



# Masjid Noor

A place in Huddersfield where we feel at home

An Exploring and Belonging Reading Resource  
created by

**MESH**

Migrant English Support Hub

In collaboration with refugees and asylum seekers  
living in Huddersfield

Entry 3



Made possible with

**Heritage  
Fund**



Masjid Noor

Produced by Migrant English Support Hub

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This is an Exploring & Belonging MESH project resource, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Exploring & Belonging project encourages refugees and asylum seekers to think about what is of value as local heritage in the place they live in Yorkshire & Humber.

Participants visited, researched and wrote about places. They discussed what it was about these places that gave them a sense of belonging.

This reading resource has been created by MESH in collaboration with these participants.

With huge thanks to our session participants and volunteers, alongside our partners at Third Sector Leaders Kirklees, Kirklees Local Studies Library and Kirklees Libraries for all their help and support.



Masjid Noor is in Thornton Lodge. This is an area of Huddersfield about a mile south of the town centre.

Huddersfield is a big town in West Yorkshire between Manchester and Leeds.

Huddersfield has a history of wool production.



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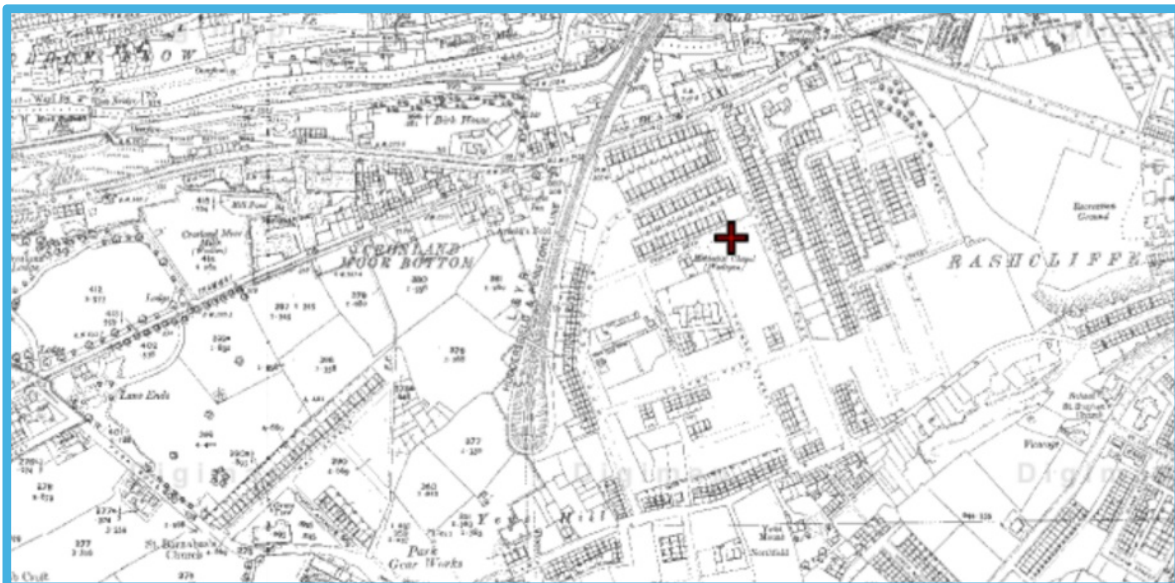
The masjid is on the corner of Crosland Road, Thomas Street and Thornton Lodge Road.

There is another old building in the area, which is called Thornton Lodge, built in 1802.

In the 1930s it was a bowling club. Now, it is derelict.



This is an 1890s map of Thornton Lodge. The railway has arrived.



You can see from this map that by the 1900s, there were many more houses around Thornton Lodge. There were mills in the area too.

One of the mills in this area was called Longroyd Mill, a woollen and silk mill.

Another was Paddock Mill, which made woollen fabric.



This is called Firth Mill.

In Huddersfield in the 19th century and early 20th century there were lots of textile mills. Many were built next to rivers and canals.



Here, you can see Firth Mill from the canal.

Canal boats used to take the cloth to ports to send to other countries.

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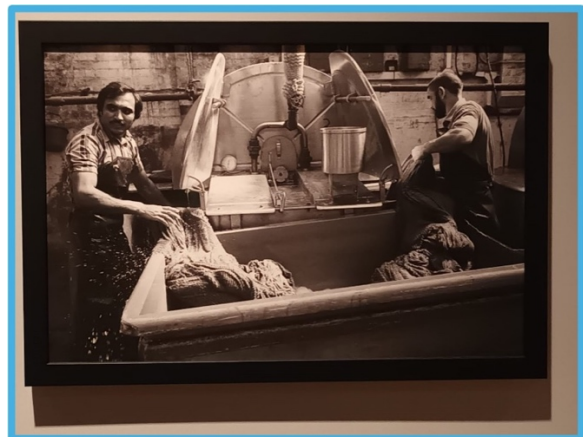
In the 1950s and 1960s many people came to Huddersfield from Pakistan and India to work in the woollen mills.



