

# SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1158603

## Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2014-09-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

Address Capita  
Regent House  
Theatre Square  
Swindon  
SN1 1QN

Phone 01793230338

Email [swindonhindutemple@gmail.com](mailto:swindonhindutemple@gmail.com)

Website [www.swindonhindutemple.com](http://www.swindonhindutemple.com)

## Activities

**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE:TO ADVANCE THE HINDU FAITH, IN SUCH WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES SHALL DEEM FIT.

**Activities:** Swindon Hindu Temple is a place for Hindu worship and community cohesion, and caters for the religious, social, spiritual, cultural and educational needs of the Hindu community in particular and other communities in general in and around the borough of Swindon, Wiltshire.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Defined Groups

## Geography

- Swindon
- Wiltshire

## Finances

| Period end | Income  | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2025-03-31 | £41,782 | £25,039     | -      | -         |
| 2024-03-31 | £29,637 | £25,305     | -      | -         |
| 2023-03-31 | £23,249 | £16,995     | -      | -         |
| 2022-03-31 | £14,516 | £14,866     | -      | -         |
| 2021-03-31 | £8,895  | £3,257      | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                    | Role  | Appointed  |
|-------------------------|-------|------------|
| <b>Pradeep Bhardwaj</b> | Chair | 2015-11-25 |
| Geethamrutha Cheedella  |       | 2026-01-08 |
| KETAN DEVIDAS VAJA      |       | 2026-01-08 |
| NEETU BHARDWAJ          |       | 2014-02-12 |
| RAJ MAHENDRABHAI PATEL  |       | 2026-01-08 |
| SURESHA GATTAPUR        |       | 2019-04-20 |
| VINAY KUMAR             |       | 2014-02-12 |

**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158603

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# Accounts

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# Swindon Hindu Temple Trust

(Charity Registration Number: 1158603)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report and Financial Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial accounts have been prepared generally, in accordance with Accepted Accounting Practice.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Charity Name:** Swindon Hindu Temple Trust

**Charity Registration Number:** 1158603

**Website:** [www.swindonhindutemple.com](http://www.swindonhindutemple.com)

**Email:** [swindonhindutemple@gmail.com](mailto:swindonhindutemple@gmail.com)

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank

### Board of Trustees

(who served during the year or up to the date of this report)

1. Mrs Neetu Bhardwaj
2. Mr Vinay Kumar
3. Mr Ram Thiagarajah
4. Mr Pradeep Bhardwaj
5. Mrs Nirupama Satish
6. Mr Suresha Gattapur

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Governing Document

Swindon Hindu Temple Trust is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 under Charity Number 1158603. It is governed by a constitution/deed of trust last updated in Sep 2014.

### Organisational Structure

The Charity Trustees are responsible for the general control, management and governance of the Charity. The Trustees give their time, skills and services freely and receive no remuneration or financial benefits.

The Trustees meet together as a body on a regular basis and are responsible for all decisions taken in relation to running the Trust and the community facilities and activities provided by the charity.

## Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Seven (7) Trustees were appointed initially at the time of setting up the Trust in 2014. Currently there are six (6) Trustees. Appointment of Trustees was made taking into consideration their individuals' skills, expertise, variety of backgrounds, past contributions, commitment and availability to undertake the Trust's activities and duties. In selecting new trustees, we seek to identify people who have consistently demonstrated strategic leadership, vision & forward thinking, regularly contributed to the objectives of the Trust, attend events and functions organised by the charity and are willing to volunteer to help in our broader community work and main objectives of establishing and managing the Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon. New trustees are appointed only after they have successfully demonstrated their eligibility, personal competence, contributions, commitment, availability, specialist knowledge and skills over a period of time. No new trustees were appointed in the reporting period. There were no resignations in the reporting period.

## Induction and Training of Trustees

Following appointment, new Trustees are introduced to their role, the governing document, aims of the Trust, policies of the charity and the guidance from Charity Commission on charities and public benefit. This ensures that the new Trustees are aware of the scope of their responsibilities under the Charities Act. All Trustees are given induction training. The Trustees are also encouraged to undertake other training such as Basic First Aid Training.

## Risk Management

The Trustees regularly assess the risks the charity faces, the nature of those risks, the likelihood of the risks occurring, and measures taken to manage them. The Trustees are satisfied that systems/arrangements are in place to manage the risks identified.

# AIMS & OBJECTIVES

## Aim

The aims of the charity are set out in the charity's deed of trust and summarised below:

To advance the Hindu faith in the Swindon area for the benefit of the public in particular through the holding of prayer meetings, lectures, public celebration of religious festivals.

To build and manage a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon.

