



# MY TABLIGH EXPERIENCE

*A Compilation of Inspiring Articles by Members of Lajna Imaillah UK*

*September 2023*

Produced by the National Lajna Tabligh Department UK

*"...we are the fortunate ones who are living through that blessed era in which the spread of Islam, the perfect religion, is destined to reach its pinnacle and so our Tabligh efforts are fundamental to the success and progress of our Jama'at. This is our divine mission and so do not ever take it lightly.'*

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah be his Helper)  
address to Majlis-e-Shura, 23rd June 2018



# "A State of Compassion"

## My Inspiring Tabligh Moment

by Mahrukh Tayyab Sahiba, Newcastle

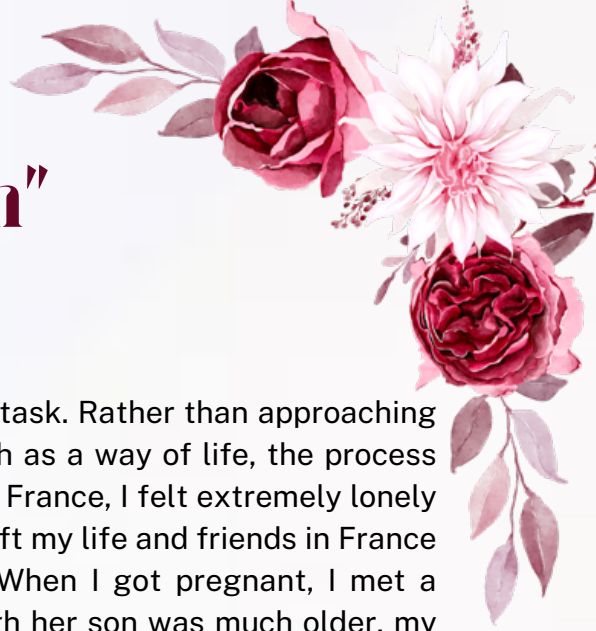
Tabligh has never come easy to anyone who takes it as a task. Rather than approaching people through calculated moves, if one is to take tabligh as a way of life, the process becomes easier and natural. Being born and brought up in France, I felt extremely lonely when I initially moved to Newcastle five years ago. I had left my life and friends in France and had no acquaintances or anybody to call a friend. When I got pregnant, I met a woman who had a son and came to a play group. Although her son was much older, my son got attached to him quite easily and so we began talking about our respective personal lives.

At that point, I thought I was at my lowest but listening to her story gave me so much pain and a sense of realisation that God has actually given me so much to be grateful for. She was going through a painful divorce, where her ex-husband, was battling for custody. He lived in the US and had a good amount of money and status to win and thus she was in deep depression thinking about the outcome of the trial. I immediately told her that she should pray fervently, and that God will certainly help her. She then went on to tell me that although she was born a Muslim, she lost all belief in God because she thought if He was real, she wouldn't be in that situation. I told her that it is indeed God that saved her from her abusive, violent relationship and will certainly help her save her son. I thus went on to tell her that I was an Ahmadi Muslim and we believe in the power of prayer - we believe in the power and strength of God - and offered to pray fervently for her. I asked her the date when the court would rule on the custody and went back home.

I remember praying every day for her, I would weep and tell God if the husband wins then she might become even more disheartened and lose faith in You and that prospect was making me sad. In the meantime, we met a few times and each time the sadness and hopelessness on her face would grow making me pray even more.

God's ways were such that we lost touch after and as the trial date was quite far, we couldn't meet in between. After a few months, as I didn't hear back from her, I decided to get back in touch. I realised on her profile picture she was now wearing the hijab, and it made me so happy that she had found peace in the safe abode of God. I asked her about her son, to which she happily announced that she's won the trial and the custody. Alhamdollilah! All praises belong to Allah.

Today, even though we aren't in touch, I still pray for her happiness. Sometimes tabligh isn't about winning arguments and having people converted. It's simply a state of compassion, in which you hold somebody's pain in your heart and make it yours. It's a way of life and through this little incident God has manifested his Presence with such Grace and Kindness that it made her believe in Him and made me more grateful and a stronger believer of His Strength.



# “SPREADING THE TRUE MESSAGE OF ISLAM AHMADIYYAT”

MY TABLIGH EXPERIENCE

BY: **SAMINA SIDDIQUI SAHIBA, REDBRIDGE NORTH**

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It has always been a fundamental aim of mine to spread the true message of Islam Ahmadiyyat to the world. I do not desire to leave this world without fulfilling all I can possibly do in the form of Tabligh. It is after all, I who will be answerable to Allah the Almighty on the Day of Judgement, therefore I will do all in my power to ensure I have carried out this task to the best of my ability.

Through the grace of Allah, I have been blessed to be born and educated in the UK and feel duty-bound to help my fellow sisters and brothers steer to the right path.

One such opportunity was presented to me in 2018 upon my visit to the local post office. As I was waiting in the queue, I observed a lady who appeared of English heritage standing before me in the queue. She was adorned in beautiful attire, and I couldn't help but comment on what a lovely dress she was wearing, to which she gratefully replied 'Thank you'. We each went to our respective counters and as she was about to leave, I heard her say 'Khuda Hafiz' to the woman behind the counter. Astonished upon hearing this, I approached her and said, 'Excuse me, please will you wait for me outside? I'd like to speak with you.' Once reunited with her, out of curiosity I asked who taught her to say 'Khuda Hafiz', to which she replied that she was studying Islam in a mosque near her workplace.

Such a fortuitous moment could not be overlooked, I therefore invited her to my house for tea and Alhamdulillah she agreed. She revealed how she was in search of the truth and was from a Jewish background. I told her how our motto was 'Love for all hatred for none', to which she commented that this was exactly what she was looking for.

A clear sense of purpose stood before me, the first step being to invite this lady to our local Mosque for Friday prayer, to which she Alhamdulillah agreed. The following Friday she attended and heard Huzoor-e-Aqdas' sermon and said, 'I agree with everything he said'. How blessed this moment was, Alhamdulillah. Feeling a great sense of positivity from her response to the sermon, I then proceeded to invite her to the National Peace Symposium held in Bait-ul-Futuh. There she met with our beloved Huzoor-e-Aqdas and very eloquently said to him, 'If the world had more leaders like you, the world would be a better place.'

A Mulaqat had been arranged with Huzoor-e-Aqdas in Masjid Fazl. When that blessed day arrived, it was such a heartfelt and poignant moment when Huzoor-e-Aqdas recalled meeting with her at the National Peace Symposium.

That very night she had a dream that the two of us were standing next to the Ka'aba in Mecca, white doves were circling above our heads, we were distributing leaflets but the Muslims wouldn't accept them from us. We soon realised that the dream meant we were distributing Ahmadi literature, but the other Muslims would not accept them from us.

Shortly after, she completed Bai'at by the grace of Allah the Almighty and to this day we remain as close as ever, the beautiful bond of sisterhood forever strong. We regularly attend Jama'at functions and are always a means of support for one another, in happiness and sorrow and may we always continue to do so InshAllah.

Allah the Almighty blessed me with a second faith inspiring event in 2019. I was walking in my neighbourhood and happened to see a Muslim woman dressed in a hijab, I smiled at her and she smiled back. We then proceeded to our own separate ways. The very next day I happened to chance upon her once again. I again smiled at her and so did she. Something spurred in me to approach her, so I decided to cross the road and greeted her with a salutation of peace and asked her how she is. She replied, 'I have recently moved into the area and was praying to Allah to help me find a friend.'

An overwhelming sense of care and duty spread through me, I invited her to my house in the hope of her prayers being answered of finding a friend. A few days later, she accepted my invitation and came over to my house.

She was a Sunni Muslim from Kosovo and our friendship very soon began and flourished. We visited each other's homes and after a few months I invited her and her husband to attend the National Peace Symposium, which they did by the grace of Allah.

Pleased with how they were interacting and interested in the Jama'at, they decided to attend Jalsa Salana UK which followed a blessed mulaqat with Huzoor-e-Aqdas. As well as this, the couple attended Seeratul Nabi Jalsa and soon after both completed Bai'at, Alhamdullilah.

These three wonderful people have now become members of our family and will always remain so. I pray that Allah always keeps us under his watchful protection and bring us forever closer to him to attain his love, guidance, and blessings, InshAllah. Ameen.



