



Committed to providing a dignified service to the community

Ramadhan Mubarak

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2025

In this blessed month of Ramadhan, we extend our heartfelt wishes to all.

May this sacred time bring peace, reflection, and healing to those who are grieving, and may you find comfort in the support of your loved ones.

At MBCOL, we remain committed to providing compassionate care and support to families, offering a guiding hand during moments of bereavement. Ramadhan Mubarak to you and your family.

Annual General Meeting

With the grace of The Almighty Allah, the current board held its very first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December 2024, which was a resounding success. This milestone gathering marked 30 years of MBCOL, celebrating our achievements, reaffirming our commitment to our affiliates, and strengthening our role as your voice as an umbrella body.

A key focus of this AGM was acknowledging the invaluable contributions of our volunteers. Additionally, we provided an update on the ongoing efforts to secure a new cemetery. We remain hopeful that by the end of our tenure, significant progress will be made towards establishing a new burial ground. As many are aware, space at Saffron Hill Cemetery is becoming increasingly limited, and addressing this pressing need remains a priority for us.

The AGM also highlighted the achievements of the current board over the past fourteen months, all of which have been regularly documented in our newsletters.

We look forward to working closely with our affiliates and the wider community to turn these aspirations into reality. More updates will follow in due course.



New cemetery project update

We are aware of the growing concern regarding the limited burial space at Saffron Hill Cemetery, particularly for Muslim burials. Currently, there is only a small amount of space remaining, and we understand the urgency of securing a long-term solution for our community.

The local authority has identified another piece of land that can be used for burials. They have completed all the necessary ground testing, and the results have been submitted to the relevant authorities for review. Once these tests are officially approved, a burial permit will be issued for the site.

Following this approval, the local authority will begin the formal process of planning for the new burial ground. This will include a consultation with the community and relevant organisations to ensure that the needs of all faith groups are considered. It is important to note that, like Saffron Hill, this new site will be a multi-faith cemetery, with a designated section allocated for Muslim burials.

We will continue to liaise closely with the local authority and provide updates to the community and our affiliates as soon as we have more information.

Ongoing engagement and next steps

We appreciate the community's patience and support as we navigate this critical issue. We are actively engaging in constant communication and meetings with local authorities, influential individuals, businesses, stakeholders, companies, and others who can assist in progressing this matter. Our efforts are focused on securing a sustainable solution that meets the needs of our community now and in the future.



If you would like to discuss this project further or if you have any suggestions then please contact Naveed Ibrahim at info@mbcol.org.uk



National burial space challenges and Law Commission consultation

The shortage of burial space is not just a local issue; it is a national concern. The Law Commission recently held a consultation on this matter which we actively participated in, and has proposed changes to burial laws to allow the reuse of graves after a certain number of years. Currently, only private cemeteries and Church of England burial grounds have the legal authority to reuse graves. The proposed changes would extend this ability to all burial grounds in England and Wales, helping to address the ongoing shortage of burial space.

MBCOL's commitment to secure new burial grounds

At our recent AGM, we had in-depth discussions with our affiliates regarding cemetery space. We are actively working on their feedback. It was unanimously agreed by all funeral arrangers and affiliates that MBCOL will take the lead on this project, with full support from our members. We remain committed to ensuring that our community's burial needs are met and we will continue to engage with local authorities and other stakeholders. We will provide further updates as soon as we receive more information.

Burial statistics

Below is a summary of burials over the past five years, highlighting the number of Muslim burials at Saffron Hill Cemetery.

Year	Total Burials	Muslim Burials
2020	942	354
2021	1,131	391
2022	1,032	292
2023	946	310
2024*	840	308

*2024 figures are up to November

The figures show that, while there was a decline in 2022 due to the tail end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the average number of Muslim burials remains steady at around 300 per year.

A heartfelt thank you to all the services supporting funeral arrangements

In a heartfelt gesture of gratitude, MBCOL along with its partners; Jame' Masjid, Al Khidmah Foundation, Crescent Funerals, Riyadh Funerals Leicester Muslim Society, Dawat E Islami and Darus Salaam Mosque provided local funeral support services with hampers. Hampers were delivered to the Medical Examiner, Coroner, Bereavement Services, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust Mortuary, Leicester City Council Registration and the Cemeteries Department. These hampers, assembled with care and thoughtfulness by local masaaqid, our affiliates, and MBCOL, were a symbol of the community's collective appreciation for their hard work and compassion. The hampers provided a small but meaningful token of thanks to the individuals who work tirelessly to support grieving families and ensure that funerals are conducted with the utmost respect.

Recipients all expressed their sincere thanks for the gesture and reiterated their commitment to continuing to serve the community with professionalism and care.



