

Celebrating the Coronation at Balaji Temple Report

We are delighted to report that United Religions Initiative UK supported by Shri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple in Tividale, together with other local community organisations and other government bodies, service provider successfully honoured and celebrated the Coronation of King Charles during the weekend of Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May 2023. The proceeding started with raising the Union Jack and singing the national anthem. The celebrations included:

Saturday 6th May 2023

We are delighted that students from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire of Music have agreed to present music and dance from British and Commonwealth cultures.

We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles by hosting a musical performance led by the composer, producer, and educator Joe Broughton with 50 musical students from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the gifted Indian musical artist Radhika Balakrishnan. The unique programme, a fusion of English and Welsh folk music with Indian classical Carnatic music, took place in the Community Centre of the temple on Saturday, 6 May 2023.



The event was featured on BBC Midlands News on the day. URL for the coronation video: <https://youtu.be/kZL6k1UoUXU>

Sunday 7th May 2023

The following day, the temple ground was transformed into an 'English fête', with bouncy castles and games for the children, musical and dance performances for the adults, and plenty of delicious refreshments, such as samosa, ice -creams and cakes. The event was fun and exciting and helped to build cohesion, respect, and hope among diverse communities. Picnic in the Temple grounds with over 3,000 local community, visitors to the Temple and grounds and guests. from across the region.

The Picnic brought together people from various communities and belief systems. A fun fun-filled party demonstrated much in common: Our support for the Monarch.



We promoted the events by:

- Press Release - Media
- Children from the local special needs school will attend with their families.
- Leafleting in the neighbourhood – 1000 colour local streets
- Website – Various websites
- Banner on the main road – Dudley Road East
- Sandwell Council – internal bulletin and Neighbourhood contact
- Local councillors, organisations, and community/faith representatives.

Inter-faith activities:

“As a permanent living reminder of The King's Coronation, commemorative trees will be planted on each of the Temple's seven 'faith hills'. (Each of the hills honours a different religion: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Buddhism and Zoroastrianism.)

The (Trees for Hope) tree planting will be important to the event. As well as further beautifying the space as an amenity for everyone, this will highlight URI UK and the Balaji Temple's support for initiatives to tackle climate change.”

As a legacy of the Coronation weekend, seven trees were planted by people from different faith backgrounds in a new area within the temple grounds, to be named the 'Garden of Hope'. The trees complement the seven 'Faith Hills' that surround the temple.

During the weekend, our visitors were encouraged to walk on a 'pilgrimage' from one hill to the next, reflecting on their spiritual journey and the importance of living in harmony with each other, with nature and oneself. In this way, honour and transform into action the desire of King Charles III to be the 'Defender of Faith'.



Together in Action Trust is grateful for support from the Awards for All for financially supporting this activity.