# "Smiling is Charity"; Tabligh Activities

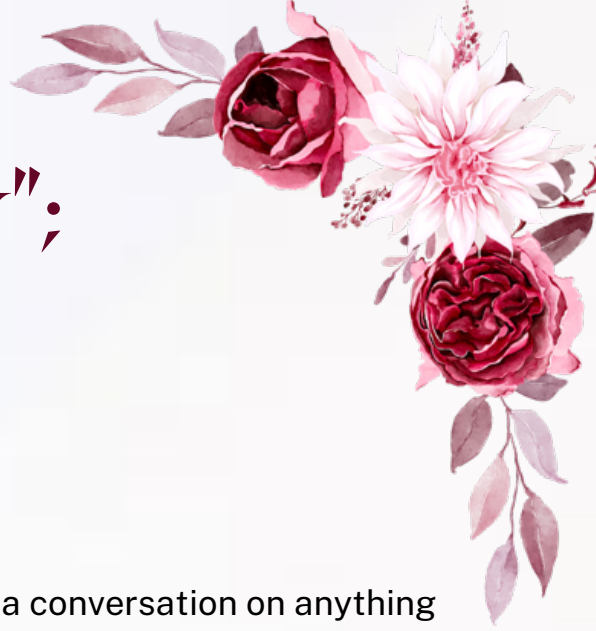
by **Farzana Zafar Akbar Sahiba**  
Raynes Park

I have a habit of smiling at everyone and picking up a conversation on anything and then giving them some knowledge of Islam. I feel that there are so many negative news items about Islam I want to show the people around me that Islam is not the evil religion it is portrayed on the media.

I do the majority of Tabligh activities while I am on holiday. I go on cruises with my Aunt and because I wear a scarf people take an interest in me as I am different.

Once we were touring the Rhine and there were many American people on the ship. As I was easy to approach, one American lady said "I have so many questions which are sensitive. I feel I can ask you because you are so easy to talk to." I told her to ask me the most difficult and sensitive questions I will not be offended because ever since the 1960's when I came to England, I have been asked many questions.

She then asked about 9/11 and Jihad, arranged marriages and divorce. She asked about homosexuality and our view on this. She asked about Purdah and the differences between the different ways Muslims practice this. I showed her verses from the Quran and told her that the different sects of Islam interpret these verses in their own way. She then went on to ask if the Quran the terrorists read is different to the one I am showing her. She could not understand how these people can do such acts of violence while believing in the same book. I explained that those young men have been misled into thinking they will go to heaven if they perform these acts. When we were leaving she said to me I had so many questions about Islam and did not feel comfortable about asking any of the Muslims I met. She said I had given her so much information and she would remember it and tell her family and friends what a beautiful religion Islam was and not to believe the media. When I was talking the whole group on the table would be listening so the information was being imparted to about 6 other ladies who were sitting at our dinner table.



Another lady on the same trip asked me why I smile all the time. She said it is as if you do not have any problems at all. I told her all the worries I have and said I smile because this is considered charity in my religion and also because I know that God will help me through all the problems I have. I do not feel alone or abandoned. I then told her about some difficulties I had and how through prayer the problems were solved and how it has made me a stronger person. Often the people we meet on these trips become friends and we communicate with them after the holiday.

On another trip to Amsterdam, I met many British people from all over England. A couple whom we sat with for dinner became very good friends. The husband was suffering from cancer and I talked about the power of prayer and how my father and mother both have cancer and the homeopathic medicine prescribed by Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) and his prayers have given them a new lease of life. I explained how we are a strong community and have a spiritual leader who we can write to for prayers and all our worries. She is Catholic and told me that she does not have the same relationship with any religious leader. She was also surprised at how similar Islam is in the morals between the two religions.

Whenever I talk to anyone I make sure to start with the similarities between the religions. I did a study on the similarities and differences between different religions for a summer class many years ago. This information opened my eyes and I use this whenever I talk to any one from a different background.



# THE BEAUTIFUL RESPONSIBILITY OF TABLIGH

MY TABLIGH EXPERIENCE

**BY: NAILA CHEEMA SAHIBA**

BURTON UPON TRENT

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I was raised in a country where we had to conceal our identity and perform our Friday prayers in secret, inside various houses, until I moved to Germany at the age of 15. Life completely changed for me, and it was a time of transformation as a young Ahmadi Muslim girl. At the tender age of 15, when I transitioned from being a Nasira to a Lajna member, I was appointed as a local Tabligh secretary by the respected Sadr Lajna at that time. I have always taken my responsibilities seriously, and now I was given a significant role in a foreign country, in a language I still had to become fluent in.

As I studied the duties and responsibilities of a Tabligh secretary, I came across the understanding that every Ahmadi must recognize that Tabligh (spreading the message) is not an optional obligation. It is an essential and compulsory duty for every Ahmadi Muslim.

I did everything within my capacity to fulfil my duties. Prayer and writing letters to Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) have always been my most effective tools. I vividly remember the humble experience of having my first Tabligh activity article as an Ahmadi Muslim woman published in the local newspaper of Riedstadt, which was written by myself. Another unforgettable event was the first Lajna Tabligh meeting with non-Ahmadi guests at the Al-Aziz Mosque in Riedstadt, which was organised under my supervision. That mosque is now the location of Jamia Ahmadiyya Germany. I worked closely with Ameer Sahib Germany and Murabbi Laiq Muneer Sahib, a missionary. However, most of my activities were led by Murabbi Muzaffar Mahmood Sahib, who is currently leading a research project under the guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah be his Helper).





At the age of 21, a new chapter began in my life when I got married and started a family. But the seed planted in my heart continued to grow, and I always felt like an ambassador of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat wherever I went. I never missed an opportunity to explain my beliefs and my identity. Allah blessed me with an opportunity in the form of school talks. This opportunity was ideal for my circumstance as a mother with school-going children. I reached out to various schools and offered to give presentations on Islam. I was warmly welcomed by several schools, and this gave me a great opportunity to spread the message of Islam and peace to infant schools and junior schools.

Teachers appreciated the way I promoted the message of peace and demonstrated various Islamic celebrations. Many teachers expressed that they had never known this side of Islam before and were grateful to me for coming and spending time with the children. I also enjoyed this opportunity as it had multiple benefits for me personally. Firstly, I was spreading the message of Islam, but at the same time, it helped my children develop a love, respect, and ownership of their religion. It boosted their confidence when I talked about their beliefs in front of the whole school. They are growing up in an environment where they are proud to be part of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community.

In one particular school, Islam was not included in their curriculum, which covered various religions. I discussed this issue with them, and from that day onwards, they started celebrating Muslim festivals at the school. Another challenge arose when my eldest daughter entered secondary school and wanted to wear a headscarf. The school's uniform policy did not mention scarves. I wrote a letter to the school, explaining our Islamic values, and as a result, the school revised their uniform policy to include modest wear and clothing that covered the legs.

I encountered many people who held negative views about Muslims. One incident stands out, where a parent instructed her daughter not to be friends with my daughter because she was Muslim and Muslims were considered non-peaceful. I addressed this issue with the school's head, and he offered me the opportunity to come to the school and present about Islam and peace. From then onwards, they made religious tolerance an integral part of their curriculum. Needless to say, that girl eventually became my daughter's best friend, and even though they moved back to their homeland, they still keep in touch and meet whenever she returns to the UK.

Tabligh begins at home, and it is our responsibility to initiate and carry it out. May Allah enable us to do so, Ameen.

# “Sharing Stories and Conveying the Message” My Tabligh Experience

**by Warda Tul Firdous Sahiba**  
Raynes Park



Tabligh is a statement, deed, or gesture that conveys the essence of Islam to others. There is no maximum requirement or threshold for tabligh; it can range from a Muslim girl practising purdah and serving as a role model for others around her to interacting with non-Muslims and educating them about Islam and Ahmadiyyat to the point where they express a desire to convert. In this piece, I'll discuss a volunteering experience I had at Friends in St. Helier, which is a service offered to the elderly to provide a community of support and love to them.

A member of our jamaat provided me with the opportunity to volunteer at this service. The experience involved me communicating with and building relationships with the residents and staff members. It was intimidating at first since I was alone and feared I wouldn't be able to convey the message about Islam and Ahmadiyyat efficiently. However, the staff were extremely proactive and had many concerns that they wanted to be answered but were worried about how to approach other Muslims due to causing discomfort. This is why it is critical to have an open, non-judgmental demeanour so that those who would like to know more about Islam can fill their curiosity without fearing the reaction of others.

I spoke a lot about the hijab and purdah when they inquired about its importance in today's culture. As a result, I provided an example of the most valuable items in this world being concealed or difficult to reach, and constantly covered in a mask or covering to keep them from being exploited by today's society. Pearls, for example, are concealed in shells and diamonds deep below the earth. This gave them a sense that indeed Islam does not discriminate against women or deny them their rights.

In addition, I explained that, while many women may be coerced into wearing the hijab, Jamaat Ahmadiyya emphasises the importance of girls being educated from a young age about the acceptance of purdah and how it is a commandment from Allah. Still, it is not forced upon women because that defeats its purpose. It is a shield that Muslim women can proudly wear to signify their acceptance of Allah's order. The explanation and ideas provided to them were quite effective. They felt more at ease because they knew it did not oppress women but instead offers them an identity and liberates them from society's unrealistic and demanding body standards.

In conclusion, I had a great experience sharing stories and conveying the message of Islam to others, as well as listening to their beliefs and answering their questions. It is important to understand that when doing tabligh, one must be prepared to also tolerate the beliefs of others, and not show a superiority complex or be ignorant. Tabligh is essential in today's society, when the views about Islam are distorted and not accurate, therefore it is necessary to educate those around us. May Allah enable us to serve our faith and serve our communities in an exemplary manner, Ameen.



