



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
In the Name of Allah, Most Merciful, Ever Merciful

## Visit My Mosque 2018

# Template Friday Prayer Speech (*Khutbah*)

### **PART ONE:**

*Salamun-alaikum*, Peace be with you,

On **Sunday 18 February 2018**, our mosque - [Insert Your Mosque Name] - will be holding an open day *inshaAllah* (God Willing) for our neighbours and local community.

We will be inviting in our non-Muslims neighbours and members of the local community. We will be sharing tea and refreshments with them, allowing them an opportunity to learn about Islam and Muslims, and for us to learn more about our neighbourhood and community from them too.

Our non-Muslims visitors will observe and hear how Muslims call to prayer, how we perform *Wudu* (ablution), how we connect with Allah (Most High) and how we pray in congregation. [Insert more information about your mosque's open day]

This event is part of a national initiative called 'Visit My Mosque' day. **Over 200** other mosques across the UK will also be holding a similar open day like us on **18 February**. The initiative is facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), it first took place in 2015 and now takes place annually.

Through this open day, we want to encourage our non-Muslim neighbours to come and visit our *masajid* and make them feel welcome. Good relations with our neighbours is highly emphasised in Islam. Our beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) is reported to have said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgement, let him do good to his neighbour."

As you know, there is a lot of misconceptions about Islam and the Muslim community in Britain today, fuelled by many things, including divisive rhetoric and inaccurate reporting in the media. At a local level, some of our neighbours may also be curious about us – if they have never been invited inside our mosque, then all they may see of our community is large crowds of people going in for Friday *Jumuah*, or Ramadhan *iftars*, or other mosque programmes, and then leaving again - and they must be wondering what all these people do inside our mosque.

So through this open day, we want to breakdown the misconceptions they may have about Islam, for example that it is a religion of violence, or that it promotes terrorism etc. We want British society to be open-minded to our *masajid* rather than being suspicious of them. We want our society to condemn attacks on Muslims – as well as other faith groups - as unacceptable hate crimes. As Muslims, we do not want to be secluded from society, rather we should want dialogue and friendship.



We must extend our arms to those around us; and engage with them in the issues that are affecting us jointly. We must strive towards working for positive solutions together for problems facing our local community in [Insert your area name]. When we examine the life of the Prophet (upon whom be peace), we see that he loved addressing the needs of the people. He would engage with them and work jointly with them, to understand their needs and how to solve them.

'Visit My Mosque' is an important annual event. It gives [Insert Your Mosque Name] the opportunity to host our local community members from other faiths, or those of no faith. And through interaction and conversation dispel their negative stereotypes of Muslims and Islam. This is what we can together do to help the efforts of countering negative perceptions of Islam and Muslims in Britain today. It will also be an educational day, when we meet our neighbours, get to know them and allow them to get to know us.

Most importantly, we want to follow in the steps of our beloved Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). We want to be kind and caring, for the Prophet (pbuh) was the best of all people in character; and is the best example for us to follow. It was he who said, "The closest of you to me in the Next Life are the best of you in morals (*akhlāq*)."

It was the Prophet (pbuh) who also said "To smile is an act of charity"; who guided us to invite others to experience spirituality and learning. We have a responsibility to show that we too care for other faiths and other groups.

On 18 February 2018, [Insert Your Mosque Name] will be hosting an open day and inviting our neighbours in, along with 200 other mosques in the UK, as part of 'Visit My Mosque' day. Thousands of people across the UK will visit – for some it will be their first time in a *masjid* while for others they will be returning visitors.

Let us also take this opportunity to say the doors of [Insert Your Mosque Name] do not just open and close on 18 February. Rather the doors of this mosque are open to wider society all the time – visitors are welcome on any day of the year so do not hesitate to bring a non-Muslim friend or visitor at any time to [Insert Your Mosque Name]. Let us maintain a spirit of Open Doors, Open Mosques, Open Communities throughout the year

Whenever we may have non-Muslim visitors in our mosque, let us make them feel at home and welcome. Let us show them the true *akhlāq* (ethics) and values of Islam that our Prophet (pbuh) has taught *inshaAllah* (God Willing).



## PART TWO:

In the first speech (*khutbah*), we spoke about the importance of welcoming and building relationships with our neighbours, such as through the 'Visit My Mosque' day taking place at [Insert Your Mosque Name] on **Sunday 18 February 2018**. In this second Khutbah, we will outline some of the practical things you can do to support [Insert Your Mosque Name]'s open day on **18 February**.

[Insert Your Mosque Name] needs your help. Here's what you can do:

- 1) Make *Dua'a* (Supplication) for us that this event and the 200+ mosque open days across the UK are successful, with the Blessing of Allah (swt).
- 2) Spread the message - You can do something as simple as spreading the message about this event to your friends and family. For those active on social media, please spread this message via social media, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat Also there is a hashtag **#VisitMyMosque** which you can share photos and messages on too.
- 3) Invite and bring other people to walk through these doors to see our places of worship on **18 February**. Remember, this is a great opportunity for you to engage with others around you. How about asking your next door neighbour if they'd like to come to the *masjid* with you on **18 February** for an hour of their day for some tea and a tour? Or you could invite your friend or colleague at work? Men and women, young and old, black and white should all be welcome in our *masjid*.

Once a year, is a bare minimum of what we really can do to speak to our non-Muslims friends and neighbours – warmly inviting them to [Insert Your Mosque Name] that we each hold so dear in our lives. Show them that Muslims in their community are people just like them, and that we are welcoming, open, tolerant, kind and caring people.

- 4) Give us suggestions of creative ways to engage with our visitors. The organising team would be happy to receive your advice and ideas.
- 5) Participate and be a volunteer. Please contact the mosque management to let us know if you would like to join the organising team or be a volunteer at [Insert Your Mosque Name] on **18 February**.

'Visit My Mosque' day is a national initiative facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), so many of the participating mosques are taking part from the cities of London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Glasgow and Cardiff, as well as many smaller cities and towns across the UK.

[Insert Your Mosque Name] needs your help to make our open day on **18 February** a success, by 1) making *Dua'a*, 2) spreading the message, 3) inviting other people, 4) giving us suggestions and 5) participating and being a volunteer.

I ask Allah (swt) to bless you and me in all our endeavours and efforts in this short life.

I ask Allah for forgiveness for you and me, for He is All Forgiving and All Merciful.

Ends.