packing into the complex.

The Alhambra fundraising wall was completed shortly before Ramadan, so donors could see their names on the mosaic behind a specially constructed glass screen.

Despite the lateness of the prayers, there were

big congregations every night, enjoying the Qur'an recitation from guests from around the world.

The Mosque in partnership with Muslim Aid provided thousands of bottles of water, given out free but with requests for a voluntary contribution.

The ELMT hosted over 500 men and women every evening for the breaking of the fast. Meals were provided free, though people were invited to make voluntary contributions. Some businesses donated food, as each night a team of people cooked and prepared in the LMC kitchen.

374 people applied for Itikaf (seclusion in the Mosque in the last 10 days of Ramadan), so again there was a draw to determine the 100 places available.

'Eid

There were five sittings for the congregational prayers for 'Eidul Adha in 2013, and six for 'Eidul Fitr in 2014, facilitating over 20,000 people on each occasion. Sign language for deaf worshippers was provided for the last sitting each time.



Education & Training

1000+ Children learning about Islam every week

Improving School Attendance & Attainment in Partnership (ISAAP) ■

ISAAP has delivered well this year despite the reduction in funding and changes in staff. The project is funded through a small mainstream grant and service level agreements with a number of secondary and primary schools.

The project has worked with 171 families providing one to one support, home visits, parenting workshops, facilitating assemblies at schools; and three-way meetings between pupils, parents and teachers. ISAAP improved the attendance and attainment of 95% of pupil referrals.

Al Mizan & London East Academy ■

Al-Mizan is a full-time primary school, the London East Academy (LEA) is a full-time secondary school, both for boys, with a single governing body and head teacher.

The primary has a total of 95 students on roll (out of a possible 100) and secondary has 148 (out of a possible 150), with a total of 20 staff members. Al Mizan made significant improvements; results in this academic year for National Curriculum have been the best so far, with 3 students achieving level 6 in Maths and over half achieving level 5 in English and Maths. 11 students completed memorisation of the Qur'an

The London East Academy continued to achieve academic success, with 90% achieving grades A* to C in GCSE (including English and Maths). The curriculum has been reviewed in the light of

national changes and the school has now added IGCSE history and IGCSE Islamiyat to its GCSE line-up.

Saturday Islamic School (SIS) ■

The Saturday Islamic School (SIS) caters for the educational needs of girls and boys aged 6½ to 15 years. Classes are held at three local secondary schools and in the ELMT complex. This year SIS educated nearly 650 children. Over 75% of the children are from 73 schools in Tower Hamlets. The remaining children are from 64 schools in neighbouring boroughs, the vast majority of whom are former residents of Tower Hamlets.

Amongst the highlights of the year are visits to the 'Garden of Peace' by older students; sponsored fundraising of more than £8K for the Maryam Centre; residential & day trip at Gilwell Park by older boys and girls; annual presentation ceremony – a live theatre on 'Snow White' from an Islamic perspective; and a Fun Day attracting nearly 200 parents.

ELM Evening Madrasah ■

The ELM Evening Madrasah has a student roll of 225. The Madrasah has put in place a newly designed 7-year structured syllabus. New books have also been introduced into the curriculum. The staffing structure was re-modelled. New staff were provided child protection training and staff workshops have taken place to improve teaching standards and raise awareness of children's health and safety.

Library ■

The library operates from Monday to Thursday 4.30 – 8.00 PM, and on Friday 2.00 – 8.00 PM, with seasonal adjustment around the prayer times. Due to the difficulty in arranging volunteers, the weekend service is no longer available.

The library has over 7,000 books, mainly in English and Arabic, but includes over 800 books in Bangla and almost 500 for children. There are also 16 computers with internet access and Microsoft Office which are available for library users without charge. The library also houses the archive room.

Food 4 Thought ■

This service is targeted at key stage 3 and 4 pupils, with the aim of helping disadvantaged youth reach further and higher education by instilling a deep enthusiasm and interest in learning.

This academic year we have had approximately 45-50 young people attending our sessions and benefiting from one-to-one GCSE support and personal development.

Rainbow House Children's Centre ■

This year Rainbow House provided a range of services for children under 8 years of age and their families – including a full-time pre-school session, half-day morning and afternoon preschool sessions, Sunday Arabic Language



Club, Evening Arabic Club, Mother & Toddler drop-in sessions, and a crèche. Demand for places continues to be high.