# MY TABLIGH JOURNEY

BY: **RABIA SHEIKH**  
NEW MALDEN

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The essence of being a Muslim lies in serving and helping mankind. Islam is the religion of sharing and elevating. In this spirit, spreading the message of truth is as important as following and implementing it. In the Holy Quran chapter 16, verse 126, Allah the Almighty says:

***“Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and goodly exhortation and argue with them in a way that is best. Surely, thy Lord knows best who has strayed from His way; and He knows those who are rightly guided.” (16:126)***

Our Caliphs have always laid great stress on spreading the true message of Islam to the world. As a teenager growing up in Pakistan, I was inclined to hide my true faith as revealing it would subject me to discrimination and even hatred. I saw how misguided my friends were and how they harboured misconceptions regarding Islamic practices despite being Muslim by birth. It disturbed me but I didn't dare to correct them or relate the sayings of our Caliphs.

I still remember to this day that I was reading the magazine Al Fazal and came across the following hadith;

***“By Allah! If Allah helps you to guide a single person to the truth, it is better for you than (the most precious) red camels.” (Sahih Muslim, Kitab al-Jihad wa al-Siyar)***

This hadith had such an effect on my heart that I started praying to Allah Almighty to give me the strength and courage to undertake this path. I learned and started reciting prayers to make speech easier for me.

I started my tabligh journey by discussing basic Islamic principles with my close friends. I quietly observed their practices and researched using the Holy Quran and books and articles by the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) and our Caliphs and guided them with love. I learned that spreading the message of Allah takes a lot of patience and love. It takes great courage to calmly listen to people refute your valid and researched arguments. As I kept on praying to Allah, Almighty Allah gave me the strength to deal with these situations. I could feel the hand of Allah guiding and helping me.

As my confidence and knowledge grew, I branched out from preaching to my friends to acquaintances to strangers as well. I started participating in the tabligh initiatives by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association. One of my biggest efforts of that phase was collecting and helping in organizing donation of clothes, blankets, and food for the affected people of the 2005 earthquake.

From that time, I haven't looked back. I feel Allah's hand guiding me throughout. I pray to Allah that He helps me to progress in my efforts and blesses me with knowledge and strength.



# Maintaining Modesty in Today's Generation

By Farya Bhatti Sahiba  
Shirley

Growing up as young girls we have always been told to maintain pardah and modesty wherever you go, whether that be at home or at school as it is an essential part of being a good Muslim woman. Hazarat Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah be his Helper) highlighted in Germany Jalsa 2019 that modesty is the true adornment of women, and they should take pride in this.

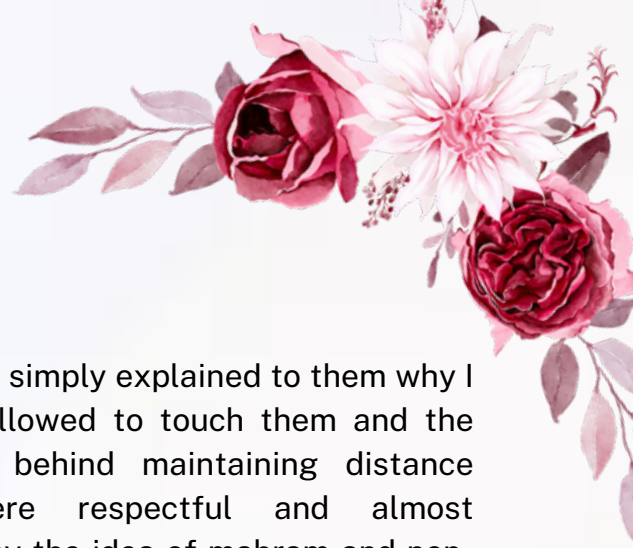
All my life I have been surrounded by girls as I am one of five sisters and was fortunate enough to attend an all-girls school and sixth form. However, when it got to university interacting with the opposite gender became inevitable which continued as I started work.

Working in a medical environment meant I had to take care of a range of people, male and female and others from different religions and cultures to myself. One issue that I faced when I first started work was that many people were not familiar with the Islamic teachings regarding the relationship between Muslim women and their non-mahram. Many men would put their hand forward to shake mine or approach me about personal matters, so it was very important for me to create that boundary between myself and them.

After I had simply explained to them why I was not allowed to touch them and the reasoning behind maintaining distance many were respectful and almost intrigued by the idea of mahram and non-mahram in Islam.

Many in this generation do not understand the importance of modesty and piety as they have been swayed by non-Muslims due to peer pressure or simply not being educated regarding the concept. Modesty and pardah does not only encompass the relationship between women and their non-mahram but also involves the way a woman carries herself in her day-to-day life. Once the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) warned that a woman who has gold jewellery made and flaunts it with great pride and shows it to other women and men, then they shall receive a great torment [1]. This shows that being boastful and acting in a proud manner is wrong. Young girls in today's day and age are becoming incredibly insecure due to others flaunting their possessions to the public causing many to become jealous and leading to ungratefulness and weaker faith through comparison of their lifestyle to those who are wealthier. Therefore, we should avoid showing off what we have and instead try and give charity to help those who are less fortunate than us and follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as in the hereafter fashion and worldly wealth will not be examined but our good deeds will.

[1] <https://www.alislam.org/articles/take-pride-in-modesty/>





# “Showing Kindness and Generosity to Neighbours”

by Labeeba Jawad Sahiba, Burton upon Trent  
Story of Aqeela Shah Sahiba



‘Tabligh’, in Arabic, means to make known or to reach out and commonly, as Muslims, we refer to tabligh as the act of making Islam’s message known to people. Furthermore, as Ahmadi Muslims, we also inform people of our Jamaat and its ideas. It is seen as an honour to be in a position whereby we are able to share our religion and community with others and we should be grateful to have the responsibility of carrying out this work. I would like to share one such experience.

A “Church of England” Christian neighbour of ours, called Karen, has often had conversation with our family centred around religion, Ramadan, the culture and traditions of Islam, stories of the Bible and stories of Islam, the similarities between all the world religions and the importance and need for faith. We have always shown kindness and generosity to all our neighbours as positive representatives of our faith and community, e.g. sending food, handing out cards during the holidays and chocolates or flowers on various celebrations.

Since Karen is a reader at the Church, we invited her to speak about Christianity at one of our Jamaat’s Interfaith programmes, which she was more than happy to do. Moreover, this gave us the opportunity to share our religion and beliefs with Karen on a larger scale, while also introducing the members of our community to her and displaying our openness to the diversity of this country.

As a coincidence, our Sadr Sahib went to the Church’s centre to hire it for a Jamaat function and on his mentioning the ‘Ahmadiyya’ community, Karen realised that her neighbours (we) were part of the very same community, and she spoke highly of our magnanimity. Ever since, various Jamaat programmes have been held at the Church centre.

As a result of being on good terms with our neighbours, our whole local Jamaat now benefits from our acts of tabligh and positive portrayal of the Ahmadiyya community and religion of Islam. I am certain that this is just one of many stories of how Lajna members have radiated their goodness to reflect favourably on the Jamaat.

# “A Powerful Way to Promote the True Teachings of Islam”

by Sibgha Salim Sahiba, Bordon



The library was my go-to place every weekend with kids. One day I saw an educational display by the library door. Upon which I enquired to have one for upcoming ‘women’s day’. I thought library exhibition would be a powerful way to promote the true teachings of Islam. They allow us to share the beauty and message of Islam with people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn about it. I've seen first-hand how library exhibitions can change people's lives. I've met people who have come to Islam after seeing a library exhibition, and I've met people who have been inspired to become more active in their faith after seeing a library exhibition. Alhumdulillah, that one opportunity opened new horizons to hold regular displays.

When we moved to Bordon, our first place to visit was our local library.

I heard from various Lajna that they do not allow religious display. I learnt a lot from my first experience so all I needed was perseverance and keep trying. All I needed was for the library manager to see the quality material we produce. By the Grace of Allah Almighty, we had this opportunity during our ‘Lajna Centenary Tabligh’ event. The library manager herself asked me if we could put up a display in the library! Alhumdulillah, now we hold regular displays, and at not just one but three local libraries and this is just the beginning.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to have been involved in Tabligh and to have started library exhibitions. I believe that these activities are making a positive difference in the world, and I'm excited to continue working on them in the future.

# A Journey of Discovery: Embracing Ahmadiyyat from a Sunni Background

by **Kainat Jamil Sahiba**

**Burton upon Trent**

Personal faith journeys frequently bring individuals to unexplored territory, where they discover fresh ideas and experiences, in the wide fabric of religious beliefs. Such was the situation for me, as I went on a journey that took me from a traditional Sunni upbringing to acceptance of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. This article tells my personal experience, from my initial ignorance of other Islamic sects through the struggles and growth that accompanied my family's embrace of Ahmadiyya.

Life has a habit of taking us down unexpected pathways, leading us to encounters that test our beliefs and widen our minds. Such was my experience growing up in a regular Sunni household, where my life focused around school, friends, and the standard adolescent hobbies. Like many Sunni Muslims, I was convinced that the Sunni sect represented the pinnacle of Islamic teachings. I had no idea that a significant journey was in store for me, one that would introduce me to the existence of different sects within Islam and finally lead me to embrace the Ahmadiyya community.

