

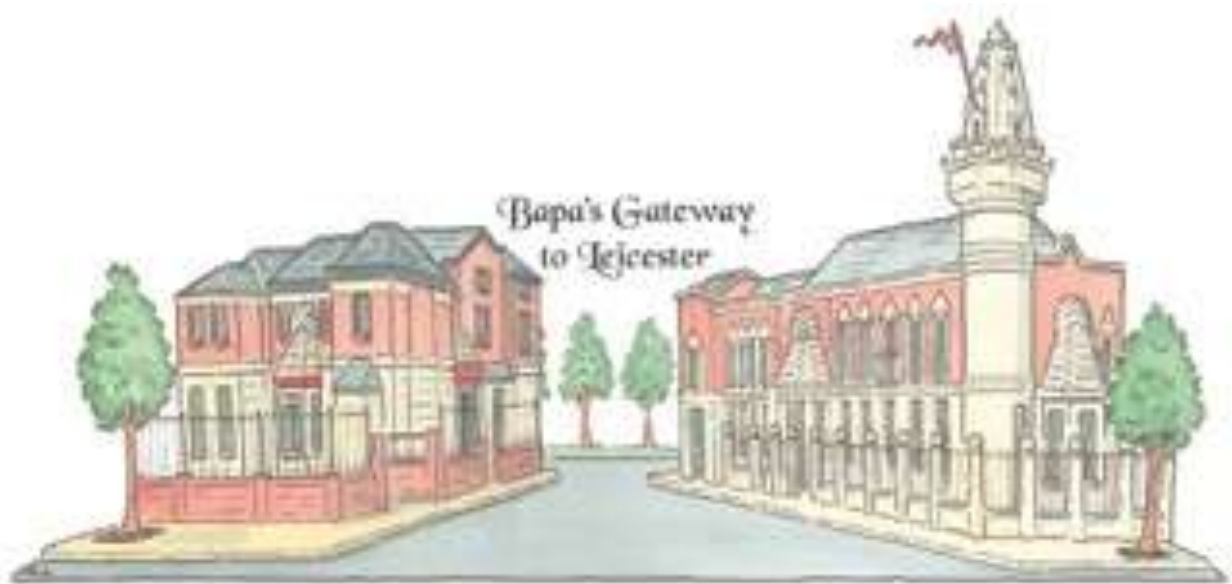
# Shree Jalaram Charitable Trust UK

**Press Release 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016**



## Grand Opening of Jalaram Community Centre

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016**



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Shree Jalaram Charitable Trust, Leicester, celebrated the grand opening of the new Jalaram Community Centre – ‘Bapa’s Gateway to Leicester’ on Sunday 10 July 2016.

The Centre was officially inaugurated by the City Mayor, Sir Peter Soulsby and Assistant Mayor, Councillor Manjula Sood in the presence of Liz Kendall MP, the High Sheriff Surinder Sharma, leading Cardiologist and Director of the British Heart Foundation Sir Nilesh Samani, local councillors, donors and members of Jalaram Satsang Mandal.

Earlier, Motiben Mashru, who celebrated her 100th Birthday welcomed and blessed the City Mayor with a garland. In return Sir Peter adorned Mrs Mashru with a shawl. All dignitaries partook in the Aarti and were presented with shawls.

Welcoming Sir Peter and the distinguished guests, Pramodbhai Thakkar, Chairman of Jalaram Mandir, said that “the new Centre will provide a place for people from all faiths to come together, learn and contribute to enhancing Leicester’s multicultural success”. He added, “Our City has recently seen many successes and the iconic ‘Bapa’s Gateway to Leicester’ adds one more”.

The City Mayor commended the Trustees of Jalaram Mandir on the magnificent achievement. “Bapa’s Gateway to Leicester is another example of the contribution by Jalaram Mandir in the inclusiveness of the youth which will promote the rich cultural heritage of Leicester”. Sir Peter said he was “humbled to have been blessed by the 100 – year old Motiben”. Launching a Commemorative Souvenir and Guide Book, he added that “this will provide devotees, school children and visitors alike with an insight into the history of Jalaram Mandir and an overview of Hinduism”.

Trustees Bhadrashilbhai Trivedi, Jayantibhai Chandarana and Ketanbhai Kotecha presented Sir Peter Soulsby and Councillor Sood with a cheque towards the Lord Mayor’s Appeal. Mrs Motiben Mashru and Shardaben Joshi then led the congregation into the new Centre followed by unveiling of donor plaques by Pramodbhai Shantilal Thakkar and Family, Kalaben Raichura and Family and Nareshbhai Popat and Family.

The Assistant City Mayor, Councillor Manjula Sood, said she was delighted to present long standing members Balubhai Pabari, Vajubhai Lakhani, Shardaben Joshi, Motiben Mashra, Jagdishbhai Maharaj Mahendrabhai Pandya, Rajubhai Pandya with shawls and certificates. Amongst them Steve White, MBE who continues to support Jalaram Mandir.

Sir Nilesh Samani, addressed the congregation congratulating the Trust on their achievements and the service they provide to the community. Over 700 devotees attended the event immersed in bhajans and all guests were gifted with the commemorative Historical Souvenir and Guide Book following Lunch.

Matthew Eld and Stephen Clarke of Leicestershire Police praised the organisers and extended their support for future events saying “It was an absolute honour to be part of the ceremony. The atmosphere was fantastic and the sense of community was brilliant! On a personal level it was the best experience we have had in the 8 year service”.