

Islamic Academy of Coventry

Advice on Returning to Our  
Masājid

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Advice on Returning to Our Masājid  
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Introduction

**W**ith the Grace of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, our Masājid will now be opening for individual worship and very soon, again with the Mercy of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى they shall be opening for congregational worship once permission is given by the relevant authorities.

The last few months have highlighted the important and central role the Masājid play in our communities as well as our own lives. Many times, we can only appreciate the true value of something once it has been taken away from us, and the same is the case of our Masājid. We no longer had somewhere to go and read Ṣalāh in congregation, we could no longer hear the beautiful words of the Qur’ān in the melodious voices of the Imāms. Just sitting reading the Qur’ān, spending time in dhikr, listening to talks, spending time in contemplation was no longer an option for us in the Masājid.

For many people in our community, especially our older generations, it was the focal point of their daily lives and for this access to be taken away so suddenly was indeed very difficult for them.

The holy month of Ramaḍān passed us by, as well as the day of ʿĪd. We all adjusted and Alḥamdulillāh there were many benefits from the time we had with our families. Our houses became Masājid, the fathers and brothers Imāms and the sisters reading in congregation with their male family members. Spending time together listening to the talks, reading the Qurʾān, reconnecting with one another once again and so much more. The Scholars played an amazing role in keeping people and families connected during this month and we pray to Allāh *سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى* that he rewards them accordingly. But now the time has come for us to go back to our Masājid. We must now look at this opportunity as a blessing from Allāh *سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى* and use it to refamiliarize ourselves with the Sunnah of the Masājid and the important roles they play in our lives.

Alḥamdulillāh, Shaykh Yusuf Shabbir put together an excellent article on why we should return to our Masājid with support from many leading scholars in the UK.<sup>1</sup> My dear teacher Shaykh Abdul Raheem Saheb also held a number of very informative lectures on the Importance of Masājid and the role they play in our community. I would advise everyone to take benefit from these talks and his many other beneficial programmes.<sup>2 3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://islamicportal.co.uk/should-masjids-open-on-15-june/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tafseer-raheemi.com/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/user/ShkhAbdulRaheem>

Some people have said that due to no congregational prayer, what is the point of opening the Masājid, what will people do when they come, how will they benefit? To answer these questions, I thought it would be beneficial to write a small piece advising the benefits of attending the Masājid and what acts of worship can also be done. Again, we should see this as a blessing and opportunity from Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى as many of us do not perform many optional acts of worship outside of our normal routine. These optional acts are very important and will weigh heavily on our scales on the Day of Judgement, so we should try and continue with them, even after our Masājid return to normal operating procedures.

The Masājid will be taking the relevant precautions ensuring the Houses of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى are safe for worship. Please listen to their instructions and advice. Our wellbeing is one of their primary concerns so we must not do anything to risk our health and the health of the other attendees.

So, what must we now do? As believers we should try and come back and attend our Masājid, making them alive once more with the remembrance and worship of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. We should never again take them for granted or anything else for that matter. There were many people in our community who did not realize that their final visit to the Masjid would be in fact their last ever visit.

Before we go, we have a responsibility to ensure we are not in one of the groups who may be at risk. If you or anyone in your family are showing signs of the coronavirus, please do not attend the Masājid. Follow the appropriate government guidelines on quarantining and continue to pray at home for the recommended duration. Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** will reward you greatly.

The responsible people for the Masājid should follow the guidelines and not be overcautious by restricting access to certain groups like Frontline Health Workers. They are not restricted from shopping areas and other places so why should they be stopped from the Masājid? If the necessary precautions are taken, we will Inshā'Allāh all be safe. We need to seize these opportunities to reconnect with Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**, to reassess, introspect and refocus our lives for the pleasure of Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**.

I pray to Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** that we can all fulfill the rights of our Masājid, that he keeps our Masājid open, he keeps the Ḥaramayn open, he keeps Masjid – al-Aqṣā' open and does not take them away from us ever again. I pray that we are once more allowed to go for Ḥajj and 'Umrah safely. I pray that we return to normality with the ability to read in congregation, standing next to each other, shoulder to shoulder, without any risk to each other. And finally, I would like to thank Dr Riyadh Kallingal for his help and advice in putting this booklet together.

## The Reward of going to the Masājid

**T**here are many benefits and rewards of going to the Masjid. First and foremost, these are places which Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى has created solely for his worship. We can pray at many other places, in our homes, outside, at our places of work, etc. however our Masājid are special places chosen by Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

### The Most Beloved of Places

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " أَحَبُّ  
الْبِلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَسَاجِدُهَا وَأَبْغَضُ الْبِلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَسْوَاقُهَا " <sup>4</sup>

Abū Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ reported that Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said  
“The most beloved of places in the sight of Allāh are its Masājid,  
and the most disliked of places in the sight of Allāh are the  
markets”.