My father gathered our family one day and earnestly introduced us to Ahmadiyya, professing it to be the real representation of Islam's essential values. I remember feeling overwhelmed by this revelation because I knew so little about Ahmadiyya, and the teachings linked with it. My mind was overwhelmed with questions, and my vision of this new road was obscured by confusion. My mother shared a deep experience with me in the midst of my doubt.

She started having vivid nightmares about Ahmadiyya, as though she was being called upon to follow this path further. While I had not had such visions, I was moved by my mother's tale and decided to accept my father's judgement, believing that this journey had a bigger purpose.



She started having vivid nightmares about Ahmadiyya, as though she was being called upon to follow this path further. While I had not had such visions, I was moved by my mother's tale and decided to accept my father's judgement, believing that this journey had a bigger purpose.

With faith and trepidation, I made the decision to embrace the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat alongside my family. We gathered in the comforting surroundings of our home, where we collectively took bai'at, and accepted Ahmadiyyat. It was a significant moment, one that marked the beginning of a new chapter in our spiritual lives.

When I looked back on my life before Ahmadiyya, I saw I had been living in blissful ignorance. The breadth of knowledge and spiritual insight that the Jamaat brought into my life opened doors to enlightenment that I could never have imagined. As I dug more into Ahmadiyya beliefs, I discovered a profound sense of connection with Allah, the Almighty, and a revitalised sense of purpose in my everyday actions.

My life has been showered with numerous blessings since accepting Ahmadiyya Jamaat. The more I study about the principles and teachings, the closer I feel to Allah, The Exalted. I take comfort in Ahmadiyyat's emphasis on love, peace, and service to humanity. This spiritual connection has given me a deep sense of fulfilment and a better sense of purpose in life.

My journey from Sunni Islam to Ahmadiyya has been life-changing on both a personal and spiritual level. It has given me the opportunity to reconsider Islam and embrace a faith that aligns with my principles of peace, love, and harmony. While the journey has not been without difficulties, the benefits of spiritual illumination, personal progress, and a strong sense of belonging to the Ahmadiyya community have made it all worthwhile. I am glad for this fundamental shift in my spiritual journey, and I look forward to continuing on the path of learning, service, and spreading Ahmadiyya Islam's message of peace.





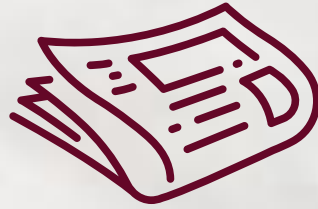
# **“AN AMBASSADOR OF ISLAM AHMADIYYA”**

MY TABLIGH EXPERIENCE

**BY: DR. BUSHRA ANAS SAHIBA**

**BURTON UPON TRENT**

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***‘If it was in my power I would knock on the door of every house just like a beggar to spread the true word of God so that the people may be saved from disbelief to atheistic tendencies, which is prevalent all over the world. If God were to teach me English then I would go around and propagate His message even it means I have to sacrifice my life in the progress.’  
(Mulfuzat Vol. 3, p. 291)***

Whenever I come across this statement by the Promised Messiah (as), it evokes a profound sensation that permeates my being. It consistently motivates me to engage in tabligh, whether through the medium of writing, interfaith dialogue, social media, or acts of service to humanity. As said by Allah the Almighty in the Holy Quran,

***‘Convey to the people what has been revealed to thee from thy Lord.’  
(The Holy Quran, Ch. 5, Verse 68)***

Hence our responsibility lies in fulfilling our duty of conveying the message of Islam according to our abilities, for which we shall be held accountable. I firmly believe that actions hold greater influence than mere words. Wherever I go, I perceive myself as an ambassador of Islam Ahmadiyya. It has been a decade since I arrived in Burton from the Channel Islands, during which I was requested to deliver a speech at an interfaith event. Although my knowledge was limited, I conducted extensive research on the assigned topic and crafted a commendable discourse. However, this alone did not suffice, I yearned to contribute significantly to tabligh.

Consequently, I submitted a report of the event to the local newspaper, which fortunately accepted and published it. This pivotal moment marked the beginning of a journey wherein, driven by my fervour, I started writing articles on religious subjects. While most were rejected by editors, a few were published too. Gradually, with prayer, a path opened up through the local newspaper, enabling me to spread the message of true Islam.



A few months ago, the local Lajna held an event in celebration of our 100-year centenary. A press release was issued, urging the local Burton newspaper to feature it. After a few days, a non-Ahmadi Muslim journalist from another county contacted me via email, expressing her admiration for the articles highlighting the philanthropic work carried out by the only 'Muslim organization'. This encounter was quite surprising, not only was a non-Ahmadi reaching out to me (the means by which she obtained my email address remains mysterious), but she also requested further details about this organization, promising to publish more articles in her own county's newspaper (Staffordshire).

Another incident involved one of my contacts in tabligh, Councillor Asha Messiah from Coventry, expressed her desire to visit Qadian, prompting me to request Ameer Sahib UK to arrange a protocol for her as she aspires to visit our sacred sites. Additionally, Asha's friend, Manjit Kaur, has also been influenced by our Jamaat. She follows my social media accounts and avidly reads any posts related to tabligh, often posing questions.

The Holy Quran states,

***'This day have I perfected your religion for you and completed my favour upon you.'* (The Holy Quran, Ch. 5, Verse 4).**

Hence with regards to Ishaat-e-Deen (propagation of one's faith) , today in this era of technological advancement, we as Ahmadi Muslims must strive with every fibre of our being to ensure that as many people as possible come to hear the message of true Islam. Only then we will be truly serving as Sultan e Naseer to the Khalifa of the time. Only then we will be playing our role in ensuring that all members of the Community across the world are moving in one direction, as a united community at the hand of Khalifatul Masih, towards the true and final victory of Islam and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), InshaAllah.



# “Allah Sent Him to Us”: My Tabligh Experience

by **Syeda Asifa Sikander Sahiba,**  
**Burton upon Trent**



Burton Jamaat was newly formed 10 years ago and I was appointed Secretary Tabligh. I had no idea how to run this department. I had never held a role for the jama'at. Here I was clueless of where to start. I looked at the tabligh syllabus from Markaz and my journey started. One of the items on the to-do list was for Majlis to feed the homeless.

I formed a tabligh team and started with 1 assistant. We contacted the local YMCA requesting to cook food and feed the homeless. The YMCA were very surprised to hear that a local muslim women's group wanted to do this and welcomed the idea. Alhamdulillah we cooked the food and served to the homeless from their kitchen at the YMCA. We fed over 60 people from the YMCA and rough sleepers. They were very appreciative. We wrote a press release for the local newspaper and this was read by many people of Burton on Trent.

One particular person took a keen interest into what had happened in our town. Lawrence Oates who is in charge of One World Week (interfaith of Burton) & Fair Trade in Burton. Lawrence contacted the YMCA to get our contact details. He approached us and requested if our community wanted to be involved in an interfaith programme being organised by him. We were allowed to set up an exhibition and do a presentation. We went to this programme and made many local contacts ; Councillors, the local Mayor, Fair Trade Organisation, Local Church, Local TV station, Fire & Rescue, Local Police & Afro-Caribbean Center.

These contacts went on to create more tabligh opportunities. The Local TV station interviewed our local President and broadcasted on YouTube. From the Afro-Caribbean Center we went and did a Jama'at Tabligh Interfaith programme. We were able to invite the local Mayor as well as all the Councilors we had met at the interfaith event. Fair Trade and South Derbyshire Mental Wellbeing have been in touch with us since this programme, and have been friends of the community since a 10-year span and have been attending our programmes.

County Cllr Shelagh Mckiernan, Sonia Anderson & other Cllrs have always attended our interfaith programmes organised by Lajna and speak well about us in the circles of Burton. We are very popular in 5 parishes; Horninglow, Eton, Branston, Stretton & Outwoods, and have reached out to others too. Local Parishes is where the local communities find out about you and this is at root level that we needed to work with local politicians to have a local presence and influence.

Lawrence Oates has been our spokesperson for our Jama'at since we have met him- he is always contacting us and keeping us involved in many local activities like monthly litter picks, cleaning parks, canals, rivers, streams, marshlands and nature reserves. The Majlis has always helped out in local projects. When we had to plant 100 trees for Lajna Centenary, he put us in contact with the local Staffordshire Wildlife Trust who gave us free 100 trees to plant and an area to plant them. We were even given the permission to put a plaque in honour of the centenary alongside the trees.

Lawrence has gone on to not only support Lajna but is working with Khuddam, Ansar and Jama'at level. He is a true friend of the Jama'at. He has helped support and strengthen the Jama'at in Burton on Trent. May Allah guide him in accepting the message of Ahmadiyyat. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) recently said in a khutba that if you cannot get a bai'at, at least influence people in such a manner that they become like the Uncle (Hazrat Abu Talib (may Allah be pleased with him)) of the Holy Prophet Muhammed (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). One time a well-known muslim who was part of the interfaith group by the name of Habib told Lawrence not to work with us as we are not muslims. Lawrence said, "I am not a muslim either, so why do you want to work with me?" Lawrence went on to support the Jama'at even more after this conversation; he has attended Darul Barakat, Baitul Futuh, Baitul Hafeez, Charity Walk for Peace and many other events organised by the Jamaat.