MBCOL

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DEATH, FUNERALS & THE BEREAVEMENT PROCESS FOR OUR NEW COMMUNITIES

An interactive workshop for new members of our community in Leicester and Leicestershire to learn about the statutory requirements and practical arrangements for arranging a Muslim funeral.

AL KHIDMAH FOUNDATION
132 - 138 CHARNWOOD STREET,
LEICESTER, LE5 3AE

Complimentary lunch will be provided

SUNDAY
17 NOVEMBER
2024
TIME
10:30AM - 1PM

REGISTER
YOUR PLACE

For further information, contact
Brother Ahmed Kasu on
07973344341



Death, Funerals and the Bereavement Process for our New Communities workshop

A workshop was held in November 2024 to support new communities in understanding and navigating the cultural and logistical aspects of death in the community, as well as funeral arrangements. The session aimed to provide valuable insights into funeral traditions, legal requirements, and available services to help individuals and families make informed decisions during a difficult time.

This workshop covered a variety of topics, including the importance of cultural sensitivity in funeral practices and options for burial. It also provided practical information on how to arrange a funeral, including understanding the necessary paperwork, costs, and the support available from local Muslim funeral arrangers and institutions.

The MBCOL team represented a wealth of experience in arranging funerals and bereavement specialists who led the discussion, offering guidance on how to honour the deceased in ways that respect cultural traditions while also addressing the legal and practical elements of funerals in the UK. All attendees shared their experiences and challenges they face when arranging funerals for their respective communities.

By the end of the session, all those who attended gained a deeper understanding of how to manage funeral arrangements, find practical and emotional support, and navigate the complexities of death in their community, ensuring that they feel empowered to make decisions that align with both their cultural and personal needs and importantly how MBCOL is always available to support them throughout the entire process. Thank you to the Al Khidmah Foundation for their support.

Ghusl Workshops for the Community - A Practical Approach

MBCOL is now offering Ghusl workshops for members of the community. The Ghusl workshops will be practical and interactive, demonstrating the process of handling the deceased with dignity and care, washing, and placing the body in the kafan (shroud) in preparation for the burial. If you are interested in having our team of volunteers hold a Ghusl workshop at your organisation, school, or madrassa, please get in touch with us at info@mbcol.org.uk



Leicester City Council Cemetery fees and charges 2025-2026

You can find all the cemetery fees and charges by visiting the following link:

Cemetery and crematorium fees and charges <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-community/births-marriages-and-deaths/funerals-burials-and-cremations/cemetery-and-crematorium-fees-and-charges/>

Please speak with your funeral arranger regarding all the costs associated with burial options.

Keep updated with death and funeral news

Join our MBCOL Whatsapp group for the latest death and funeral notices



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO JOIN THIS COMMUNITY

Your comments

At MBCOL we are always striving to improve our service. Please share any comments, ideas on how we can improve our funeral support service for the community. Please send us your thoughts to info@mbcol.org.uk

End of Life Care - Culturally and Spiritually Sensitive Toolkit

MBCOL has been working with LOROS and partners from the University of Leicester, the National Institute for Health and Care Research, and local faith establishments to develop an End of Life Care - Culturally and Spiritually Sensitive Toolkit. This work is based on research highlighting the need to recognise and respect the diverse spiritual needs of patients with religious beliefs, aiming to reduce health disparities and improve equitable access to compassionate and patient-centered care. MBCOL is one of the members of the steering group developing this resource.

Reach out to us before a death occurs

We are reminded that we should always remember death. Our death marks the beginning of another eternal life; therefore, we should be mindful that our time in this world is temporary.

At MBCOL, we are here to assist anyone in their time of need, whether it be at the time of death or providing advice on arranging funerals and related procedures.

If someone in your family or among your friends is terminally ill or receiving palliative care, we encourage you to contact MBCOL in confidence. We can assist you and make the process easier to understand. Whether the individual is at home, in the hospital, in a hospice, or in a care home, we will do our best to support you wherever we can. Speaking to us confidentially may help you prepare for the time of their passing.

We can offer advice on matters related to coroners, Medical Examiners, the bereavement department at the NHS, doctor's surgeries, registration, and the types of burials available. Additionally, we can advise on headstones and the advantages and disadvantages of different types of graves.

You can speak to us in confidence. Please email info@mbcol.org.uk with 'Private and Confidential' in the subject line.

Funeral feedback form - Testimonies

We have recently received some positive feedback which we would like to share with you.

"Thank you for all the help over the past couple of days, really appreciate the efficiency and help in getting everything sorted"

"AssalamuAlaikum. I just wanted to say thanks for all your assistance and all of your support with my grandma's passing. Your service was amazing and the process went as smoothly as it could given the circumstances. Also we just wanted to say thank you to the ladies who were at Jame' Masjid for the Ghusl. They were also very supportive and guided us each step of the way. May Allah continue to bless you all"

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