Staff and the Management Committee continue to make improvements, creating a warm and welcoming environment, developing close relationships with children and their parents to enable learning to thrive. We have provided a 12-week parenting course, taken part in Forest School training and achieved Healthy Early Years status.

Services for Deaf Children and Adults

In partnership with Al-Isharah, the services for deaf people have become a stable feature of the Mosque's activities.

The Saturday class for deaf children and their families is over-subscribed, with attendance averaging 35-45; there is demand to expand if space allows.

The Friday sermon is delivered in BSL; for men it is located in the 1st floor of the LMC and for women it is delivered in the Maryam Centre prayer hall. We are hoping to implement picture-in-picture broadcasts which will allow BSL to be shown across the whole complex wherever there is a screen. This will reduce costs in the long run for Al Isharah and will be a pragmatic way to become more accessible.

The post-Jum'ah class is well attended, with over 40 people discussing the subject of the sermon of the day. This is often facilitated by one of the Imams.

Junior Muslim Circle (JMC)

JMC holds programmes every weekend:

- Weekly Activities for girls: this is delivered every Saturday 11-1pm
- Weekly Activities for Boys: this is delivered every Sunday from 11-1pm.

There have been structured activities organised for the half-term and end-of-term holidays. These included five residentials at Hindleap Warren, East Sussex, and one residential at Avon Tyrrell. 60 young people aged 11 to 16 participated; boys and girls trips were held separately.

Young people have developed considerably through participation on JMC activities, in particular those engaging in volunteering and training. We hope this learning based approach supports the young people to become better Muslims.

8th East London LMC Scouts Group

The Muslim scouts group are based at the LMC, but undertake their physical activities at the Atlee Centre. With a number of self-development excursions taking place over the year, the scouts have engaged in camping, orienteering, fundraising for the Maryam Centre, supported

Run 4 Your Mosque, organised a 'show and tell' community day and much more. There is a girl scouts group and a boy scouts group, each one led by experienced scout leaders and volunteers.

Training for Staff, Volunteers and Trustees

The induction for Trustees was completed. There will be further training for trustees on Roles & Responsibilities, Managing Conflicts of Interest and understanding the Hallmarks of an Effective Charity.

Staff and volunteers were given Customer Services training, and Security and Safeguarding training. The Senior Management Team also undertook training on Developing Performance Management Frameworks.

Jibreel Institute (registered as Jibreel Trust)

Courses were launched in September 2013, specialising in the provision of Arabic and Islamic studies for adults, and taught by qualified scholars and teachers, who use both traditional and contemporary teaching methods to suit the students. Around 200 students were enrolled. The forthcoming year will see a continuation of some of the above subject areas and an expansion of subject areas to ensure better access.

Social Welfare

Help, Advice and Counselling ■

The Mosque continues to be a hub for those looking for advice and guidance, especially on religious issues. Although the Imams try to meet the demand from the public there are occasions when they are overwhelmed. During a two week audit it was found that a large number of enquiries are received outside of surgery times. The Mosque received an average of 1,500 enquiries (telephone, in person, email) per week in that period. Enquiries relating to marriage were also high with an average of 53 enquiries per week.

Jamiat-ul-Muslimin ■

Jamiat-ul-Muslimin is the volunteer support network for the ELMT. Their main duties include volunteering and collections for Fridays, Ramadan and Eid. Members regularly participated in meetings to support local activities. These included working with TELCO for the Invictus Games, the Mayoral hustings, and consultations for the Whitechapel Masterplan. They undertook volunteers training to improve and develop skills in crowd control, communication and behaviour. Training also included dealing with people with special needs.

Working in Partnership

Tower Hamlets CVS

The Assistant Executive Director founded and chaired the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services. There has been much work in representing the Third Sector and in particular supporting organisations to access resources in these difficult times of austerity.

Faiths Forum for London

The Executive Director is a vice-chair of the Faiths Forum for London, and has been working diligently to enable various faith communities across London to work on joint initiatives on crime reduction and representing common interests to regional and central government.

Imams and Rabbis Council

The Imams and Rabbis Council, initiated by The Josephs Interfaith Foundation, has gained great momentum and has now developed into the National Imams and Rabbis Council. The Executive Director and the Imams played a leading role with many other Muslim and Jewish leaders to work on common issues of concern between Muslim and Jewish communities.