This is very faith inspiring for me that not only did we make all these contacts through Lawrence but he actually helped us to establish the Jama't in Burton on Trent. We didn't find him but Allah sent him to us.

# Our Tabligh Experiences

Recollections from West Croydon,  
compiled by Rooshan Nasir Sahiba

Tabligh is the duty of every Ahmadi Muslim. Our smile, our mannerism, our dress, our service to the community, our care for the environment or our assistance of our neighbours are all means of silent Tabligh and draw people towards us. With the blessings of Allah, we have been fortunate to embrace the message of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and share the teachings of Islam. There are many tabligh experiences worthy of sharing yet a few always become pivotal memories.

One dua we always recite is from chapter 20 of the Holy Quran stating;

***‘My Lord, open out for me my breast, and ease for me my task, and loose the knot of my tongue, that they may understand my speech.’ [20:26-29].***

It becomes essential when preaching Islam. One Lajna’s experience came from immense hard work over a number of years without even knowing and finally resulting in Bai’at- Alhamdulillah

“She states “When I first met my contact a few years ago, I didn’t realise I was doing tabligh. To me tabligh was only actively telling someone about your religion. A few years later to that moment, I have gained a better understanding of tabligh and it being a broad umbrella term. After a recent conversation with my contact, she mentioned how it was my personality and mannerism which made her interested in where I got them from. My contact stated ‘The curiosity is what made us friends and now me an Ahmadi today because the answer to that was Ahmadiyyat.’ Our journey together was beautiful as I was able to learn a lot of things about my own religion and its beauty with a friend. For me, this was a huge blessing from Allah and a chance to improve. When people talk about tabligh, it’s more about what their contact did and how they converted but to me it’s a journey for both.

We visited lots of places together and our last place was Jalsa Gah where she took Bai’at. Leading up to the days of Jalsa, watching her learn the words of Bai’at and understanding the translation made me realize how hard she was trying to not just be an Ahmadi but to be a true Ahmadi. This really motivated me as I always used to get clothes ready for Jalsa but what was I doing other than that – did I do any spiritual preparation? I learned from my tabligh contact as much as she learned from me and that was the highlight of my experience”.



“ Another Lajna explained her experience as also starting from silent tabligh stating “I believe that my modest dress sense and hijab when I leave my home mean that I am doing tabligh from the moment I leave. Even those that I do not speak to can visually see that I am Muslim. Therefore, my behaviour and the way I speak also becomes a way of propagating Islam. For me tabligh is not just when I speak to another specifically about my beliefs but more than that -it a way of life. Further, I believe that how my children behave also represents what they have seen in the home growing up and are testament to our beliefs. Those that interact with them can be intrigued by their values and how and which home they were raised in or subconsciously be deterred by it. Therefore, my personal experience of tabligh is that the best tabligh is done when the other is intrigued and curious to know the reason for the peace which you have portrayed to them. Therefore, -tabligh- I believe starts with reforming oneself and then spreading and supporting that improvement. One example I can give is of a neighbour who had a dislike for Ahmadis and although she spoke with our family, she did not want to eat anything in our home or cooked by us. By the grace of Allah, I can now say humbly that the same neighbour now tells us that she misses us when she does not see us, she enjoys food cooked in our home and enjoys visiting to share food too. She will now often ask for advice too as to how to manage the home and family.”

“ A young Lajna explains her time came during Sixth Form as she states, “I attended a Catholic convent school where I actively engaged in tabligh efforts. An opportunity arose when I was requested to present Islam to my entire year group. My talk revolved around dispelling common misconceptions related to Islam, such as those concerning pardah, jihad, and education. I addressed their questions, and what struck me was their lack of even basic knowledge about our faith. Astonishingly, they were unaware of our belief in Jesus (peace be upon him). This experience underscored the importance of educating ourselves about diverse perspectives, fostering empathy, and expanding our understanding. This encounter not only enriched my tabligh experience but also reinforced the essence of knowledge, empathy, and spiritual devotion on this remarkable journey of spreading the message of Islam.”

“ Another stated: “Frequently, my children come home from school telling me about how their schoolmates ask them questions about Ahmadiyya. I'm always encouraging them to gain their knowledge so that they'd be able to give the answer to their questions in a more detailed way. We are reading more books of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) to increase our knowledge. These days they are, not asking questions, but rather using bad language towards the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) and my children start to get annoyed because of the way they talk about our beloved Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). So, I'm telling them to not forget our motto, "Love for All, Hatred for None" so that they don't argue with them, and that they should tell them nicely about what's wrong and right; because you are here to tell them what the true Islam is which is taught by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him). One day while I was out, a man came up to me and asked me if I could donate to their organization which supports mothers in Africa who have a lack of food. I then told him that I am already donating, and he asked me how. I told him that I am Ahmadi Muslim, and we have an organisation called Humanity First. I explained to him that Humanity First helps all the areas in need across the whole world, with food water clothes etc. He then praised us Ahmadi Muslims.”



# TABLIGH EFFORTS AS A MEDICAL STUDENT

MY TABLIGH EXPERIENCE

BY: MUBARAKA SAMI SAHIBA, TOLWORTH



While I was at medical school around thirty years ago, I had two very good friends. One of them, Suzanne was agnostic while Kriss was the president of the Christian Union. Suzanne and I lived together for three years. I had a dream that Kriss was reading the Holy Quran. Interestingly, she had already bought a copy of the Holy Quran from Abu Dhabi. I told her about my dream and I suggested reading the Holy Quran and the Bible together. Suzanne also joined us.

I bought a Holy Quran for Suzanne for her birthday and I could tell how much it meant to her when she gave me a big hug. We had many interesting discussions and learnt from each other. Many of their misconceptions about Islam were removed e.g. about the position of women in Islam and how Islam emphasizes love and respect of all prophets and not denigrating other religions. Once while discussing original sin, Suzanne suggested a very insightful analogy that God was like a lifeboat and could easily save a drowning man. In contrast, Jesus (peace be upon him) in the process of 'diving in' to save the drowning man also died which was unnecessary. She also understood the reason for two women giving testimony in court to support each other not because Islam deemed women mentally inferior.

During my second year of medical school, she invited me to an event organised by the Christian Union called Truth and Trivia to make sure the speaker did not make false remarks about Islam. On the first day the external speaker made negative statements about other religions. He had no knowledge about Islam or chose to ignore the truth. He started off by claiming that Muslims believed in a 'God' called Allah and eventually stating that Christianity was the only true religion. I stood up and challenged him. I explained that Allah was the Arabic word for the one true God. Even Christians in Arab countries and countries like Malta refer to God as Allah. At the end I quoted from the Holy Quran, Surah Al Baqarah verse 112 and 113: ***"And they say, 'None shall ever enter Heaven unless he be a Jew or a Christian.' These are your vain desires. Say 'Produce your proof if you are truthful.' Nay, whoever submits himself completely to God, and is the doer of good, shall have his reward with his Lord."***

A group of the non-Christian students including a Buddhist and Jewish students came up to me afterwards and were glad I had replied to him. The Buddhist student remarked that I was ready for him!

Later that day in the medical school library I found one of my fellow students sitting at a desk reading the Holy Quran.

I recall Kriss was once at a Christian youth meeting and someone made a derogatory comment about Islam. She corrected them and they started calling her a champion of Islam!

Suzanne and I also met Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy upon him) and it was especially such a memorable Mulaqat as Huzoor asked us to come back again after Maghrib prayers. When we returned home our Egyptian landlady asked Suzanne how her meeting with Huzoor was. Suzanne replied that he was very, very nice! I remember her being so excited after our visit. Our landlady had seen Huzoor on MTA and I remember her saying that just by looking at Huzoor she could tell he was a good person. I remember her telling me in those days that she saw Jesus (peace be upon him) in her dream. Her husband had been to The London Mosque and he commented it was like Al Azhar in Cairo.

After our long sessions of reading together, Suzanne became very convinced of the truth of Islam. Unfortunately, there were some personal issues which stopped her accepting Islam formally. However, she did say to me that she believed everything the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said. I recall that she was morally good, very honest, dressed modestly and did not drink alcohol. In fact, she would find students who boasted about getting drunk very irritating!

I took another friend, Nancy who was of Sylheti, Bangladeshi origin for Mulaqat. She also really enjoyed meeting Huzoor. She said that it felt incredible as if Huzoor knew everything about her. I was pleasantly surprised as even though Nancy wasn't particularly religious she was able to appreciate the eminence of Khilafat.

I still pray for my wonderful friends from many years ago and that they do find Ahmadiyyat in Islam as they had the good fortune of coming so close.

# Tabligh During Covid-19

by: Naima Rizwan

The year 2020 was a year that marked its own identity in people's hearts and minds. For some people it was a positive push for their future, for some people it was a heart-wrenching truth that left nothing but devastation in their lives caused by their loss in their own personal wars against the world.