When a person goes to Masjid, they are in a special environment, free from sin and desire. The Masājid are full of Angels, the special creation of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى who carry out his bidding. This special environment draws a person closer to Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى whilst visiting markets and shops takes a person away from the remembrance of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

<sup>4</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 671.

## Under the shade of the Throne of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ  
 " سَبْعَةٌ يُظِلُّهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي ظِلِّهِ يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ الْإِمَامُ الْعَادِلُ  
 وَشَابٌّ نَشَأَ فِي عِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ وَرَجُلٌ قَلْبُهُ مُعَلَّقٌ فِي الْمَسَاجِدِ وَرَجُلَانِ  
 تَحَابَّا فِي اللَّهِ اجْتَمَعَا عَلَيْهِ وَتَفَرَّقَا عَلَيْهِ وَرَجُلٌ طَلَبْتُهُ امْرَأَةً ذَاتَ  
 مَنْصِبٍ وَجَمَالٍ فَقَالَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ اللَّهَ. وَرَجُلٌ تَصَدَّقَ أَخْفَى حَتَّى لَا  
 تَعْلَمَ شِمَالُهُ مَا تُنْفِقُ يَمِينُهُ وَرَجُلٌ ذَكَرَ اللَّهَ خَالِيًا فَفَاضَتْ عَيْنَاهُ

5"

Abū Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ reported that the Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, "Allāh will give shade to seven, on the Day when there will be no shade but His. A just ruler, a youth who has been brought up in the worship of Allāh, a man whose heart is attached to the Masājid, two persons who love each other only for the sake of Allāh, and they meet and part in Allāh's cause only, a man who refuses the call of a charming woman of noble birth for illicit intercourse with her and says 'I am afraid of Allāh', a man who gives charitable gifts so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given and a person who remembers Allāh in seclusion and his eyes are then flooded with tears."

<sup>5</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 660

Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** has only chosen seven groups of people to be given shade on the Day of Judgement. On that day everyone will be seeking its shade however Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** has reserved it for those who carried out special actions. One of those is that person whose heart was attached to the Masjid meaning they frequented the Masjid and prayed their Ṣalāh in the Masjid as well. We should all pray to Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** that he makes us all part of this group.

### Get back into the routine of going to the Masjid

**M**any people attended the Masjid for the five daily Ṣalāh and it has now been a number of months since this routine stopped.

If we are not reading Ṣalāh in congregation at home, then we should offer the corresponding Ṣalāh in the Masjid according to its opening time. For example, if the Masjid is open from 6pm till 8pm, a person can read their ‘Aṣr Ṣalāh in the Masjid. If a Masjid is opening for all five Ṣalāh, then we should pray all of our Ṣalāh in the Masjid. This will enable us to get back into the routine of going to the masjid on a daily basis, five times a day.

## Reward of walking to the Masjid

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " مَنْ تَطَهَّرَ فِي بَيْتِهِ ثُمَّ مَشَى إِلَى بَيْتٍ مِنْ بُيُوتِ اللَّهِ لِيَقْضِيَ فَرِيضَةً مِنْ فَرَائِضِ اللَّهِ كَانَتْ خَطْوَتَاهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تَحُطُّ خَطِيئَةً وَالْأُخْرَى تَرْفَعُ دَرَجَةً "

Abū Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ reported that Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said “Whoever purifies himself in his house, and then he walks to one of the houses, of the houses of Allāh for the sake of performing a Farḍ (obligatory act) out of the Farā'id (obligatory acts) of Allāh, both his steps (would be significant) as one of them would wipe out his sin and the second one would raise his status”

Even walking to the Masjid is a very blessed act. From the moment we leave our houses to the moment we enter the Masjid. Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى is blessing us in 2 ways. On one hand he is reducing our sins and on the other he is raising our status as well! And when this is done multiple times each day, how many of our minor sins will be forgiven and how high will our status be? So we should all try and walk to the Masjid as often as we can.

## Preparation before we go

**D**ue to the current restrictions, our Masājid will be limited by the facilities they can offer. Many will not be able to have ablution facilities and the toilets will also be closed. Many will not be able to offer Qur’ān’s to pray or books to read. Even tasbīḥ - prayer beads may be removed. Therefore, it is essential we make the necessary arrangements before we go. We must keep in mind the restrictions which have been placed are guidelines given by the government and they must be adhered to.