London Citizens and TELCO

The Mosque's relationship with TELCO, London Citizens and Citizens UK continues to grow. We worked with London Citizens to help coordinate community organisations and member institutions, especially schools for the Invictus Games. We had the pleasure of hosting the Citizens UK Annual General Meeting and Awards Evening in December 2013. It was a well-attended event with participation from across all of Citizens UK's member organisations.

Muslim Council of Britain (MCB)

The MCB has been supported through fundraising in Ramadan and the hosting of its various meetings with its affiliates at the London Muslim Centre. It has provided us with guidance and support in the wake of right wing attacks against the Muslim community.

Hayaa Fitness ■

Hayaa Fitness expanded its services so now there is full time access for men at the LMC and women at the Maryam Centre. Affordable health and fitness complements our vision of ensuring communities lead a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

Faith Regen ■

Faith Regen delivered two cohorts of Citizenship Training and Information Technology at the Maryam Centre. They continue to provide employment support and accredited training at the London Muslim Centre.

Muslim Agency for Development and Enterprise in Europe (MADE in Europe)

MADE in Europe made an immense contribution by installing a rooftop garden in the link between the LMC and Maryam Centre, with volunteers tending to the plants. MADE run strong campaigns on environmental awareness and maternal health.

Islamic Forum of Europe ■

Local members of Islamic Forum of Europe have been contributing to the development of the East London Mosque Trust since their inception in the late 1980s. They contribute by volunteering for special events at the Mosque, particularly during the fundraising month and during Ramadan and Eid.

Working with Partners to Challenge Islamophobia

The Mosque was at the receiving end of provocation from a far-right group called Britain First, who tried to provoke a reaction from the community by visiting Tower Hamlets in an

armoured land rover and handing out 'Christian Patrol' leaflets. We worked with our partners including the local authority to maintain peace and cohesiveness in the borough.

On 19 May 2014 Britain First attempted to 'invade' (in their own words) the East London Mosque. However, this PR stunt failed; the Mosque acted quickly to release a statement and CCTV footage to the press, which completely undermined Britain First's stunt.

Faith in Health ■

Since its launch 7 years ago, Faith in Health (FIH) has continued to develop. Its new multi-agency approach has established strong partners, and increased its capacity and reach in the community.

Faith in Health delivered several Road Shows to promote public health messages, build relationship with institutions and develop new strands of work. It held training sessions on domestic violence, oral health, and on how to keep healthy during Ramadan. Three Health Connex events were held in this period, including a month long mobile health event, focused on smoking cessation; the events combined reached over a 1000 people.

Maryam Projects and Services ■

Maryam Projects and Services (MPS) provides information, advice and guidance for women in the new Maryam Centre. It gives regular Mosque tours for schools, colleges and educational institutions, and has developed a programme that is educational and welcoming to new people

wanting to learn about Islam and the East London Mosque.

The counselling service is managed by an Advice and Guidance Counsellor who has a team of three volunteer counsellors. Each counsellor specialises in different forms of therapy, Person Centred Counselling, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and Neuro Linguistic Programming.

The information Advice and Guidance Service provides advice and support to clients borough wide. It has received the Matrix Standard for the second time.

International Women's Day was celebrated in partnership with the Muslim Women's Collective. This year's theme was 'inspirational women'; the contribution of women in our communities was recognised, those who have made significant changes to their lives and the lives of others in the community.

Women into Work is a partnership with Tower Hamlets Council and Skills Match to give employment opportunities for women far removed from the job market and women returning to the job market. It supported 50 women into training and employment. A conference on abuse and neglect of children was held at the Maryam centre where over 250 women and men attended to learn about the emotional abuse children face and the impact it has on them. A conference on non-physical domestic abuse was held in partnership with the Muslim Women's collective and funded through the Arts and Events Fund.

A partnership with LSX and MADE in Europe looked at fuel poverty, energy saving ideas and practical solutions for the community. A walk to mosque and car sharing initiative was kick started in Ramadan, a time when we all reflect on our responsibility as stewards of the Earth.

Local councillors supported an initiative, building upon good relations with local police officers, to look at safety for women during Ramadan. They issued personal safety alarms to women so they could be safe travelling to night-time prayers. Police officers were welcomed in the Mosque and were very supportive of the work that took place.