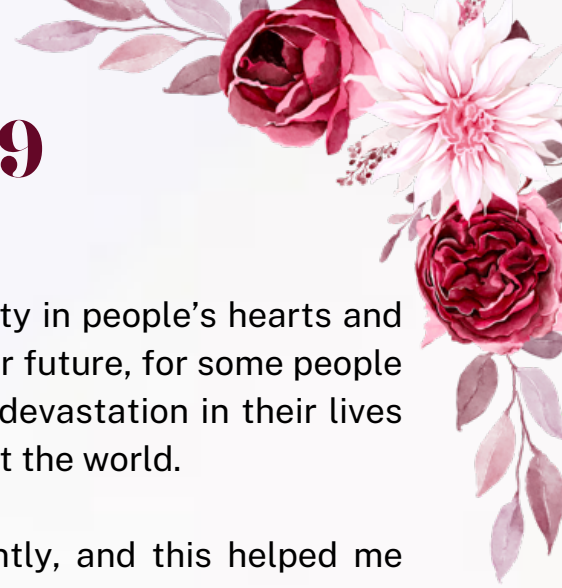
During this year my confidence increased significantly, and this helped me spread the true teachings of Islam to my new online friends using social media. There's no doubt social media has grown immensely, and we should be using these very fast growing platforms to benefit mankind. While also spread the true humble and sincere message of our Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) to the corners of the world. By the grace and mercy of Allah the Almighty we were able to push through the stressful year and start the new year with a new hope, a new passion to not just instil a peaceful change within ourselves but other people around us as well.

By doing tabligh I have experienced eternal blessings in my life so far, from my college all the way up to my personal life. I feel more confident and prouder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community when I do tabligh to people.

My form of Tabligh during this time of pandemic was to post about Islam Ahmadiyya on my social media platforms- my new online friends were really intrigued. The main reason behind this is the fact that my social media platforms do not have my pictures, so non- Ahmadis girls that follow me asked me many questions and I answered their questions related to my Instagram profile picture and so on. My main purpose was posting about Islam or sharing my thoughts and remarks about the difference between non-Ahmadi and Ahmadi beliefs. I have also added a hyperlink to the Al Islam website in my bio on Instagram. I tried my best to explain any aspects in a calm and mature manner.

During this time, I made two good friends, on Instagram. One of them started asking me questions and Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah the Almighty she has started praying 5 times a day and she has started to change her way of life to gain the pleasure of Allah the Almighty.

I hope to continuously serve the true purpose of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in the future and gain the pleasure of Allah the Almighty. I pray that more and more people find the true Islam and the true sense of peace in the form of our Ahmadiyya Muslim community. Ameen summa ameen.



# ‘An Innate Spark’

**My Tabligh Experience**  
**by Saima Naveed Sahiba, Newcastle**

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Honestly, finding the motivation for anything now is extremely excruciating, and hard, with the times changing; going through lockdown it's been even harder. Motivation is something which I would describe as having an innate spark or bounce inside of myself to do something, and tabligh for us as Lajna is about conveying our beliefs to people, friends, peers, colleagues and getting their viewpoints on it. It is about counter-arguing their misconceptions and making them realise what they don't understand.

I personally, found it difficult to accomplish any forms of tabligh in the western society, as we all have strong beliefs. I remember it was back in 6th grade when I had my first encounter ever of someone who had more counter-arguments than I did, for the mere existence of God. It was a somewhat painful experience because, I didn't know how to convince my peer what was right. My innate spark was lost, and I didn't do tabligh for a good 4 years after this. But how did I find my motivation back again? Well, my mother. To put it simply, she was the reason I started doing tabligh again. Seeing my mother do tabligh to mere strangers was like a rock in my dark times, it brought me back to the surface, helping me to overcome any barriers.

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# Opportunities for Tabligh

## My Tabligh Experience

by Noreen Sadaf Sahiba, Birmingham East

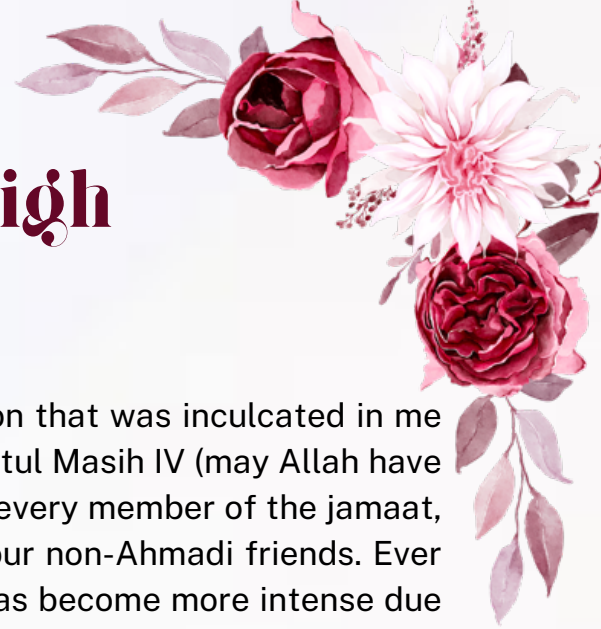
Tabligh, (The propagation of a religion), was a passion that was inculcated in me ever since my childhood. I've been inspired by Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) regarding tabligh and his message to every member of the jamaat, to spread the true message of Islam Ahmadiyya to our non-Ahmadi friends. Ever since I have been in the UK, this passion within me has become more intense due to the opportunities and freedom of religious belief within this country.

As a tabligh secretary I have had a chance to visit many schools and places of worship (such as temples, churches, and synagogues) As a result of this, I now have many close friends who are of different faiths, such as Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, and Sikhism. Our tabligh events within the Jamaat, such as interfaith events, peace symposiums, and coffee mornings, have proved to bring friends of different faiths onto a single platform to share their views and to cut down barriers of hatred and alienation.

This year, we celebrate a Lajna centenary year, which is the year that we have been given a target by our national Sadr Sahiba to plant 100,000 trees across the UK, as a tabligh activity. As per this initiative, I have had many opportunities where I could introduce Jamaat in detail and could share information regarding Lajna Imaillah and our Centenary Celebration. Out of such various occasions, I am going to share only 4.

First, when I was in Lichfield, I had a chance to talk to a journalist of the local newspaper. I told her about the Jamaat, its motto, (Love for all, hatred for none), the women's organisation (Lajna), our passion for charity, serving humanity, and planting trees as a Centenary gift to our country, our society and environment. She was really impressed by knowing all this and gave me an offer to write an article on all of our efforts to be published locally.

The second event was in Yardley Green Park, where I met a non-Ahmadi Muslim contact, who saw ladies who were passionately planting trees through a frosty morning. It was a 45 minute conversation where I told the contact about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Promised Messiah's (peace be upon him) advent, the truthfulness of his prophecies, and his birthplace, (Qadian, India) from where our organisation was started.





I also told him about how this organisation has now spread to over 220 countries and states. I also told him about our motto, our auxiliary organisations, Khilafat, and showed him an image of our current Supreme Head (Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper)), some of our mosques, such as Baitul Futuh, Masjid Fazl, glimpses of Jalsa Salana, its high number of attendees, its setup, and MTA. I also gave him a detailed introduction of auxiliary departments, (such as Atfal, Khuddam, Ansar, Nasirat, and Lajna), their roles and importance upon the infrastructure of the Jamaat. I also told him about Humanity First, charity walks, about waqar-e-amal on New Year's night, and some of our charity work in Africa, such as Aisha Maternity Hospital in Sierra Leone, free eye operations, schools in Western African countries, and the provision of fresh water.

I handed over a few books such as Life of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and many pamphlets such as the role of women, the status of women, the rights of women, and a pamphlet on World War 3.

The contact was extremely impressed to know about all this and many times uttered "SubhanAllah".

The 3rd time was in Kitts Green Park in the presence of one of the representatives of the Queen. I emphatically introduced our Jamaat to a crowd, its motto, and our Centenary target of planting a 100,000 trees as a gift.

Finally, I visited our local MP, Jess Phillips' office, introduced the Jamaat to her and her colleagues in detail, and invited her to our mosque, which she accepted. That was the first time in the history of the Midlands that any MP had an opportunity to visit our mosque, and to deliver a speech. She was impressed by our community's work.

All these experiences highlight my personal tabligh activities to people of different faiths.

May Allah enable me to carry on my responsibility in the best possible manner in the future, and may He give me strength and accept my humble efforts. Ameen.



# “Witnessing Love, Care, and Unity”

by Mubarka Tahir Sahiba

Balham

I met Phyllis of Caribbean decent, a resident in our street, on a wet and windy day, carrying her heavy laden shopping bags. With a greeting and a smile, I offered to carry her bags to her home, which was down the road from my house. She was surprised by my offer of help, which she explained. Phyllis expressed how she did not trust Asians as her next door neighbour was always causing damage to her beloved plants and was always finding things to complain about. She was also very wary of Muslims, as she was dreadfully influenced by the media and tabloids for their negative portrayal of Muslims. I took it upon myself to try and break down those misconceptions and prove to her how peaceful true Muslims can be.