Here is a list of points to be considered:

Item	Further Information
Attending the call of nature	If you are intending on spending an extended length of time in the Masjid, then it would be best if you relieved yourself before you went.
Perform Wudū <sup>c</sup> - ablution before you go.	The Masjids ablution facilities will most probably be closed therefore if you are carrying out any act of worship which requires Wudū <sup>c</sup> , it must be performed at home.
Muṣallā’ – Prayer Mat	Take your own prayer mat with you which you can use when you go to the Masjid. There is a focus of reducing the amount of contact points so you will avoid placing your hands on the floor of the Masjid.

Water	If you need water, then take it with you. Do not take any other food and drink to the Masjid
Qur’ān, books, tasbīh	If you intend to read the Qur’ān, or a book, or require prayer beads, then take them with you to the Masjid as many will not have them available. Again, this is due to reducing the amount of contact points in Masjid.
Listening to Qur’ān, talks and lectures	<p>There will be no talks or lectures taking place presently.</p> <p>Firstly, confirm that the Masjid permit the use of mobile phones. If so, then ensure it is cleaned with a decontaminated wipe prior to use. If you have sanitized your hands and then touch your mobile (which has not been wiped) then you are at risk of contaminating them again so, please keep this in mind. Also bring your earphones so you do not disturb others.</p>
PPE (personal protective equipment)	If you wish to wear a mask or gloves, or any other forms of PPE, then please take them with you. Ensure you keep stock of them as well.

## Leaving the home

Ensure when leaving the house to read the Supplication which Rasūlullāh ﷺ used to recite.

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " مَنْ قَالَ - يَعْني إِذَا خَرَجَ مِنْ بَيْتِهِ - بِسْمِ اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ . يُقَالُ لَهُ كُفِيتَ وَوُقِيتَ . وَتَنَحَّى عَنْهُ الشَّيْطَانُ " <sup>6</sup>

Anas ibn Mālik رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrated that Rasūlullāh ﷺ said: “Whoever says, when he leaves his house, ‘In the Name of Allāh, I place my trust in Allāh, there is no might or strength except with Allāh it will be said to him: ‘You have been sufficed and protected,’ and Shayṭān (the devil) will become distant from him.”

When we leave the house, read the following:

إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ	وَلَا قُوَّةَ	لَا حَوْلَ	عَلَى اللَّهِ	تَوَكَّلْتُ	بِسْمِ اللَّهِ
Except with Allāh	And no Strength	There is no might	In Allāh	I place my trust	In the Name of Allāh

<sup>6</sup> Jāmi‘ Tirmidhī 3426

Remain in the remembrance of Allāh صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ as you walk to the Masjid, walking to one side and if possible, removing anything which may cause other people inconvenience. This is also considered a Ṣadaqāh.

If you are taking your car to the Masjid, then park in an appropriate place not causing any inconvenience to the local residents or other cars.

Please respect any social distancing measures which may be in place. If there are people already waiting to go inside, then wait in line patiently and follow the advice of the volunteers.

Once the restrictions are eased and congregational prayers are allowed, there may be instances where due to a large number of people attending at the same, the queues outside may be longer. The advice here would be to leave home well in time and remain patient. The Masājid may also decide to hold multiple congregations, due to not being able to cater for the normal congregation with social distancing. Again, please remain patient, abide by the advice given and remain flexible.

Once inside, please respect the sanctity of the Masājid and do not disturb the other worshippers. Under no circumstances should people gather together at the entrances and exits of the Masājid.

## What can we do in the Masjid?

**T**he first thing we must do is enter the Masjid with our right foot and read the supplication for entering the Masjid. A person may also make the intention on Nafl (optional) I'tikāf whilst in the Masjid.

عَنْ أَبِي أُسَيْدٍ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
 " إِذَا دَخَلَ أَحَدُكُمْ الْمَسْجِدَ فَلْيَقُلِ اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ  
 . وَإِذَا خَرَجَ فَلْيَقُلِ اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ " <sup>7</sup>

Abū Usayd رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ reported that Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: When any one of you enters the Masjid, he should say: " O Allāh! open for me the doors of Your mercy" and when he steps out, he should say: 'O Allāh! Verily, I ask You, from Your bounty."

Read the Supplication for entering the Masjid:

اللَّهُمَّ	افْتَحْ لِي	أَبْوَابَ	رَحْمَتِكَ
O Allāh	Open for me	The doors	Of your Mercy

<sup>7</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 713a

When leaving, read the supplication for leaving the Masjid.

