



# PRESS RELEASE

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## VICTORIAN ISLAM HIGHLIGHTED IN EYE-OPENING EVENT!

*The lives and works of Britain's pioneering Muslim converts will be discussed by a panel of experts at Regent's Park Mosque on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.*

The unique half-day conference will focus on the contributions of some of Britain's first converts to Islam, namely Abdullah Quilliam, Marmaduke Pickthall, Fatima Cates and Robert Stanley.

These early recruits to the Islamic faith were responsible for, among other achievements, establishing England's first mosque and translating Islam's holy book, the Qur'an into English.

Publisher Jamil Chishti says; "This is a truly remarkable event with a fabulous line-up of speakers who are all experts in the field. Being a Muslim in the Victorian age was not an easy feat. Early converts were abused and mistreated on a daily basis as prejudice towards Islam was commonplace. The struggles in overcoming these obstacles are a testament to the resolve of these early converts and a lesson to us all."

Abdullah Quilliam and Fatima Cates were some of the earliest Muslim converts in the country and founded the first mosque in England, Liverpool's Abdullah Quilliam Mosque. Quilliam was a solicitor by trade and became so well-known that he was honoured with the title of "Shaykh al-Islām for the British Isles" by the Ottoman Caliph, Abdul Hamid II. Cates was an early pioneer of the British Muslim community, and was instrumental in the founding of the first mosque alongside Quilliam.

Marmaduke Pickthall is mostly known for his indispensable translation of the Qur'an but was also a prolific novelist, whereas Robert Stanley was the mayor of Stalybridge in the north of England and became vice-president of the Liverpool Muslim Institute under Quilliam.

The fascinating lives, works and legacies of these iconic figures will be discussed and debated at this captivating event – an occasion not to be missed.

*Author interviews are available on request. Contact Raees Khan on [hello@beaconbooks.net](mailto:hello@beaconbooks.net) or 0789 008 7676.*

**NOTES FOR EDITORS:** *Beacon Books* is a publishing house based in the Northwest of England. It was established in 2013 by Jamil Chishti, who spent twenty years as a bookseller. Chishti set up Beacon Books after graduating from a Masters degree in Publishing Studies. The first book published was written by world renowned scholar Dr Gibril Fouad Haddad on the Encyclopedia of Hadith Forgeries. Since then, they have steadily grown, publishing books in a wide range of genres including but not limited to Quranic Studies, biographies and children's books. In 2019, they set up their first imprint, Beacon Academic, collaborating with global universities and academics.