



East London Mosque strongly condemn attack on local priest

Monday 17th March 2008

We were appalled to learn of the attack on Canon Michael Ainsworth by two Asian youths in what is being described as an alcohol fuelled faith-hate crime.

Imam of East London Mosque, Abdul Qayum, said, “This is a cowardly and despicable act. Our congregation is united in condemnation. We pray that Canon Michael Ainsworth has a full and speedy recovery.”

Dilowar Khan, Executive Director of the East London Mosque & London Muslim Centre, is calling on anyone with information to come forward: “If someone knows who is responsible for this disgraceful crime, they should contact the police or call CrimeStoppers. The youths who attacked Canon Michael need to be brought to justice.”

He added, “We have become increasingly concerned about antisocial behaviour amongst a minority of youth, particularly the rise of alcohol related incidents. We should not let such dreadful incidents detract from the hard work of communities in Tower Hamlets to create social harmony. Rather, we should increase our efforts to tackle these problems.”

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Notes for Editors

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