

SHIFA

T R U S T

The Traditional Halaqa

A Retreat for Traditional Learning

Information Pack

Traditional Halaqa 1429 AH

20th December - 28th December 2008

Banbury Madni Masjid & Shifa School

Merton Street

Banbury

OX16 4RP

Acquainting Our Students with Traditional Islamic Learning



In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most, Merciful.

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All Praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Universe, and Peace and Blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger Muhammad ﷺ and upon his family, and his companions and all those who follow his way until the Day of Judgement- Amin

The Traditional Halaqa 1429/2008

Introduction

Knowledge is said to be taken from the presence of scholars, not the pages of books. For this reason Shifa Trust is pleased to present the 14th in its series of Traditional Halaqa courses which bring Muslims in the West into contact with scholars who are living vessels of wisdom.

The course aims to teach students the central elements of their faith, in order to inspire and motivate them to further pursue these studies within authentic circles in their communities and around the Muslim world.

We are pleased and consider it a great blessing to have the following teachers with us:

Teachers

Shaykh Dr. Samir al-Nass

Shaykh Samir was born in Damascus, Syria, where he studied in the College of Medicine of the University of Damascus. He went on to study in the United States where he qualified in eternal medicine.

The Shaykh has studied under some of the great 'ulama of Shaam and Saudi Arabia. He has ijazah in the ten styles of recitation of the narration of Shatibiyyah and Durra from Shaykh Muhammad Sukr. He received an ijazah in the ten styles of recitation of the narration of Tayyibah from the Egyptian Shaykh Ahmad Mustafa in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, who is a student of Shaykh Abd al-Aziz al-Zayyat of Egypt. He has ijazah in fiqh and 'aqida from the previous Mufti of Syria Shaykh Abu Yusr ibn 'Abidin, Shaykh Lutfi al-Fayumi, and Mufti Shaykh Adeeb al-kallas.

Shaykh Samir was honoured to study hadith in Makkah tul-mukarrama with the great Shaykh Yasin al-Fadani al-Makki, and Shaykh Dr. Nur ud-din Itar of Syria. He also has an ijazah in hadith from Shaykh Abd Allah Siraj ud-din from Syria.

Shaykh Samir is presently a teacher in the al-Fath al-Islami University in Damascus, teaching the Hanafi fiqh manual 'Al-Hidayah' in the Takhassus Shariah department and lecturing in the ten recitations of Quran in the Masters department. The Shaykh teaches tajweed on a daily basis in the blessed masjid of Shaykh Ibn 'Arabi, a post given to him by his Shaykh and father-in-law, one of the illustrious Shaykhs of Quran in Shaam; Shaykh Muhammad al-Sukr. Shaykh Samir has been teaching at various deen intensive courses in England and North America since 2000.

Shaykh Afifi al-Akiti

Shaykh Afifi al-Akiti is a Research Fellow in Islamic Philosophy and Theology at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. He has completed his doctoral thesis at Oxford University, on a newly discovered Arabic manuscript of a previously unknown theological work by Imam al-Ghazali. He was born in Malaysia and educated in various madrasas with a long tradition in Shafii fiqh in East Java .

Among his most well known teachers are: Shaykh Muhammad Yasin al-Fadani, Shaykh Ibn Mahfuz al-Hajini, Shaykh Ibn Ashmuni al-Jaruni and Habib 'Aydarus al-Habshi.

He has translated various works in Malay as well as English; mostly textbooks that make up the curriculum of a Classical Islamic education, including Imam al-Bajuri's commentary on the Jawhara, Imam Nawawi al-Bantani on the Jami'a and his commentary on the Bidaya of Imam al-Ghazali. He has travelled widely, and notwithstanding the specific ijazas from his training, has also received general ijazas (for tabarrukan) from teachers beyond his homeland.

