

Vision of the Bath Islamic Society

Introduction:

The Bath Islamic Society envisions a dynamic, inclusive, and service-oriented mosque that models itself on the prophetic example—**al-Masjid al-Nabawi**, the first mosque established in Islam. This mosque was not only a place of worship but also a hub of education, welfare, interfaith engagement, and civic life.

Importantly, this prophetic model emerged in a **multi-faith, pluralistic society**, much like the city of Bath today. The Prophet's mosque served not just Muslims, but was a point of interaction with Jews, Christians, and non-believers—forming ties, hosting dialogues, and responding to the societal needs of a diverse community.

In this spirit, the Bath Islamic Society adopts this model because it provides a **timeless blueprint for how a 21st-century mosque** can attend to both the **internal needs of the Muslim community** in tandem with carrying the **external responsibilities toward wider society**, rooted in prophetic wisdom, inclusivity, and moral clarity.

The Society's vision is structured around **three core dimensions**, which together will shape its strategic direction and daily activities:

1. Spiritual Dimension

The first and foremost function of the mosque is to serve as a space for connection with Allah, cultivating a

spiritually nourishing environment for all:

- **Congregational Worship:** Regular daily prayers, Jumu'ah services, Eid prayers, and special worship during Ramadan, including Tarawih and Qiyam.
- **Spiritual Programs:** Quran circles, and opportunities for reflection and supplication, guided by the Imam.
- **Pastoral Support:** One-to-one consultations with the Imam for spiritual and personal concerns, including guidance for those navigating faith, family, or emotional wellbeing.
- **New Muslim Support:** Dedicated mentoring, induction sessions, and support groups for converts to Islam, ensuring no one is left isolated or without a support network.

The **Imam, supported by the committee of trustees**, will ensure that these services are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the spiritual needs of a diverse Muslim population.

2. Educational Dimension

Following the prophetic tradition where the mosque doubled as a centre of education and enlightenment, the Bath Islamic Society is committed to nurturing Islamic knowledge across generations:

- **Children's Religious Education:** Structured

weekend madrasa programs offering Quran learning, and Islamic ethics.

- **Youth & Adult Learning:** Regular seminars, short courses, and halaqas designed to help young adults and older generations grow in their understanding of Islam and apply it in their lives.
- **Language & Literacy:** Courses in Arabic to connect participants more deeply with the primary texts of Islam.
- **Public Lectures & Guest Speakers:** Inviting Muslim and non-Muslim scholars, thinkers, and community leaders to speak on contemporary issues—faith, ethics, and interfaith understanding.

By creating an atmosphere of thoughtful learning, the Society aims to cultivate well-rounded, confident Muslims who embody both faith and reason.

3. Communal Dimension

Just as the Prophet’s Mosque was a meeting place for tribes, faiths, and travellers, the Bath Islamic Society seeks to make the mosque a shared communal home—both for Muslims and the wider Bath community as appropriate:

- **Social Gatherings:** Organizing Eid festivals, Ramadan iftars, and social events to strengthen community bonds.

- **Interfaith Engagement:** Hosting dialogues, and collaborative projects with churches, universities, and local interfaith groups to foster mutual understanding.
- **Welcoming Non-Muslims & Seekers:** Offering “Introduction to Islam” sessions, mosque tours, public school visits, and welcoming opportunities for questions and conversations.

These efforts reflect the prophetic ethic of *rahma* (mercy) and *shahada* (living witnesses of God)—serving humanity, upholding the beauty of Islamic values.

Conclusion:

In aligning itself with the prophetic model, the Bath Islamic Society recognizes that a mosque is not simply a building—it is a **beacon**, a **school**, a **shelter**, and a **bridge**. In a multi-faith, multicultural society, this vision is not only relevant—it is vital.

By focusing on the **spiritual (1)**, **educational (2)**, and **communal (3)** dimensions of mosque life, we aim to ensure that our institution remains grounded in prophetic tradition while dynamically serving the needs of the present and future.

Together—with the leadership of the Imam and the committee of trustees, and the participation of the community—we aim to build a mosque that **brings hearts together in devotion, minds together in learning, and people together in service**.