To provide facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public with the objective of improving the conditions of life for all residents of Swindon and the neighbourhood by the provision, maintenance and management of a community/cultural centre.

## Objectives

To promote Hindu Faith, its doctrines, its scriptures and practice Hindu beliefs through assembly, worship and discourse.

To establish, maintain and manage a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre for religious, social, and cultural activities for the use of the public.

To offer facilities for religious functions and for performing religious rites (as per Hindu Faith) related to births, deaths and marriages for people of all faiths.

To provide a meeting place for Hindus and for others who are interested in Hinduism.

To advance traditional Hindu cultural activities, religious studies & performing arts.

To provide facilities for and actively co-ordinate social care, social interaction, friendship and goodwill among people in the wider community.

To form a charitable and educational organization to promote social, cultural, religious principles and practice.

To conduct educational programmes for children as well as adults based on Hindu values and traditions.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT

The objects of the Trust are the promotion of any charitable purposes for the benefit of all residents in the Borough of Swindon and any other exclusively charitable purposes which are in the opinion of the Trustees beneficial to the peoples of Swindon. The Trust offers facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public and for thousands of Hindus in the region.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Trustees also confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that these activities provide benefits both to those who attend prayers/religious events and the wider community of Swindon. Detailed information is provided in the Activities and Achievements sections in this Report about how activities of the Trust further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The immediate identifiable benefits are (1) the value to those who regularly participate in the worship and other events of the charity and to the wider community of Swindon of the Trust's work, and (2) how the facilities provided by the Trust are made available to Hindus and the faith of Hinduism is communicated to non-Hindus through its work and that any member of the wider community of Swindon can benefit from the Trust's facilities, & social, cultural, community, charitable activities.

## STRATEGIES ADOPTED

In order to carry out day to day activities of the of the Trust, several volunteers are identified with specific skill-sets required for the various activities. Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre continues to serves as the focal point within the region for all matters related to the Hindu faith and population in respect of their religious, cultural, social, community and charitable aspirations and endeavours.

## ACTIVITIES

Since the Temple moved to the new premises at Regent House in Dec 2022, and then formally re-opened for the congregation on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023, it has been a settling-in period for the Trust and the Temple at their new home. The Trust had to take a fresh look at the facilities it can provide at the new premises and also the different festivals, events, and activities it can host.

### VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AT THE TEMPLE

Swindon Hindu Temple offers facilities for religious worship and observance to thousands of Hindus in the region on daily basis which by itself is a very onerous task but in addition, it also hosts a vast number of activities as part of its cultural, social & community, and charitable objectives.

- RE Visits by Schools
- RE Visits by Scouts, Cubs and Guides
- Inter-faith Visits by Churches, Community Groups, Swindon Interfaith Group, etc.
- Table Tennis Club for Special Needs (SEND) children – the only such club in Swindon and Wiltshire
- Daily Table Tennis Club for children and adults
- Bond of Protection event with British Armed Forces, Emergency & Public services
- Weekly Indian Classical Vocal Music classes
- Weekly Mohiniyattam Indian Classical Dance classes
- Weekly Kuchipudi Indian Classical Dance classes
- Weekly Bharatanatyam Indian Classical Dance classes
- Weekly Bollywood Dance classes
- Weekly Rudrabhishekam
- Weekly Hanuman Chalisa
- Weekly Sunderkand Paath
- Weekly Radha Naam Sankirtan
- Weekly Sai Bhajans
- Weekly Lalitha Sahasranamam
- Weekly ISKCON Hare Krishna Kirtan
- Weekly Parivar Shakha for families and children
- Weekly Art Classes for children
- Health and Wellbeing events
- Cultural and Community programmes

As can be seen from above, the Temple is not just the ONLY Hindu Temple in Swindon and Wiltshire for thousands of Hindus in the region, it is also a thriving place for the community promoting community integration, social cohesion, health and wellbeing. The place boasts of one of the highest footfalls for any single venue in Swindon and Wiltshire throughout the year.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

The Trust is constantly building upon the several milestones it has accomplished in the last few years. The Trust has a good visibility into the local community and the local government. The Trust has truly become the focal point of contact within the region for matters related to the Hindu faith and population. In addition to the regular congregation, the Trust has also

organised celebration of several Hindu festivals and important community events. The biggest achievement was to get back to offering the full range of facilities to the congregation as well as being able to host most of the festivals and activities after re-establishing the Temple at the new premises.