Shaykh Abdul Aziz Ahmed

Shaykh Abdul Aziz qualified as a teacher from Leicester University in 1984 and has taught in England, Scotland, USA, Africa and Saudi Arabia. He has travelled to countries as diverse as Tunisia, Yemen, the Hijaz, Turkey and East Africa in pursuit of knowledge. His teachers include Shaykh Habib Ahmed Mashur Al-Haddad (Jeddah), Shaykh Abdul Rahman Al-Kitamy (Kenya), Sidi Fethullah Gulen (Turkey), and Shaykh Abul Qasim ibn Zein Qayrawan (Tunisia). He also spent 10 years with Shaykh Mahmud Galal from Al-Azhar (Cairo). Sidi Abdul Aziz has translated "Al Risalah Al Jamiah" of "Shaykh Ahmed bin Zein Al-Habashi" and has edited a number of works and speeches by the aforementioned scholars.

Ustaz Tanveer Hussain

Ustaz Tanveer studied the Islamic Sciences in Syria for 8 years with notable teachers such as: Shaykh Dr. Samir al-Nass, Shaykh Abdul-Razzaq al-Halabi, Shaykh Adeeb Kallas, Shaykh Muhammad al-Yaqoubi, and Shaykh Anas al-Hibri. Sidi Tanveer is a graduate of M'ahad al-Fath al-Islami.

He now resides in Oxfordshire, where he teaches at Shifa School, Shifa Evening School, and at the Sacred Sciences Programme. Ustaz Tanveer is an Executive Director of the Shifa Trust.

Ustaz Thaqib Mahmood

Ustaz Thaqib has travelled to numerous places over the last 10 years in pursuit of sacred knowledge. This began at several deen intensives with Shaykh Hamza Yusuf from whom the impetus to his seeking sacred knowledge belongs. After travelling to Morocco he went to Hadramawt to the village of Tarim where he sat at the feet of the spiritual Masters and jurists including Habib Umar bin Hafiz. He travelled to Damascus a number of times and studies under shaykh Muhammad Darwish, Shaykh Abdul Wahaab Shaykh Muhammad al Yaqoubi, Shaykh Adnan al Majd, Shaykh Maree al Rashid and Shaykh Khalil al Sabbagh. His travels also lead him to Mauritania to study with Murabit al Hajj, to Liverpool to study with Shaykh Siraj Ud-Din and to Istanbul at the feet of the Gnostic and friend of Allah, Shaykh Mahmood Effendi; and studied with Shaykh Ehsaan Hojah and Shaykh Muhammad Ameen Siraj.

In 2007 returned to the UK to become involved in the instruction of sacred knowledge and continue his studies.

Course Programmes

Programme for Young People

For the first time the Halaqa will provide a specialised programme for young people aged 14 to 16 years old. The programme will focus on core Islamic Disciplines and will be tailored to young people. They will study the following courses:

- Preparing to Stand on the Day of Judgment
- Signs of The Last Day
- Stories of the Prophets
- The 10 Promised Paradise

Programme for First Time Halaqa Students

Beginners and first time Halaqa students programme will focus on the core Islamic sciences (fard ul-ain). They will study the following courses:

- Beliefs (Aqeeda)
- Worship (Fiqh)
- Good Character (Akhlaq)
- Life of Messenger of Allah (Seerah)
- The 5 Pillars

Programme for Returning Halaqa Students

Returning students or those that have studied fard ul-ain will focus on specific sciences which will change in each Halaqa course. In this Halaqa the following courses will be studied:

- 40 Hadith Qudsi
- Hadith Terminology
- Tajweed
- Tafseer

Open Maglis and Question & Answer Session

This will take place every evening and will be open to the public; various guest scholars will also participate as well as Shaykh Samir.

**May we all benefit from the teachings of the Shayukh.
And success is from Allah (Subhana Wa Ta'ala) alone.**

Arrival and Registration

Students should arrive between **12:00pm and 2:00pm** on **Saturday the 20th December** for registration. The Masjid will have separate entrances for brothers and sisters, signs will be displayed informing you of which entrance to use. Once you enter please register at the registration desk.

