



BAPS SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR  
CULTURAL & COMMUNITY COMPLEX  
PRESTON, UK

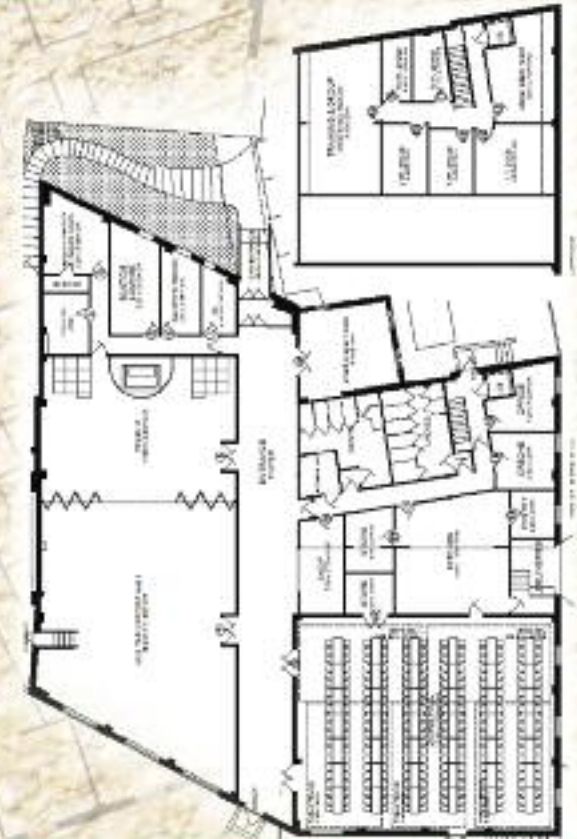


# HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

The centre is located in the heart of Preston city to serve the heart of the community. It is spirited in providing assistance to enrich the lives of those in the community, and enhance the welfare of individuals. We endeavour to offer an extensive range of services to meet the needs and expectations of today's communities.

With much consultation and thought throughout the planning stages, the complex has been designed with adequate facilities to cater for the needs of all community members, both young and old.

- Nij Mandir (Prayer Hall)
- Abhishek Mandapam
- Sabha Gruh (Assembly Hall)
- Classrooms
- Community Training Facilities
- Library & Resource Centre
- Crèche
- Bookstall & Souvenir Shop
- Dining, Sports & Multi-function Hall



# MURTIS

The Soul Of The Mandir



Worship of God through the murti, His sacred image, is a central concept of Hinduism. It allows devotees to express and develop their deep love and reverence for the transcendental divine.

Hence, the focal point of the new BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Community Complex in Preston will be the Prayer Hall where the murtis of God will be ceremoniously enshrined.

The murtis in the Prayer Hall will include the following:

Akshar-Purushottam Maharaj (Bhagwan Swaminarayan and Gunatitanand Swami), Guru-Parampara, Shri Radha-Krishna, Shri Sita-Ram, Shri Shiva-Parvati, Shri Hanumanji & Ganpatiji



## Abhishek

The Abhishek ritual is a religious practice that dates back to Vedic times. It is the ritual of pouring of water over the murti as an act of devotion and reverence to God. Through such sincere devotion, people will find peace and fulfillment. At the new mandir, everyone will have the opportunity to personally perform the Abhishek ritual.



# SERVING THE COMMUNITY



**Education** – A range of academic and vocational services will be provided with state-of-the-art facilities. Our aim is to inspire all learners to achieve their full potential by providing them with the necessary skills to succeed. Our future aim is to build a self-supporting educational service and help sustain existing educational programmes to provide quality, value-based education support for all.

**Promoting Employment** – We will endeavour to hold various business promotional events to disseminate local business information. This service will enable us to assist the local community in supporting small enterprises to maintain a viable and prosperous local economy.

**Youth Activities** – The youth of today is the society of tomorrow. With this ethos, our centre thrives to develop our youths. Our goal is to encourage a sense of ownership and identity for all. This will be achieved by initiating community-empowering projects as well as investing in regular sporting/recreational events. Although we currently have ongoing youth events and activities such as trips, camps, fairs and conferences, we are nonetheless looking to enhance our current initiatives and facilities.



**Health Care** – We endeavour to improve and assist in raising the general health of the community overall by empowering them to adopt healthy living life styles. In 2007 and 2008, the centre was involved in a national effort to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation and Diabetes UK, and it successfully assisted in raising over £49,000.

