

## Wessex Jamaat hosts Annual 'Know Your Muslim Neighbour' 2018 Event



A group of students undertaking Teacher Education and Religious studies at University of Chichester visited al Mahdi Centre on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2018 for the annual "Know Your Muslim Neighbour" programme. The objective for this event is for

Religious Education trainee teachers to visit a centre, meet Muslims, ask questions on Islam, and to gain a practical insight on Islam and Muslims in the U.K.

The group was led the University's RE PGCE Coordinator, Dr Ruth Mantin and Reverend Dr Colin Lawlor.

The programme commenced with recitation of verses from the Noble Quran and its translation. Thereafter Sheikh Fazle Abbas Dato, Wessex Jamaat Resident Alim, set out the context of the programme. Group discussions were conducted around tables where the guests had an opportunity to engage in conversations with the community members. This gave a good understanding to the Religious Education trainee teachers to hear and see first-hand how Muslims live and practice Islam, their religion, as a way of life. The guests also posed questions on varied issues such as upbringing, commitment, role of women and other contemporary issues with a view to hear directly the Muslim voice.



Each guest was then requested to give their feedback on their discussions. They were unanimous in highlighting the hospitality, humour, openness and stating that the honest dialogue is inspirational, uplifting and provided great insight. Further the guests mentioned what new learning they are taking away from their conversation, and what thought they are leaving behind.

Dr Ruth Mantin This instance was the last time that was leading the visit as she is retiring from the university. On behalf of Wessex Jamaat Mrs Waheeda Rahim delivered a message of appreciation to Dr Ruth for the devoted friendship with our community which is greatly cherished.



Wessex Jamaat looks forward to InshAllah hosting this event again next year.