Induction

Insha'Allah, Induction will take place at **3pm** in the Masjid. The timetable, student commitments and any other issues will be clarified. Please bring this information document with you.

Attendance to this session is essential.

Student Essentials

All participating students are required to bring the following the following items:

1. Printed copy of the Qur'an (English/Arabic if possible)
2. Note pads and stationery
3. Changes of clothes, towels and general toiletries (enough to last 6 days). The highest standards of personal hygiene must be maintained. Please bring some warm clothing, as weather conditions are variable.
4. Sleeping bag / blankets / pillows. No bedding will be provided by the organisers.
5. Any required medication (please inform organisers if you are currently on medication, in case of complications).
6. Alarm Clock

Accommodation

The accommodation is of a basic standard, and will be shared with other students. This should provide a good opportunity to fulfil many Sunnahs such as sacrifice, patience and compassion. If you would like private accommodation, the venue has many hotels in the vicinity.

Brothers

Brothers will be sleeping on the floor in the Masjid. Wudu facilities will be close to hand. Access to showers will be available. No bedding will be provided, please bring a suitable sleeping bag.

Sisters

The sisters will be accommodated in a house close to the Masjid. The house will have a kitchen and bathroom. No bedding will be provided, please bring a suitable sleeping bag.

Special Facilities for Sisters

Sisters unable to enter the main mosque area will be able to continue their studies in a room outside the mosque. All lessons held in the Mosque will be delivered via a live television link to this room.

Student Commitments - What we need from you

- To take responsibility for your studies, including the completing of any set work to an exemplary standard and to the prescribed timescale.
- To attend all lessons punctually as indicated by the timetable provided.
- To inform one of the members of the Traditional Halaqa team if you are genuinely unable to attend any of the timetabled lessons, using the procedures prescribed to you.
- To respect the individual rights of all the teachers, staff and other students.
- To act in a way that respects the environment and safeguards the health and safety of oneself and others, including abiding by the regulations and policies set by the Traditional Halaqa team and the host party (Madni Masjid).
- There must be no mobile phones taken into lessons.
- There is a no smoking policy which you must adhere to.
- Students must not venture into those parts of the building that are off limit.
- Please ensure all the facilities you use are kept clean e.g. dining areas and sleeping areas.
- Lesson times and meal times are to be strictly adhered to.
- Before distributing promotional material (of any nature), please ensure permission from the Halaqa team has been granted.

Students will be expected to follow a code of practice that will be conducive to creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant learning environment, showing consideration and patience towards all other participants.

General Advice

- On arrival be sure to provide your family with the emergency contact number (07984 162 001), the address of the venue and be sure to call them to notify them of your safe arrival.
- Try not to break ones daily routine.
- Remember Allah (Subhana Wa Ta' alla) often and hold your tongue in humility.
- Keep the company of those above you in the Deen and Knowledge.
- Try not to waste time - the course is for a short period of time and there is a lot of work involved.
- Respect all teachers, organisers,, the host party and all students.
- Try to revise the day's work before you go to sleep.
- Remember - ask people who know if you do not.
- Report any concerns, criticisms and comments to any member of the Traditional Halaqa team.
- Be in class early, at least by 5 minutes.
- If the class starts late, revise previous notes - use your time productively.
- Use the night to rest and recover.
- The privacy of Shayukh and organisers of the event must be respected at all times.
- Park your cars in the assigned areas (these will be pointed out to you on arrival).
- Overlook any perceived shortcomings.