مِنْ فَضْلِكَ	أَسْأَلُكَ	إِنِّي	اللَّهُمَّ
From Your bounty	I ask You	Verily	O Allāh

### Find an appropriate place to pray

Once inside the Masjid ensure you spend your time wisely. You maybe shown a place to sit or find a place which is away from the other attendees. Do not spend time in idle talk and ensure others are not disturbed by your arrival.

The current spacing between attendees is 2 metres. It is possible this will be reduced soon so please adhere to the guidelines of your local masjid and follow the guidance of the volunteers.

### Tahiyāh al-Masjid

عَنْ أَبِي قَتَادَةَ السَّلَمِيِّ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ  
إِذَا دَخَلَ أَحَدُكُمْ الْمَسْجِدَ فَلْيَرْكَعْ رَكَعَتَيْنِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَجْلِسَ<sup>8</sup>

Abū Qatādah As-Salamīyyī رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasūlullāh صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said “When anyone of you enters a Masjid, he should pray two Rak‘āt before sitting.”

<sup>8</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 444

If we enter the Masjid and it is not Makrūh time, then we should offer 2 Rak‘āt of optional prayer before we sit down. This is a very rewarding action as advised by Rasūlullāh ﷺ.

### Read obligatory Ṣalāh

If a person can read Ṣalāh in congregation at home or another place, then this is recommended as the reward for congregational prayer is greater than reading individually.

If a person normally reads individually then they should read the appropriate Ṣalāh for that time in the Masjid. We should try and read all the Rak‘ah, not just the obligatory ones, so our Wājib, Sunnah and Nafl prayers as well.

### Make up missed Ṣalāh

If a person needs to make up prayers, then this is an ideal opportunity to use this time for that purpose. Before this can be done, calculate how many need to be made up and then perform a certain amount each day. If you need assistance in calculating how many you need to make up, then seek assistance from your Scholars.

Note: Only the Farḍ and Wājib prayers need to be made up. (However, if a person has missed the Fajr Ṣalāh for that day and is making up the Ṣalāh before mid-day, then the 2 Sunnah should also be recited)

## Read optional - Nafil Ṣalāh

There are many optional Ṣalāh a person may also read depending on the time of the day as follows:<sup>9</sup>

Name	Time	Units
Tahajjud	After 'Ishā until dawn	4 to 12 units
Ishrāq	20 minutes after Fajr until mid-morning	2 to 4 units
Ḍuhā (Chast)	Mid-morning until Zawāl (mid-day)	2 to 12 units
Awwābīn	After Maghrib to 'Ishā	6 to 20 units

There are other optional Ṣalāh which can be read at any time if it is not Makrūh time, like Ṣalāt at-Tawbah, Ṣalāt al-Tasbīh, Ṣalāt al-Hājāt etc.

## Engage in the Recitation of the Qur'ān

" إِنَّ هَذِهِ الْمَسَاجِدَ لَا تَصْلُحُ لَشَيْءٍ مِنْ هَذَا الْبَوْلِ وَلَا الْقَدْرِ إِنَّمَا هِيَ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَالصَّلَاةِ وَقِرَاءَةِ الْقُرْآنِ " <sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> [http://askimam.org/public/question\\_detail/28780](http://askimam.org/public/question_detail/28780)

<sup>10</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 285

Rasūlullāh ﷺ said “These Masājid are not the places meant for urine and filth, but are for the remembrance of Allāh, Ṣalāh (prayer) and the recitation of the Qur’ān”

From the above we can see that reciting the Qur’ān is also a very blessed action which is done in the Masājid. Normally we recite the Qur’ān abundantly in the month of Ramaḍān, but in other months our effort is lacking. Set yourself a target of reading a portion of the Qur’ān in the Masjid each day. A single juz will take about 30 minutes and a whole completion of the Qur’ān can be done in one month. There are also other chapters which can be read regularly like, Sūrah Yāsīn.

A person can not only recite the Qur’ān but also spend time reading the translation and also the commentary as well. In order to do these, you must take your own Qur’ān with you and any other material.

For those people who wish to study the commentary and meaning of the Qur’ān, an excellent resource is Ma‘āriful Qur’ān by Mufti Muḥammad Shafī‘ ‘Uthmāni رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ.

This would also be a good time to relearn portions of the Qur’ān we may have forgotten and even learn new chapters.

## Engage in Dhikr – Remembrance of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى

From the Ḥadīth in the previous chapter, we can see that another action performed in the Masjid is the remembrance of Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. All acts of worship are remembrance but here it would be reading small prayers some of which are as follows:

- Kalimah Ṭayyibah
- Durūd
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kalimah
- Istighfār

A person may have been prescribed some adhkār by their Shaikh which can also be recited during this period.