**Crèche** – Crèches offer children the opportunity to play and explore the world around them in a safe and caring environment. The community centre will be equipped with a crèche for children upto the age of four. This will offer parents the ability to access courses, discussion groups and workshops whilst their child is being cared for in a good quality play environment.



# BAPS IN PRESTON

In 1974, the Gujarat Hindu Society invited His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj to Preston. It was on that historic occasion that the seeds of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha were planted in the city. Thereafter, devotees began regular satsang assemblies and the celebration of Hindu festivals.

In 1977, 1980 and 1982, His Holiness graced Preston with his presence again and provided social and spiritual uplift. In 1984, a BAPS centre in Preston was established by purchasing an old synagogue and was opened as a Hindu Mandir and community centre.

Since then the socio-spiritual organisation has steadily progressed. It has made a dynamic contribution to provide relief work during famines and natural disasters across the globe. BAPS has become a torchbearer in promoting youth activities and de-addiction programmes. Recently the centre has supported the British Heart Foundation and Diabetes UK and is looking to play an active role in supporting other major national charities in the future.

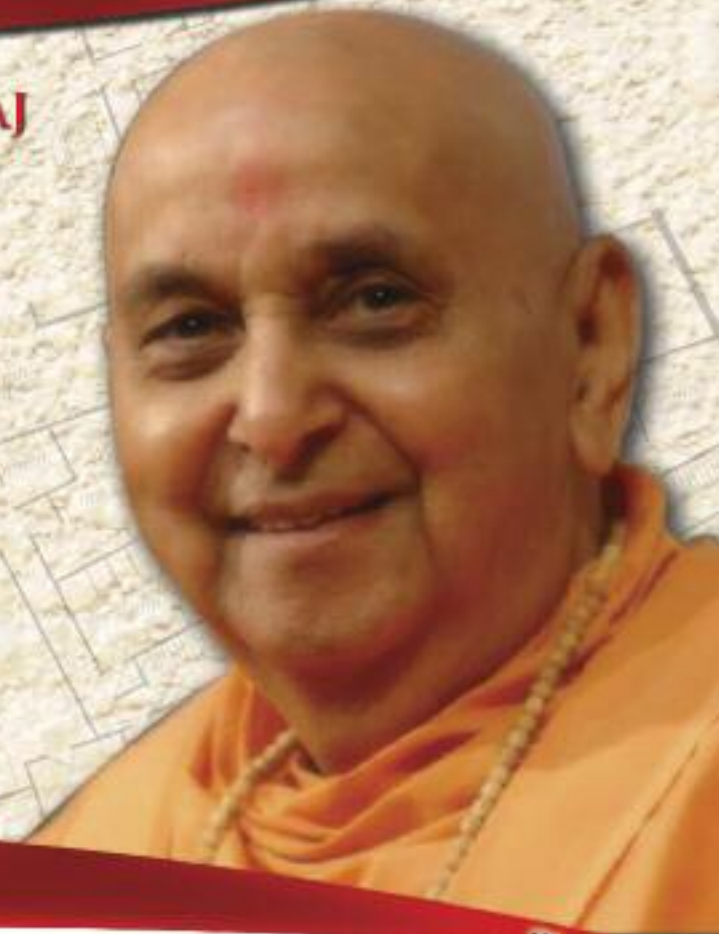
Now, after more than three decades of consistent growth and development, the need has arisen for a larger, purpose-built facility to allow for BAPS' continuing growth and outreach activities in Preston.



## INSPIRER: HIS HOLINESS PRAMUKH SWAMI MAHARAJ



*His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj is the fifth spiritual successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and the present leader of BAPS. He leads an austere life of lifetime celibacy, without personal wealth or comfort. Representing the essence of Hinduism, his compassion for humanity, universal wisdom and striking simplicity have touched many world religious and national leaders. But most important is his quiet, undisturbed love for God which rises beyond all borders of nation, race and religion.*



**"IN THE JOY OF OTHERS, LIES OUR OWN"**

*Pramukh Swami Maharaj*

# IMPORTANCE OF MANDIRS



Every religion in its own tradition builds houses of worship. For millennia, Hindus have built mandirs (temples) to foster their faith in God and serve as community hubs where people can forget their differences and unite to serve the common good, where together they can celebrate joyous festivals, and seek solace in times of despair.

His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj explains: "A mandir is a place of paramount peace, where the mind becomes still and the soul floats freely to seek the meaning of life. It teaches us about our glorious past and inspires us to shape an even better future. And it empowers us with values to address the present, to live in harmony with God, nature, and all of humanity."

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