Daily Timetable

Time	Activity
7:15	Fajr Prayer & Surah Yaseen
8:00	Tajweed (for returning students only)
9:00	Breakfast
10:00	Lesson 1
10:45	Break
11:00	Lesson 2
11:45	Break
12:00	Lesson 3
12:45	Dhur Prayer
13:30	Lunch and Break
14:45	Asr Prayer
15:00	Lesson 4
15:45	Maghrib Prayer
16:45	Lesson 5
17:30	Isha Prayer
18:00	Dinner
19:00	Lesson 6
19:45	Break
20:00	Lesson 7
20:45	Break
21:00	Open Evening Session and Questions & Answers

Course Contribution

Unfortunately the cost of arranging the course is substantial; therefore we have to ask for a contribution. We have endeavoured to keep this contribution as minimal as possible. The contributions are as follows:

Full Course:

Non-Residential Student - £45 (this includes meals and course materials)

Residential Student - £110 (this includes accommodation, meals, and course materials)

To exact full benefit from the course we advise students to attend the whole course. However, we understand this won't be possible for everybody. Hence we have arranged for daily contributions as follows:

Daily:

Non-Residential Student - £8 (this includes meals and relevant course materials)

Residential Student - £20 (this includes accommodation, meals, and relevant course materials)

Some concessions are available for those who genuinely cannot afford the contribution.

Queries

Telephone:

07984 162 001

Email:

info@traditionalhalqa.org

Website:

www.traditionalhalqa.org

Emergency contact number:

07984 162 001

Please let us know if you have any further questions or concerns at this very moment in time. We can be contacted via the above means.

We ask Allah, Exalted is He, to give us success in this life and the next. May He bless the effort of all the believers and unite their hearts in love of Him. Amin

Wa ma tawfiqi illa billah!

And there is no success but from Allah!

Childrens Policy

1. Purpose:

1.1 This document outlines the regulations for children attending the Halaqa. The regulations have been put in place in order to keep children safe, to ensure disturbance is kept to a minimum, and to maintain a conducive learning environment.

2. Definitions:

In this document:-

2.1 Child(ren) means under 16 years old.

2.2 Adult means over 18 years old.

2.3 Guardian means the adult responsible for a child.

3. Facilities:

3.3 We would like to stress that Banbury Mosque, the venue of the Halaqa, lacks the facilities to cater for children adequately. However we will endeavour to make the facilities as comfortable as possible.

4. General regulations:

4.1 Children will only be allowed to attend the Halaqa, if they are accompanied by an adult.

4.2 Children aged above 9 years old must be accompanied by an adult of the same gender.

4.3 If the adult is not the parent of the child, then the parent(s) should be informed by the adult that he/she will be responsible for the child at the Halaqa (not the Halaqa staff).

5. Regulations for 11-15 year olds:

5.1 11-15 year olds will be treated as normal students and be expected to participate in lessons.

5.2 They must not walk in and out of lessons.

5.3 They must adhere to the code of conduct outlined in the student information pack.

5.4 If they find the course tiring, they may miss lessons, but this must be discussed with the Halaqa staff.

5.5 They have to be accompanied by their guardian at all times.

5.6 The guardian is responsible for the above being adhered to.

6. Regulations for under 11 year olds:

6.1 Under 11 year olds must be accompanied by guardians at all times.

6.2 If they become noisy, we would request that the parents kindly take them outside the classroom, so as not to disturb other students.

6.3 Children may not play outside unaccompanied.

6.4 All efforts should be made in order to reduce disturbance.

6.5 The guardian is responsible for the above being adhered to.

7. Course Contribution:

7.1 11-15 year olds are required to pay the full contribution outlined in the student information pack.

7.2 5-10 year olds are required to pay half of the contribution outlined in the student information pack.