My family suffered during Partition. My grandmother had to walk from India to Pakistan.

She was heavily pregnant with my mother. My father was 8 years old. He walked too.

People from Pakistan were invited to work in Huddersfield's mills and factories. My husband's father and his brothers came to Huddersfield from Pakistan. They sent money back to Pakistan.



Images taken by the MESH team on a visit to Manchester Museum.

They lived together in a house with several other men. They were cold and homesick.



In 1933 this building was a Methodist church.

It was built to replace an older church on Crosland Road.



<https://prayersconnect.com/mosques/82676255-jamia-masjid-noor-huddersfield-england-united-kingdom#>

In 1972 a group of people bought the church. They were local Muslims living in Huddersfield.

It became a masjid.

Many people came here from the neighbourhood.

I live in this area. There is a good shop nearby that I go to every day called Kashmir Stores.



There are lots of Pakistani and Indian families living in this area. There are now people from many different parts of the world living here.

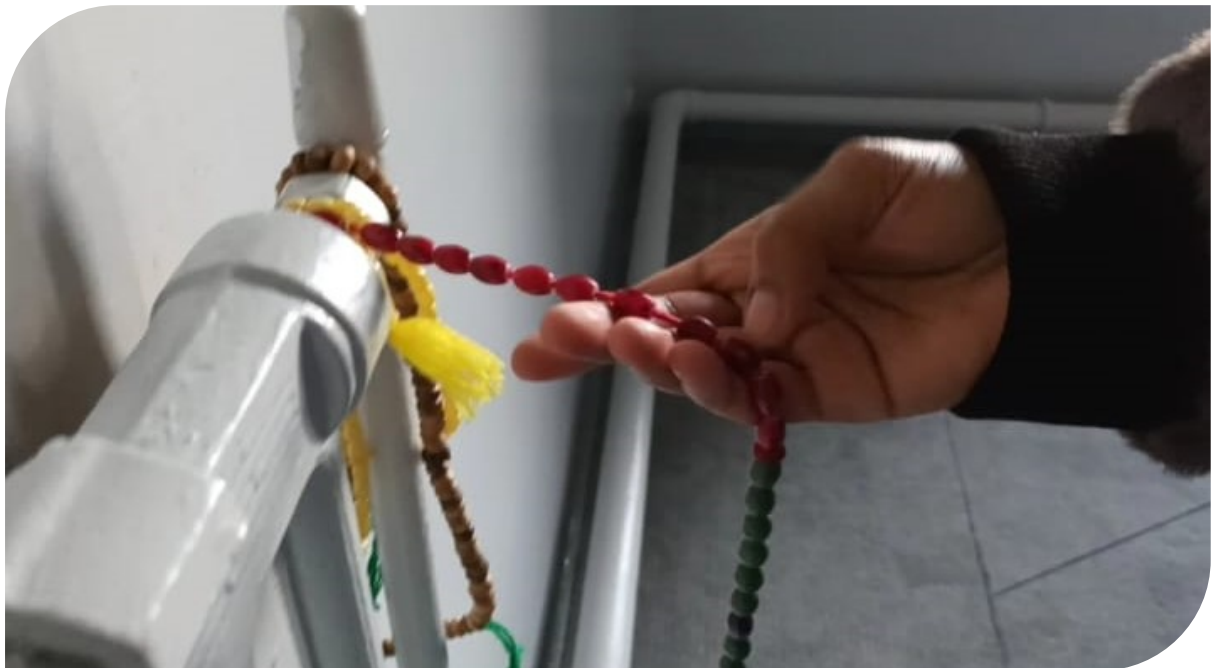
When the first migrant workers arrived here, there were no shops selling groceries from back home.



The masjid is an important part of the community in Huddersfield. It helps Muslims feel that they belong here.

When we arrived, we were given tea and biscuits.

People come to pray in the masjid every day. There are five prayer times each day. In the picture you can see *tasbeih*, or prayer beads. They help people to count their prayers. Muslims recite prayers a lot.



Many religious people recite prayers and use prayer beads. Christians call them rosary beads. Hindus and Sikhs call them *japa mala*.



In the prayer hall we read the Qur'an and listen to the Imam.

We ask him questions like 'How old is Masjid Noor?' and he tells us the history of the masjid. He tells us that it was a church before it was a mosque.



The Imam told us that the masjid has open days where they invite the Huddersfield community to come and visit. People can learn all about the mosque and Islam.



People need places that make them feel welcome.

Whenever we feel isolated or alone, there are always places we can go.



Masjid Noor helps us feel like we belong in Huddersfield .





Friends and  
community can  
gather at  
Masjid Noor!

# MESH

This resource has been produced as part of the  
Exploring & Belonging Project

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