Al-Ihsan Marriage & Family Advice Service (AIMFAS) ■

The matrimonial service helps people to find their ideal spouse. A marriage counselling service is offered to those waiting to get married or those who are newly married. The programme focuses on understanding the core objectives of marriage, and understanding the core values of family life for leading a lasting relationship.

Pro Bono in the LMC ■

Pro Bono in the LMC is a voluntary organisation, helping and assisting those in the community who are unable to obtain legal assistance, guidance, help and advice. It is open every Thursday from 6pm to 8pm as a walk clinic, where clients are seen on first come basis. In the past year it has helped over 150 members of the local community, Muslim and non-Muslim.

Somali Development Association (aka Al Shafie Institute) ■

The Somali Development Association works with the Somali community in London, building capacity and developing teaching skills. It also undertakes charitable work to help the poor people of Somalia, including sponsoring schools, helping with the treatment costs for sick people, providing food and other essential support to disadvantage people.

The Somali Development Association celebrated ten years of its Ar-Rawdah Institute, a weekend Islamic school for children aged 5 to 18. The institute has more than 150 students across the Muslim community, and teaches Islamic subjects and Arabic language.

North African Community Association (NACA) ■

The North African Community Association (NACA) continues to provide services and facilities, not solely for the North African community, but the Muslim community as a whole. Its Al-Qalam Weekend Madrasah caters for children aged 5 to 17. Weekly youth circles aim to improve understanding of the correct manners and etiquettes of a Muslim. Muslim youth are taught to respect and value others and to contribute towards the community and society as a whole. NACA held seminars and talks on parenting and health advice.



Muslim cyclists take part in 'Tour De Salah' a 100km endurance cycle organised by Made in Europe, which started from the London Muslim Centre after Fajr salah.



Guide Dogs charity team visits the London Muslim Centre to raise awareness about guide dogs and how they help the blind, including some Muslims.



Trust honorary secretary, Ayub Khan speaks to ethnic media about fundraising.



Bruce Kent and Kate Hudson campaign with the LMC against nuclear weapons.



The President of Bosnia-Herzegovina is presented with a gift during his visit.



A group of local business leaders celebrate the Mosque's successes.



Rabbi David Lister speaks to students at the London East Academy.



A worshipper in Itikaf recites from the Qur'an in ten days of spiritual seclusion.



Ifar is served to over 500 people during Ramadan 2013 at the LMC.



The winning team from the ELM Football Tournament 2013.

Community Cohesion

Exhibition and Open Days

IAP organised three open days and exhibitions; the Mosque and LMC are opened to the wider community with exhibitions, displays, stalls and regular guided tours. Volunteers are on hand to guide people through the exhibitions and answer their questions.

Visitors & Organised Visits

The East London Mosque & London Muslim Centre is a popular choice for schools and academic institutions to visit, adding value to their existing curriculum. Teachers have found the tours and visits to be informative, where pupils are engaged in learning about the experiences of the faith.

Visits by Dignitaries

The President of Bosnia Herzegovina, Bakir Izetbegović, visited the Mosque and Centre and was hosted at an evening dinner reception with guests. The President delivered a speech talking about his country's struggle for recognition within Europe in a post-war Bosnia Herzegovina.

Footballer Abou Diaby, and the former premier league footballer and Sevilla FC legend, Freddie Oumar Kanouté, both visited the Mosque and Centre at an event organised by the Association of Muslim Footballers. They had the opportunity to meet young people from the community and encouraged the young audience from local youth groups, schools and amateur football clubs to enjoy their football, without forgetting their education.

His Excellency, Ebrahim Rasool, South African Ambassador to the US, visited the Mosque and Centre as the keynote speaker at an event titled 'Remembering Mandela: Authentic Leadership and

the Future' hosted in the LMC.

Comedian and actor Russell Brand made an impromptu visit to the East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre. He was welcomed and given a tour.

Media and Publications

Every year many journalists, press agencies, photographers and production crews approach the Mosque and Centre for filming, interviews and comments.

On the 24 October 2013 the London Muslim Centre hosted a unique Channel 4 News debate on the wearing of the niqab, or full Islamic face veil.

The Mosque was also featured in BAFTA award winning sitcom 'Rev' (ep.1 series 3), which is produced by Big Talk productions for BBC 2. The episode, which aired on 24 March 2014, received positive feedback from Muslims and non-Muslims.

