



Elmbridge Borough Council

... bridging the communities ...

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Mayor: Councillor James Vickers
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Mr Azhar Ahmed

Dear Mr Ahmed,

The Mayoress and myself enjoyed meeting you and your charming wife, Samira and children on Saturday. Thank you all for making us feel so welcome on arrival, the flowers are beautiful, and for looking after us so well at the Convention.

We enjoyed very much being with you and all your friends at a most interesting meeting and listening to the many speakers telling us about their faith. All so different and yet each and everyone, spelling a clear message of love, friendship and treading a similar path, towards a common goal. We all may tread different paths of approach, but there are so many similarities in our beliefs, search for truth and leading a good way of life, that it is very welcoming to hear it being spoken of in such an honest and humbling way.

Although I am fairly familiar with most of the faiths talked about on Saturday, I still found myself learning very much more about each one and found it most interesting. I could have listened to more.

It was a great pleasure to meet and talk to Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed. What a nice and charming man and I could have continued listening to him speaking, but he was untimely (or timely?) stopped, almost in mid-flow! It was an honour to meet him.

Your President Mrs Khan is a truly delightful lady and we very much enjoyed meeting her too. She has a lovely sense of humour and is a truly delightful person, who quickly put us at ease and made us feel welcome at this splendid International gathering of so many people honouring your Founder. She 'Chaired', the day extremely well, with good humour and much grace, making us all feel part of one body.

We were so sorry that we had to leave so soon, as we wanted to hear more and speak with many of your friends, but do hope you understood our time problem. I do hope the third day, Sunday and last meeting for the Convention went well. I feel sure it did and everyone enjoyed the whole three day event and the various celebrations.

Please give my very best wishes to Dr Abdul Karim and Mrs Khan and also to your goodself and Mrs Ahmed. Thank you all so very much.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor James Vickers
Mayor of Elmbridge