7.3 Under 5 year olds are free.

How to get to the venue

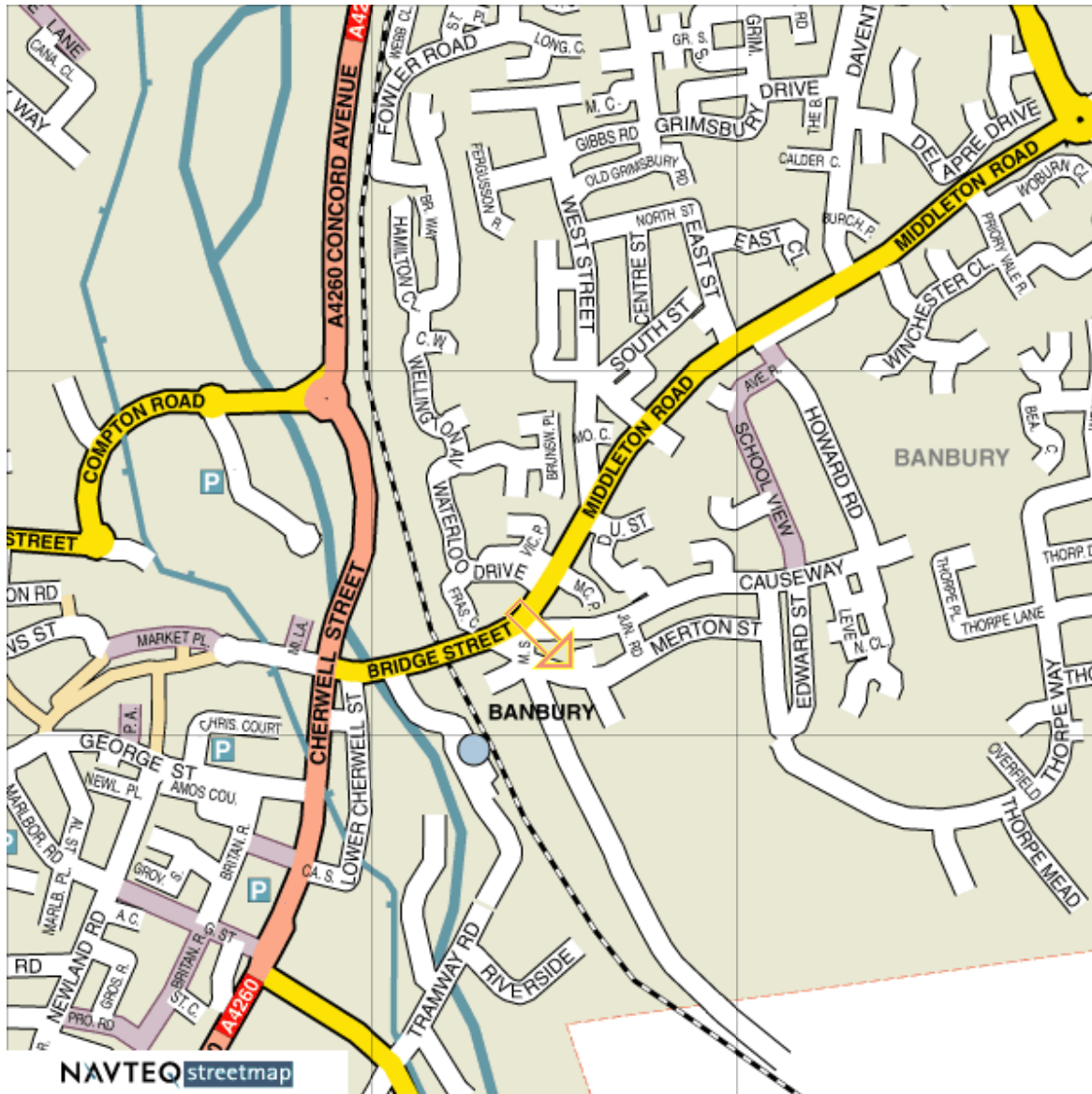
Banbury Madni Masjid, Merton Street, Banbury, OX16 4RP

Nearest train station

Banbury Station, Station Road, Banbury, OX16 5AB

The train station is a 5 minute walk from the Masjid.

MAP



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REACHING PEOPLE IN NEED