A Getty Images photographer returned in Ramadan 2014 to capture pictures of the activities taking place at the Mosque and Centre just before Eid. He was given access to photograph Iftar preparations, Itikaf, congregational prayers and local businesses.

BBC Radio 4 featured the Islam Awareness Project and the Mosque's work with new Muslims as part of a short documentary for its religion programme.

The Mosque's website had upgrades to its servers and is now able to take more strenuous loads during prayer times and special occasions, like the announcement of Ramadan or Eid. 1.18 million users visited the website for the period of 4 Apr 2013 to 4

Apr 2014, for a total 4.5 million user sessions.

A local design company helped produce iOS and Android applications for smartphones. The app enables users to check prayer times, see the Ramadan timetable and donate to the Mosque. Since its launch in 2012, the app has been downloaded over 25,000 times.

Our social networks – Facebook, Twitter and YouTube – have seen continued growth. The Mosque's Media Officer and Fundraising Officer regularly give updates with information about fundraising activities, notices and media statements.

Working with other organisations for a better society for all

Unite Against Fascism

The Mosque worked with 'Unite Against Fascism' (UAF), an organisation that campaigns against far-right organisations. The UAF supported the Mosque and organisations such as United East End against the threat from groups such as the English Defence League (EDL). The last successful counter demonstration was held on 4th September 2013, against the EDL who planned to march on Tower Hamlets.

Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group

The Mosque's Directors and Media Officer have regularly attended meetings organised by the Council's Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group (CCCPTMG). Several emergency meetings were held throughout the year to deal with ad-hoc matters arising from threats to the community and the borough, especially from far-right groups.



Economic Development

Business Wing and Other Tenants

All of the available spaces were let throughout the year.

The following are currently tenants of EMLT:

- AIC World Ltd
- Al Ihsan Marriage & Advice Service
- Al Isharah
- Amanah Europe
- Arabian Nites
- Baraka Eatery
- Blackstone
- Business Hub
- Council of Mosques in Tower Hamlets
- E R Solutions
- Faith Regen UK/MADE in Europe
- Eastern Accounts
- Haji Taslim Funerals
- Hayaa Fitness
- Islamic Forum Europe
- ITXL
- Media Mohol
- Muslim Aid
- Muslim Women's Collective
- Our Choice
- Pro Bono in the LMC
- Rainbow House
- Reconcile
- Trust Global



An exterior photograph of the East London Mosque, London Muslim Centre and Maryam Centre.



Premises

ELM Phase 2 – The Maryam Centre

The Maryam Centre finally opened to the public on 4 July 2013. The last stages of work saw special attention being given to the prayer halls, and the completion of the link.

The architect introduced curved ceiling features to both prayer halls and the concourse, and a simple arch construction above the Mihrab. In the main prayer hall the ventilation system became a decorative feature as the displacement units and ducts were encased in hardwood in a riser from floor to ceiling. Artist Nigel Greene, who had worked in the LMC halls, returned to hand paint a mosaic dado pattern around both halls, based on the pattern used on the outside of the Maryam Centre, but with the colours subtly altered to match the prayer carpet.

Renovation, Redecoration & Outfitting Works

The creation of the Maryam Centre reduced the flow of fresh air into the basement hall of the original Mosque. A substantial fresh air system has now been installed for the Mosque basement, heating and cooling as necessary. The risers at the back of the halls were enlarged for the new ductwork to fit, and the basement was transformed as the old ceiling fans were removed and a new suspended ceiling was put in place to ensure proper air flow throughout. The first floor gallery has also been given a new ventilation system.

The kitchen in the ELM basement, which is used to service people on Itikaf, has been refurbished.

In a joint initiative with MADE, the open area in the new Maryam Centre link next to the neighbouring Synagogue was turned into a garden area, which

beautifully complements the area with the beehive opposite, and further enhances the experience of walking through the link at first floor level.

Technical Services

This has been an exceptionally busy year for the Technical Team, who provide day-to-day support for staff and visitors, and develop and expand our services.

The opening of the Maryam Centre required significant ongoing work for our IT network, CCTV and AV systems. The Maryam Centre has a dedicated server room, where it connects with the ELM and LMC's network, and a dedicated AV control centre. Further enhancements to our AV system have improved sound quality, backup provision, and control, especially from the Mihrab. A new CCTV system was installed, with all existing cameras replaced, and new cameras added, so that there are now over 80 across the complex. The quality and access is now much better than before, and it is proving its worth almost on a weekly basis in terms of recording incidents and helping to solve crimes.

