

## Sikh Temple Visit. 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

On a bright but not particularly warm Monday morning, 44 members met at the Sikh Temple in Gravesend for a visit. We were met by Deepinder, our guide who started by showing us the essential protocols: shoes off and heads covered with scarves. The men looked especially good with their various headwear.

We toured the building, a marvellous four storey complex with huge chandeliers and elaborate dark wood carvings for all the balustrades. We started with the main Prayer Hall where three musicians played, one sang and a further man waved a brush which denoted that God exists within us all.

We sat down in a separate hall - mercifully there were benches otherwise some of us may have had difficulty getting up off the floor where a separate party of young people were sitting. Deepinder explained the roots of Sikhism - it goes back to the 15th century - and many of their beliefs and practices. The Gurdwara has no permanent equivalent of Church of England Ministers and is open to all to come in and stay for as long or as short a time as they wish. It runs lots of educational, sporting and support courses for the community. Lots of questions were raised and Deepinder answered them all.

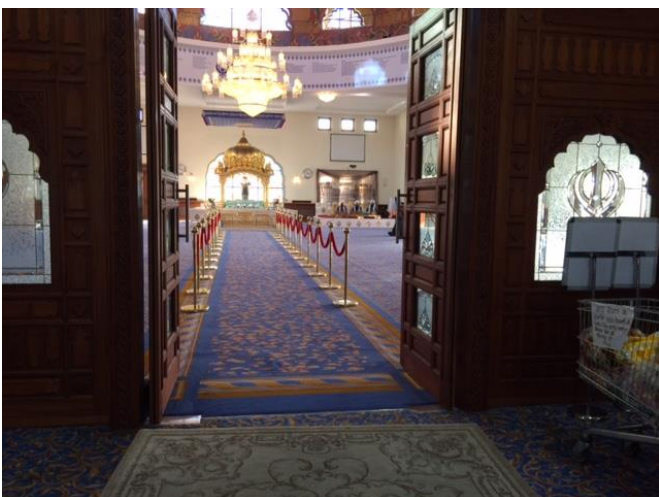
We finished in the refectory where we were served some Indian food and some very sweet milky tea. The people at the temple were very hospitable and welcoming from the time I first made contact with them back in August and it was an uplifting and educational experience for us all.



Gurdwara Temple



Entrance Hall



Prayer Hall



Domed Ceiling

