



It's back - Visit My Mosque Open Day

This wonderful initiative just completed its fifth year.

As the National Visit My Mosque Open Day entered its fifth consecutive year, the Lewisham Islamic Centre in conjunction with the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) again welcomed the annual visit on Sunday 3rd of March 2019.

While many may have been forgiven for thinking last year's lower turnout was merely a sign of the times and a forewarning of lower expectation, the Centre's hosts were in for more than just a pleasant surprise as hundreds of people from across Lewisham and beyond graced the Centre's doors over the lovely early Spring day, and mingling amongst the sea of new visitors were those habitually resolute and reassuring faces from the local churches and synagogue, and civic leaders.

The Centre was honoured to have been visited again by MP Vicky Foxcroft, Mayor of Lewisham Damien Egan, Cllr Kevin Benovia, Cllr Pauline Morrison, Cllr Tauseef Rahman and Cllr Stephen Penfold. Their inspiring words of friendship and support were quite moving. We were also incredibly delighted to have been visited by a cherished friend, the former CEO of Citizens UK, Neil Jameson.

An added personal touch in this year's event included testimonies and presentations from different members of the Lewisham Community – Muslims and non-Muslims – who reflected to the visitors their experiences within Islam and their connection with the Mosque and its work. Sobering personal accounts from non-Muslim family members of new Muslims talked about the positive impact a connection to Islam had brought to their loved ones and their ongoing support to sustain the rekindled closer family bond the change had engendered.



It can never be overstated the degree of diversity, tolerance and great community spirit rooted in the great London Borough of Lewisham, achieved only through the sheer hard work and sincere engagement of its residents and leaders truly committed to maintaining unity and peaceful coexistence, and days and events such as Visit My Mosque only serve to underscore this.



As the questions about Islam's true message continue, we were delighted by the hundreds of visitors genuinely interested in understanding, and their many questions put forward with the sincere intent of loving their neighbour as they do themselves. The Lewisham Islamic Centre hopes this visit has helped dispel many misrepresentations – deliberate and otherwise – propagated and held about Islam and Muslims, and we look forward to welcoming you always as friends.



The Lewisham Islamic Centre extends its thanks and gratitude to the MCB for this important national initiative, and to all of the volunteers, helpers and well-wishers through whom another successful event was realised.

See you all next year and thank you for paying us a visit. Our door is always open.

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