LMC beehives

In contrast to the previous year, the winter was exceptionally mild, which was good for the beehives. All survived the winter and took advantage of the early spring. There are currently three hives on the LMC roof and one in the Maryam Centre link.

The hive in the link has been a wonderful attraction for visitors, and has proved surprisingly active given the enclosed location. A special observation hive, which has glass panels on one side, was installed in

Spring so that visitors can get a glimpse of the bees as they work on the inside.

Projects and User Groups of ELMT

The three buildings of the ELMT are regularly used by the following projects and user groups. These services greatly contribute towards the ELMT mission and provide a valuable public benefit.

- Al Ishara – Deaf Muslims
- Al Mizan Tahfizul Quran
- Al-Ihsan Marriage Service
- Association of Islamic Teachers
- Evening Madrasah
- Faith in Health
- Improving School Attendance and Attainment in Partnership
- Islamic Awareness Project
- Islamic Forum of Europe
- Junior Muslim Circle
- Library
- London East Academy
- MADE in Europe
- Maryam Projects and Services (formerly Women's Link)
- Muslimaat UK
- Muslim Community Radio
- North African Community Association
- Pro Bono in the LMC
- Rainbow House Play Centre
- Saturday Islamic School
- Somali Development Association
- Tower Hamlets Council of Mosques
- Young Muslim Organisation UK

Events Bookings in LMC

The LMC is a popular venue for weddings, conference, seminars, and other hires. Managing the diverse use of the LMC is very challenging. It means balancing the needs of the schools, internal user groups and worshippers in Ramadan with the necessity to generate income to pay for the running of the centre.

Many organisations have discovered that the London Muslim Centre is the ideal venue for conferences, seminars, meetings, launches and exhibitions. Some of the organisations who held their events at the London Muslim Centre in this period:

- Al Isharah
- Al Quran Academy
- Alif Academy
- Amanah Tours
- Apex Primary School
- Bangladesh Football Association
- Bangladesh Mental Health Forum
- Barts Health NHS Trust
- British Bangla Trade Travel & Tourism Ltd
- British Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce
- British Muslim Heritage Centre
- Brunel Islamic Society
- CAP Foundation
- CBHUK (Council of British Hajjis)
- Citizens UK
- Council of Mosques
- Epilepsy Society
- Euro Skills Training Services
- Faith Regen Foundation
- FOSIS
- Global Aid Trust
- Human Relief Foundation
- Ebrahim College
- iEngage
- Inspired Minds
- Institute of Education, University of London
- Interpal
- Iqraa Foundation
- Islamic Finance Consultants
- Islamic Forum of Europe
- Islamic relief
- Kalkaal Relief Organisation
- LBTH Children Services
- London School of Economics & Political Science
- London Sustainability Exchange
- Murabbi Consulting
- Muslim Aid
- Muslim Association of Nigeria
- Muslim Council of Britain
- Muslim Research and Development Foundation
- Muslim Women's Collective
- National Zakat Foundation
- Nour Domestic Violence
- Orphans in Need
- Queen Mary University (ISOC)
- ROC Training
- Sri Lanka Islamic Forum UK
- Sylhet Women Medical College
- Syria Aid
- The Princes Trust
- Ummah International Trust
- Ummah Welfare Trust
- Young Muslim Educational Forum
- Zam Zam Charitable Trust



History & Archives

ELMT Archives

The ELMT Archives are currently being catalogued by a professional archivist, a project funded by a grant from the National Cataloguing Grants Programme. The Archive is being repackaged in specialist archival packaging in order to protect and prolong the life of the archive. The cataloguing project was completed on October 2014. The catalogue is now accessible by the public via the catalogue online and on site at the London Muslim Centre during advertised opening hours. Volunteers are currently being recruited to provide this public access service.