## Supplicating to Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ  
"الدُّعَاءُ مُخُّ الْعِبَادَةِ"<sup>11</sup>

Anas ibn Mālik رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that the Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said  
“Supplication is the essence of Worship”.

Supplicating to Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى is also a great act of worship. It is one act of worship which can be done at any time, using any

<sup>11</sup> Jāmī<sup>c</sup> al-Tirmidhī 3371

words, however, to use the supplications proven by Sunnah would be more beneficial.

There are many books which have many beautiful supplications like al-Ḥizb al-Aḥḍam which can be recited on a daily basis. Also ask Allāh **سُبْحَانَكَ وَتَعَالَى** for forgiveness for the whole Ummah and that he removes this pandemic as soon as possible.

### Increase your knowledge on Islām

Use a portion of your time increasing your knowledge about Islām. This maybe regarding how you pray Ṣalāh or discharge your Zakāt. It could be learning about the Sīrah of Rasūlullāh **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ** or learning Arabic so you can understand the words of Rasūlullāh **صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ**.

Choose some suitable books and take them with you when you visit the Masjid. This is a perfect environment to learn, away from distractions enabling you to focus and concentrate.

## Other ways to help

**A**part from worshipping there are many other ways we can assist if we can spare some time from our schedules. We must remember that the Masājid are the responsibility of the whole community and we must do whatever we can to help. We should not just leave them to the committees, many of whom also have full time jobs and families and spend many hours volunteering. We should offer our assistance and help in whichever way we can. Some ways we can help are as follows:

- Volunteer to Supervise – The Masājid will require many volunteers to help attendees during their visit. Allocate some time each week regularly to help.
- Clean the Masājid - The Masājid will need to be cleaned regularly to ensure they are meeting the guidelines. Volunteer to help clean after each public session. If you run a business which offers cleaning services, then offer these as well to your local Masājid, it will be an excellent way to earn lots of reward.
- Help with Administration – The policies, procedures, risk assessments all take a lot of time and effort. If you work in these fields, then offer your services to the Masājid. If you are good with communication, then again offer your

service so the community can keep up to date with all the latest developments.

- Contribute – Many of our Masājid have had little or no income due to the lack of attendees. Many will have spent a lot of money preparing for the opening ensuring they have the relevant procedures in place, so please remember them. You will be rewarded for every penny you spend on the house of Allāh *سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى*.

## Summary

**T**he opening of our Masājid is a great blessing of Allāh *سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى*, even though it may be for individual prayer. Many people in our communities are yearning to come back to the Masājid and all responsible persons should make every effort to give them this opportunity.

Coming from a background in industry, before any major change is implemented, it is first made in a test environment. Whilst testing is carried out, any potential issues are identified. Time is then spent rectifying these issues.

Once they have been rectified, the change will now be ready to be implemented into the live production environment. The probability of the change being successful will be much greater due to the initial testing that was carried out. If it is implemented without testing, there is a greater chance of problems occurring.

In the same way, we could use this opportunity to make sure our processes are tested properly. This is a very serious matter as people's health could be at risk. This staggered approach will enable our Masājid to prepare for the full opening in a measured manner ensuring all the policies and procedures are in place.

Many will find that some of the processes need to be fine-tuned or even changed and opening now will allow them the time to be able to complete this.

The policies will also be continually changing with the easing of restrictions and adapting to the new measures will be much easier if we are open and have the policies in place.

The early opening will also help identify volunteers who will be able to help even when the Masājid will go back to normal operation.

If we can start to visit the Masājid daily for additional worship, then Inshā'Allāh we will be able to maintain this even after the lockdown has been lifted. In the short term we may have missed out on congregational worship in the Masjid, but we pray that Allāh **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** rewards us on our intentions and past actions.

Many of us have now realized the importance of the Masājid, and the role they play in our lives and the lives of our family members. We will never take our attendance for granted ever again. Going forward we will now develop our bond with our Masājid enabling us to worship for longer and more regularly. To do this, we must seize this opportunity we have been given.

I make a sincere request to everyone to go to the nearest Masjid which is now open and spend time in the worship of Allāh

سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. These moments are precious and once again we have been given this opportunity. Encourage your family and friends to also go, help if you can and in the very least, supplicate for all those members of our communities, the ‘Ulamā, the Imāms and the Committees who are working hard to give us this opportunity.

May Allāh سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى return our Masājid to normal and keep our Masājid open till the end of days.



## Advice on Returning to our Masājid

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