As our friendship developed, I found out she was the head of her local spiritual healing church. As she was living alone, I used to send her cooked food on many days and helped her with her shopping. As the month of March was approaching and the peace symposium was taking place, Phyllis was sent an invitation which she accepted with a bit of hesitation, as it was taking place in a mosque and she felt afraid to attend a mosque alone. On the day of the peace symposium, my husband and I gave Phyllis a lift to Baitul Futuh Mosque. When we approached the main gates of the mosque, Phyllis just gasped with surprise. She uttered “Oh my God! This is wonderful! I can feel the light, spirituality, peace and serenity of this place”.

She explained that during her career as a spiritual healer, she had visited various religious buildings such as temples, churches and synagogues, but always felt uncomfortable and surrounded by darkness.

Phyllis was astonished and surprised by the event and how it was organised by a majority of volunteers. She was impressed that our young ladies and men were volunteering their time by being involved in organising such events with smiling, joyful faces, all working together for the betterment of the society and nation which she felt was generally lacking in the wider world.

She was really happy that she took the step to attend. She was overwhelmed by the openhearted hospitality, the great food and the warm, loving, caring attitude of the Ahmadi Muslim ladies.

She found all the Muslim ladies very friendly with smiles on their faces and an eagerness to please their guests. Also she was greatly impressed by the knowledge of the ladies on various topics and how majority of ladies were well educated with degrees in various fields of higher education and sciences. Her impression was that Muslim ladies are not allowed to educate themselves and are confined to looking after their husband, children and homes.

Upon the arrival of our beloved Huzoor-e-Aqdas, she commented that he has an aura of light and spirituality around him and of peace and tranquility, which instantly relaxed her and gave her an inner peace which she had never felt before. She was very much impressed by Huzoor-e-Aqdas's speech and stressed that can only be the word of a true and Holy man of God. Phyllis reiterated how Huzoor's face emitted an aura of light and spirituality. Additionally, she was very impressed by the Peace prizes and greatly appreciated that Muslims were hosting such events that the rest of the world was unaware of.

She was surprised by the sisterhood of the many various nationalities and religious groups attending this event. She loved the motto of the Ahmadiyya community "love for all, hatred for none" which she felt was truly displayed by the community. Nowhere else had she ever witnessed such love, care and unity. Furthermore, she specifically asked me to invite her to all future Jamaat events as she was so inspired by everything she witnessed that day. Seeing her reaction made me so grateful that by the Grace of Allah, He has made us not only Muslims but Ahmadi Muslims, all praise be to Allah.



# ILLUMINATING HEARTS THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF AHMADIYYAT

MY TABLIGH EXPERIENCE

BY: **NUSRAT KHAN SAHIBA, SLOUGH**

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This is the story of my journey, a journey that has shaped not only my own perspective but also the lives of those around me. When our regular RE teacher left, I was entrusted with the task of covering the RE lessons. What began as a temporary responsibility soon revealed a profound opportunity to make a difference. I realized there was a gap in the religious education of our students, a gap that I was determined to fill with the right and true knowledge. With this commitment, I embarked on a mission to unravel the intricacies of history and faith. I delved into the differences between Sunni and Shia beliefs, weaving a tapestry of understanding that transcended mere facts. Within these lessons, children were free to ask any questions or voice any queries. They listened in a trance as I took them from Arabia to Jerusalem, all within the confines of the walls of our classroom.

Amid these discussions, a remarkable moment of realization unfolded. A fellow teacher confided in me, sharing her experiences as an attendee of Ahmadi events. She marvelled at the depth and authenticity of the teachings she had encountered, highlighting the unique knowledge that only the Ahmadiyya community seemed to possess. Her words resonated deeply, reminding me of the blessing of khilafat and the invaluable insights it had bestowed upon me. My journey was not without its challenges. The fear of social isolation had previously kept me from openly expressing my Ahmadi identity. However, as I continued to educate and engage, perceptions began to shift. Colleagues and students were drawn to my discussions, eager to explore the authentic insights I had to offer.

A pivotal encounter took place with a colleague who was an atheist. Our conversations delved into the concept of fasting, transcending the boundaries of faith. Intrigued by the scientific benefits of fasting, they sought to join me in observing fasts. Eagerly, they asked me when we would next fast together as previously, I kept nawfli fasts every Thursday and they sometimes joined me. I reassured them that we would begin again in September to which they seemed overjoyed! Our dialogue became a unique form of tabligh, weaving connections that bridged gaps and fostered understanding.



My efforts extended beyond the classroom, as I took on the challenge of addressing Islamophobia during an assembly presentation. I dismantled stereotypes and shed light on the realities that often go unnoticed. I went into more detail with a colleague and showed them videos of the brutal realities faced by Ahmadi Muslims, particularly in Pakistan and the severe opposition faced by our community.

My colleagues now often come to me with questions on Islam and Hajj. Alhamdulillah I not only inspired others but also ignited a fire within myself. Conversations evolved into avenues of tabligh, as I shared the wisdom of Ahmadiyyat with those who sought to understand.

Through these interactions, I discovered the profound impact a single individual can have on shaping perceptions and fostering unity. By the Grace of Allah, I have been able to inspire, by ways of Tabligh, many people into learning more about Ahmadiyyat and shunning what they may have previously been told by anti-Ahmadi Muslim clerics.

May my story stand as a reminder that every interaction, every conversation, and every pursuit of knowledge holds the potential to inspire change, both within the wider world but also within ourselves.



# My Tabligh Experience in Bermuda

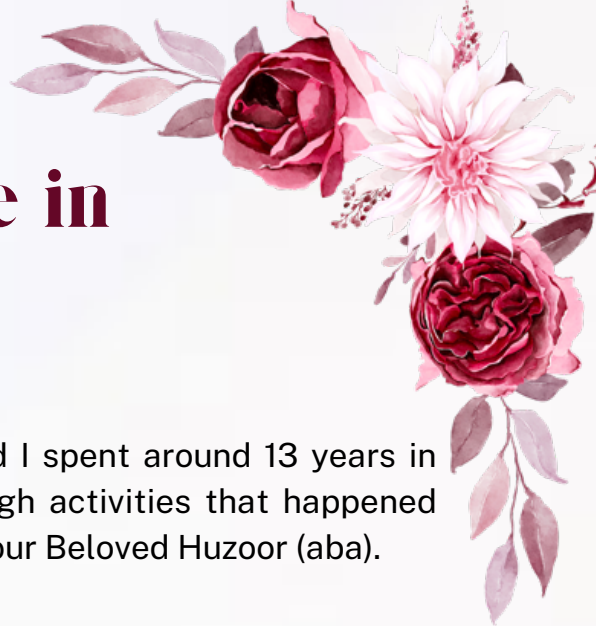
by **Shabnam Jheengoor Sahiba, Surbiton**

Prior to moving to England in 2019, my husband and I spent around 13 years in Bermuda. This is a brief exposition of the key Tabligh activities that happened during our time there, under the blessed guidance of our Beloved Huzoor (aba).

Nestled in the Atlantic, Bermuda is a captivating island paradise with a population of 64,000, reflecting its rich diversity. The majority of Bermudians are of African descent, but European, Asian, and mixed-race communities coexist harmoniously. Christianity dominates the religious landscape, with Anglicanism as the prominent denomination, complemented by various Protestant sects and a smaller Catholic presence. While the Muslim community is relatively small, its presence has been influential and growing. Islamic practices were introduced in the mid-20th century by visiting Muslim students and immigrants. Over the years, the Muslim community has established three mosques and centers over the island.

My husband and I arrived in Bermuda in 2005 from our native Mauritius, as a newly married couple. We were not aware of any Ahmadi that lived in Bermuda before us. Before arriving to Bermuda, we transited via London and had the blessed opportunity to have mulaqat with Huzoor-e-Anwar (may Allah be his Helper). Huzoor instructed us during the mulaqat to spread the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat to Bermuda. It was by the sheer Grace and Mercy of Allah the Almighty, that we met another Ahmadi couple in Bermuda. Nadia Mahmood Sahiba was also newly married, and arrived in Bermuda with her husband around the same time as us. The couple were Canadians from Peace Village, Toronto.

None of us had much tabligh experience prior to moving to Bermuda. But through Huzoor's prayers and guidance, we slowly started arranging informal and formal tabligh gatherings. In the beginning, our efforts focused on growing our friendship circle so we could introduce more people to the jamaat. On a regular basis, we went out to villages and towns as a family with our children and walked around to search for people in the neighbourhood that we can speak with and spread the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat. We focused on building a solid friendship with people, inviting them for tea and dinner in our homes and introducing them to only after we had built a warm rapport with them. Through such outings we met some very good and sincere people who not only became personal friends but also helpers of the Jama'at.



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For example, during an outing we met the Santiago Family who became our good family friends. Mr. Santiago became a helper of the Jama'at and assisted us with security several times during various formal events. Several non-Ahmadi friends also travelled from Bermuda to USA to attend the annual Jalsa Salana and meet with Hzuoor (may Allah be his Helper) during one of this USA visits.