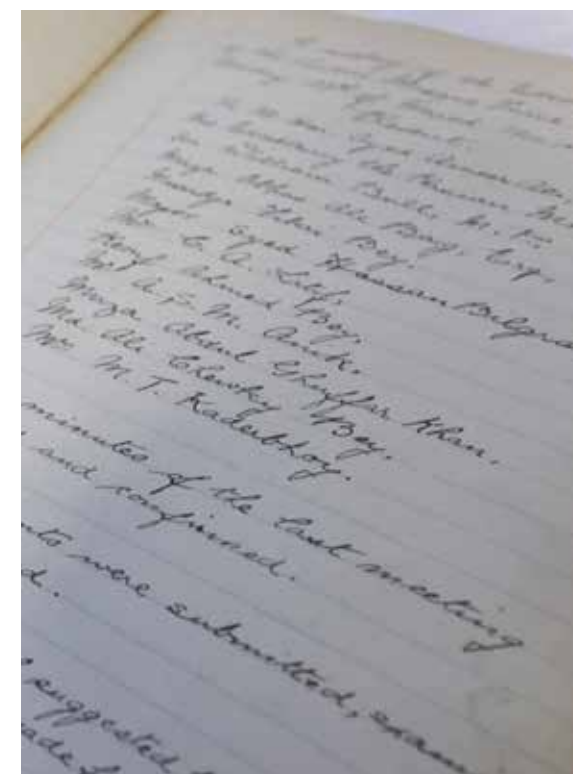
A steering group comprising of representatives from Tower Hamlets Archives, Religious Archives Group, ELMT Trustees and Haji Taslim Funerals and chaired by Dr Jamil Sherif, has been guiding this project.

Working with the National Archives

The East London Mosque Trust (ELMT) was honoured to host a visit from Clem Brohier, Interim Chief Executive of the National Archives, in January 2014. During the visit Mr Brohier spoke of the ELMT archive project as an example of “how working together can preserve the archives that reflect the contemporary religious landscape of Britain.”

National Manuscript Conservation Trust

One of the ELMT archive’s oldest and most important documents, the original London Mosque Fund Minute Book 1910 – 1951, is currently being professionally conserved. A conservator is working to ensure that existing damage to the Minute Book is repaired as well as protecting it for future use. This work was made possible by a grant from the National Manuscript Conservation Trust.





Fundraising Report



The East London Mosque held a football tournament for the second year. 32 teams took part from all over London and all played on top form, battling it out to reach the finals. This tournament attracted diverse backgrounds including non-Muslims. This initiative raised over £6,000.

Volunteer sisters from Muslmaat UK sold homemade cakes, scones, hot drinks, mocktails, and organised a children's bake-off competition and other activities throughout the day. This raised over £3,000 for the Mosque.

A month of special fundraising in March 2014 encouraged people to sign up to regular giving. The campaign was a huge success as the Mosque received over 1,500 standing orders.

The Alhambra Donors Wall acknowledges donations of £1,500 or more with the name of donors, deceased family members and loved ones. It is a permanent feature on display in the Maryam Centre for all to see, enjoy and be inspired. So far we have over 1,500 hundred donors.

The East London Mosque caters for over 5,000 worshippers for a typical Friday Jumu'ah. After the congregational prayer volunteers collect donations at each exit points of the mosque and centre.

As usual the ELMT held a TV appeal on Channel S. Despite the current climate and challenges, the Mosque saw another successful campaign with £256,586 raised in donations and commitments.

The other big fundraising night is the 27th night of Ramadan. This is the busiest night out of the whole year, thousands of worshippers attend the night prayer in the hope that it will be Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Decrees). The mosque raised £204,429 in donations, pledges and Qard-e-Hasanah.

The mosque raised a further £80,000 in its other Ramadan appeals. £27,209 was collected in donations for the Mosque on Eid-ul-Fitr.

An ELM book stall raised just over £16,853. The funeral service has been working exceptionally hard with its patrons to help relieve the Mosque of its debt. They have been very successful in seeking donations, and the ELMT is grateful for its continuous support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Malik', written in a cursive style.

Mohammed Abdul Malik
Treasurer



1,000+ children learning Islam every week



2,000 more prayer spaces

100 training to become hafiz of the Qur'an



£1.5m raised for humanitarian aid, mosques and charities

what have your donations grown into?

100+ schools choose to visit every year part of their curriculum learning



new wudu & WC facilities improved facilities including new ablutions for men & women

1.6m people pass through our doors every year



100+ lectures & seminars every year with keynote speakers in tafseer, fiqh, hadith, islamic studies & history



Conclusion



Our successes can only be attributed to the Grace of Allah, Alhamdulillah!

The opening of the Maryam Centre heralded another important milestone in the development of the East London Mosque Trust. This places a greater degree of responsibility upon all of us to deliver on the expectations of our communities.