We also focused on building connections with local charities, organizations and other faith communities. We volunteered regularly with organizations such as Amnesty International and CURB, an organization fighting against racism. In this way, Allhamdolillah, various organizations throughout the island learnt about the Jama'at and collaborated with us for the multiple interfaith seminars that we hosted.

The press and media were Allhamdolillah supportive of our interfaith efforts, publishing nearly 60 various newspaper articles about the Jama'at, with multiple radio programmes and a few TV programmes especially during Ramadhan. Book exhibits and Holy Quran exhibitions also proved to be excellent ways of conveying the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat to people.

Allhamdolillah, we were blessed when Huzur-e-Anwar (may Allah be his Helper) placed the Bermuda Jama'at under the direct responsibility of Respected Maulana Azhar Haneef Saheb, then Missionary in Charge and Naib Ameer Jama'at USA. Allhamdolillah, Imam Haneef visited Bermuda two times and addressed at multiple audiences. He established relationships with multiple organizations, community leaders and government officials. He was accorded meetings with the Premier of Bermuda, US General Consul and Governor General to whom he presented Jamaa't literature and a copy of the Holy Quran. His visit was extensively covered in the press and media.

Through Huzoor's prayers and guidance, our meagre efforts were fruitful in that the jamaat established itself as a peaceful community, focused on building religious harmony and spreading the message of Islam through peaceful means.





# An Inspiring Tabligh Event

by Sadiya Ayaz Sahiba

## Wimbledon South

Over the last year by Allah's Grace our Lajna have had the opportunity to help support our local Women's Shelter through gift donations, preparing hot meals and dropping off food hampers for families. A few months ago, we arranged a workshop with the ladies from the shelter. The organiser at the shelter was apprehensive about engaging the ladies in a discussion about faith and that any platform for them to share thoughts and views should be kept neutral so as not to offend anyone from a particular faith group. We reassured the organiser that our intention was to have an opportunity to offer support to the ladies and help them engage socially in a safe and comfortable environment and she was happy for us to arrange the event.

I had hoped that we could have utilised this opportunity for tabligh, but reminded myself that tabligh is not only carried out through discussion about faith but equally through our actions, manner and conduct which portray so many elements of our belief and teachings. I wanted to highlight to these ladies who were at such a vulnerable point in their lives what our faith teaches us about being there for those in need, regardless of faith, colour or background.

Our programme started with an introduction about why we were there, our role as members of Lajna Imaillah and our purpose of offering support and comfort to those in need which is the principle we strive to follow in practice. The ladies who were present listened intently. I spoke about my role as a working GP and how I come across patients every day who are going through some of life's greatest challenges and as a result I could understand what a lot of these women had been enduring. Slowly the ladies began to open up, as we went around the group introducing ourselves. Some of them had known each other from the local shelter, others were meeting for the first time. They told the group about their background, how they had ended up at the shelter and their struggles and worries for the future particularly about their young children, many of whom had brought them along. There were many tears, expressions of frustration, remorse and guilt. For all these women this was a life they had never envisaged. Coming from strong family roots, many felt guilty at abandoning the homes that had once been their source of comfort but had felt compelled to leave because of their unbearable circumstances.

I was wary of not focusing on my own Islamic teachings as agreed with the organisers but rather share a general overview with the group of how we can overcome hardships and suffering with faith and perseverance. However, our conversation soon turned to faith as the ladies began to feel more comfortable discussing their individual situation and wanted to understand more about what Islam teaches us about overcoming trials and tribulations and what we can learn from these difficult times. The organiser was part of the group and felt the ladies wanted to share and learn more so opened up the conversation herself to talking about faith. She shared with the group that she too had been a victim of domestic violence and was a Hindu by background. She described how her faith had helped her at times when she had felt her lowest and how her belief in a higher Being made her comfortable in knowing that whatever trials she endured would only be temporary. We then spoke about Islamic teachings on suffering in this world and its purpose for a believer.

There were several ladies in the group who were Sunni Muslims who reciprocated in agreement with how their belief in Allah helped them see their situation in a wider context and felt comforted that He would take care of their needs in the future. There were also atheists amongst the group who felt the discussion had been enlightening and engaging and they were able to acknowledge and appreciate how others in the group were able to focus on faith as a means to overcome their struggles.





For some the concept of faith was important but equally challenging when they recollected their suffering and grief. Some Muslim ladies in the group shared verses of the Holy Quran in relation to patience and prayer and how they had found comfort from this. Soon a conversation that had started out as a general discussion on overcoming hardships and keeping a positive mindset, became an engaging discussion on faith, values and belief. I had only shared up until that point my own values and beliefs about caring for others and helping them in times of hardship, but somewhere in that conversation, the ladies were able to draw a correlation with Islamic values and wanted to know more about my faith and teachings from an Islamic perspective.

A workshop that was meant to last only forty minutes turned into a discussion lasting almost two hours where we spoke about how Islam gives us the guidance to overcome any trials and tribulations through prayer, the virtue of patience and how even at times of hardship, looking after the needs of others can be a source of great comfort and satisfaction, which is what our Community strives towards. We were able to share many examples of the work of Lajna and jamaat and some of the ladies in the group were quite surprised to learn that our only objective of arranging the event was to offer them support and compassion.

As our workshop ended one lady approached me and a Lajna member who was with me. Throughout the workshop she had remained largely silent, sharing only a little about her past. She was a Sunni Muslim lady from Pakistan. She came up to us as we were leaving and said she had found the workshop very enlightening. She had been apprehensive to come knowing we were from the Ahmadiyya Muslim ladies organisation but through the discussion she felt she could connect with what was being said in so many ways. She spoke about her situation, how her family in Pakistan had disowned her and how she had felt unable to talk to anyone feeling no one really understood her situation. However the discussion we had had in the workshop was the first time she felt she could relate to others and said it was also the first time other Muslims in the group had spoken about their faith and how it helped them at this time. She felt more connected with the group as a result and said it gave her courage to focus on overcoming her grief and struggles to build a future for her and her three year old daughter. It was very heartening to speak with her and hear what she had to say. She said that her family was from a very strict Sunni background as was her husband, but the Islam she saw here today was about love and compassion, not mistrust and punishment which is what she had seen growing up and sadly in her marriage also.

A few days after the event I was contacted by the organiser. We had not had a chance to debrief after the event as she had to leave to get to another meeting. I was somewhat apprehensive about what her thoughts were seeing our workshop had turned into a faith-based discussion where we had openly shared our beliefs and values with one another. She started the conversation by thanking me, saying the ladies who had attended had given her such positive feedback about the workshop and felt for the first time they had engaged and spoken so openly about their past and worries about the future. She said she wanted to arrange another workshop about interfaith understanding and wanted to learn more about our Community and our beliefs and teachings. I told her I would drop off some leaflets and books for her and her team and told her that I would be very happy to organise further such events, which Alhamdulillah we have since done.

An event that started out to be a general wellbeing workshop, turned into an inspiring tabligh programme by Allah's Grace. We had shown these women love and compassion, given them an opportunity to share their thoughts and supported them at a time of need. Through this they had felt connected and heard and opened up a conversation about faith that led to understanding the true concept of what it means to love humanity and find our purpose in this world, sometimes through love, sometimes through trials. Whenever and wherever our intention is towards undertaking tabligh, Allah Almighty always finds a means to make it happen, sometimes in ways we never expect. May Allah enable us to always continue to serve His creation and strive in the field of tabligh through an exemplary conduct of showing love, compassion and understanding to all of humanity.

# A CHILD'S CURIOSITY

MY TABLIGH EXPERIENCE

BY: **SOPHIA ANWAR SAHIBA, SOLIHULL**

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I was asked to accompany a Lajna member to a very remote village outside of Birmingham to a Cubs Meeting, through a regular Tabligh contact who was part of this association. She felt that many of these children, though having been taught about Islam through their school curriculum, some of them had never met Muslims. It was an invaluable experience for both parties concerned. Those children meeting us and seeing us wearing hijabs and dressed modestly created a sense of curiosity in their minds. We also took lots of objects related to Islam such as a Quran, a prayer mat, a head scarf and a Muslim boy's prayer hat. We spoke to them about the basics of Islam.

Once they were given an opportunity to ask questions, their questions showed great interest and depth and showed that they were children who wanted to learn about Islam. The adult leaders also asked many questions about fasting and the words said in Salat. The children asked very innocent questions ranging from, "why do you wear a head scarf?" to "do you wear it in the house?" and "can you take it off before bedtime?" The other Lajna member also recited Surah Fatihah melodiously in order to give them insight into how the Holy Quran sounds like when it is recited.

They were so impressed by how friendly and approachable we came across that they asked other groups in their village to invite us to learn more about Islam. We will be inviting them in September for a Mosque tour. This tabligh effort has built a lasting relationship and has created a very important link with a community that was not particularly aware about Islam and Ahmadiyyat, and we were able to correct some of the misconceptions they had about Islam. May Allah enable us to continue our Tabligh efforts and spread the true message of Islam, Ameen.