The biggest challenge for the next few years will be to repay the £3m long-term loan we have from the community (Qard-e-Hasanah). The amazing efforts of the fundraising team have been remarkable as we saw the completion of the Alhambra Wall; it is now a beautiful feature of the Mosque.

We undertook a detailed organisational review, and agreed a set of recommendations at a Trustees away day. These will form the basis of continuous improvement in all aspects of the organisation including Governance, Premises, Staffing, Services and Financial Sustainability.

The establishment of projects in the Maryam Centre, in particular for the girls' secondary education, will be a key priority for the next year. We also intend to provide greater stability for the ELMT by asking our community to set up standing orders and give small but regular amounts to sustain our vital work.

Often we become very busy, and take for granted the support and work that goes on in the background. I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff, our generous volunteers, our wise members, and our patient worshippers. May Allah bless each and every one of you in this world and in the Hereafter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Muhammed Siddique'.

Muhammed Siddique
Vice-Chairman

Board of Trustees

1. Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Chairman
2. Ayub Khan, Secretary
3. Mohammed Abdul Malik, Treasurer
4. Muhammad Siddique, Vice-Chairman*
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10. Rahela Choudhury*
11. Sirajul Islam (Hira)
12. Shafiur Rahman*
13. Sayeda Anzumara Begum*
14. Mazhar Baqaullah Khan*

(*Trustee not pictured in photo)



Financial Statement

year ended 31 March 2014

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
Incoming Resources				
Voluntary Income	-	1,296,670	1,296,670	1,347,593
Activities for Generating Funds	-	89,068	89,068	126,619
Investment Income	-	672,079	672,079	674,574
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	1,126,118	-	1,126,118	1,150,046
Others Incoming resources	-	147,757	147,757	87,820
	1,126,118	2,205,574	3,331,692	3,386,652
Resources Expended				
Cost of Generating Voluntary Income	-	50,066	50,066	33,002
Fundraising Costs	-	94,305	94,305	85,555
Investment Costs	-	257,531	257,531	205,502
Charitable Activities Costs	1,015,219	687,882	1,703,101	1,642,863
Administrative Costs	-	514,074	514,074	375,642
Total Resources Expended	1,015,219	1,603,858	2,619,077	2,342,564
Net Income/Deficit Before Fund Movements	110,899	601,716	712,615	1,044,088
Gross transfer between Funds	(6,550)	6,550	-	-
Net Movement before other recognised gains and losses		608,266	712,615	1,044,088
Profit on Fixed Assets Disposal		37,826	37,826	
Net Movement in Funds	104,349	646,092	750,441	1,044,088
Funds as at 1 April 2013	2,871,537	14,516,847	17,388,384	16,344,296
Funds as at 31 March 2014	2,975,886	15,162,939	18,138,825	17,388,384

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 August 2014 and signed on behalf by:



Habibur Rahman
Chairman



Mohammed Abdul Malik
Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET	Total 2014 £	Total 2013 £
Fixed Assets		
Freehold Properties at Cost	2,851,729	3,220,367
London Muslim Centre & Maryam Centre	19,192,849	17,790,821
Long Leasehold	658,048	658,048
Fixture, Fittings and Equipment	401,059	326,692
	23,103,685	21,995,928
Investments	-	500,000
	23,103,685	22,495,928
Current Assets		
Stock	7,040	7,987
Debtors & Prepayments	468,712	539,078
Property Investment	295,689	-
Cash at Bank & In-Hand	2,865,366	3,113,304
	3,636,807	3,660,369
Creditors		
Amount Falling Due within One Year	1,722,942	2,306,123
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)	1,913,865	1,354,246
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	25,017,550	23,850,174
Creditors		
Amount Falling Due > One Year	6,878,725	6,461,790
Total Net Assets	18,138,825	17,388,384
Funds		
Restricted	2,975,886	2,871,537
Unrestricted	15,162,939	14,516,847
Total Fund	18,138,825	17,388,384





EAST LONDON MOSQUE
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Annual Review

2013-2014

East London Mosque & London Muslim Centre
46-92 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1JQ,
United Kingdom.

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7650 3000

Facsimile: +44 (0)20 7650 3001

Email: info@eastlondonmosque.org.uk

Website: www.eastlondonmosque.org.uk
www.londonmuslimcentre.org.uk

Charity Reg: 1122613

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