#### **DAILY DARSHAN**

Swindon Hindu Temple offers devotees the facility of daily darshan. Nitya puja is done twice daily for all 365 days of the year. Swindon Hindu Temple is one of the very few mandirs/temples in the United Kingdom to have Shree Jagannath ji, Mahalakshmi ji, Sri Venkateswara Balaji and Shri Murugan, alongside Shri Ganesh ji, Shri Ram darbar, Radha-Krishna ji, Durga Maa, Shiv Parivar, Shivling and Nandi ji, and Navgraha, giving the devotees a very unique religious provision and experience.

#### **EVENTS /FESTIVALS**

Since the re-opening of the Temple formally at the new premises, the Temple has now started hosting most of the diverse festival celebrations. Below are some of the festivals and events the Temple has hosted in the reporting period.

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2024 Hosted RE visit by Lydiard Scouts group

11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Gangaur Puja

13<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Ugadi & Gudi Padwa festival

14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Tamil New Year

20<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Combined Ram Navami & Hanuman Janmotsav festival celebrations

1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 Hanuman Janmotsav celebrations according to South Indian traditions

5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Spiritual Discourse by ISKCON Swami

5<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Spiritual Visit and Pravachan by Jain Mharasaabs for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Swindon

7<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Balgokulam Shikshak Vandan

21<sup>st</sup> July 2024 Guru Purnima

28<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Sri Srinivas Balaji Kalyanam

15<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024 India Independence Day celebrations

16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024 Varalakshmi Vrat Puja

18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024 Raksha Bandhan festival celebrations

25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2024 Shri Krishna Janmashtami festival celebrations

6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024 Ganesh Utsav festival celebrations

16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2024 Hosted RE visit by Wichelstowe Scouts & Cubs

3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024 Daily Navratri Puja & ceremonies at the Temple

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Oct Navratri Garba at UTC Swindon

6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024 Navratri Special Mata ki Chowki

6<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024 Navratri Bathukamma festival celebrations

12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024 Dussehra

13<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024 Navratri Special Cultural Showcase programme

20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024 Karwa Chauth festival

31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2024 Diwali festival, Lakshmi Puja, Chopda Pujan

2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2024 Diwali Annakoot & Govardhan Puja festival

2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2024 Hosted Swindon Interfaith Group for Interfaith Week celebrations

6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 Diwali festival celebrations at UK Parliament by Swindon Hindu Temple (1<sup>st</sup> such event for Hindus in Swindon)

21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024 Health Awareness Day

28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024 Christmas Care Food Buffet for Homeless Shelter

31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024 Hanuman Chalisa and New Year Eve celebrations

11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 Swindon Ayyappa Puja

11<sup>th</sup> Jan and 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 Two-days non-stop Akhand Ramayana Paath recitation – Swindon Hindu Temple was the only temple in the UK to observe this coinciding the consecration of the Shri Ram Dham temple in Ayodhya in India in 2024 and has since hosted the celebration to commemorate the occasion. Hundreds of devotees participated with utmost enthusiasm in the recitation and the festivities.

14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 Makar Sankranti & Pongal celebrations

18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 Hosted South Asian Performing Arts Centre (SAPAC) meeting at the Temple

26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 Republic Day of India celebrations

4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 Hosted RE visit by 1<sup>st</sup> Wroughton Cubs

9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 Hosted Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) Shibir

11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 Thaipusam festival

11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 NHS Free Blood Pressure Check & Health Awareness Day event

19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti celebrations

26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 Maha Shivratri festival celebrations

26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 Maha Shivratri Spiritual Talk by Brahmakumaris

26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 NHS Free Blood Pressure Check

8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 International Women's Day celebrations

14<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Holika Dahan festival celebrations

15<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Holi Festival of Colours celebrations

28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Hosted "Darshana – Exhibition on Hindu Civilisation" at the Temple (1<sup>st</sup> of its kind in Swindon and Wiltshire)

29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Hosted Spiritual Discourse & Bhavarth Hari Kirtan by Dr Shri Raghunathdas ji Maharaj from India

30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Ugadi & Gudi Padwa festival celebrations (exquisite cuisine on banana leaf for hundreds of people)

As can be seen from such a long list of celebrations and activities above, the Temple is back again on its feet, after a very difficult time for the Temple and the entire community for past few years, with renewed energy and sense of purpose, serving the people and the town with full vigour and enthusiasm and celebrating all the festivals of diverse communities and traditions, bringing joy and devotion to thousands of Hindus in the region, in the true Sanatan Parampara and spirit.

## CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an important and valuable resource in both our faith and community work. While the Trustees provide overall leadership and strategic long-term oversight for the Trust, the day-to-day activities of the Trust are mainly managed and run by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who strongly believe in the cause and offer full support to the Trust. Swindon Hindu Temple Trust is well known in the entire area for its charitable work and activities and the strength of its volunteers.

The volunteers not only support the activities of the Trust but are also involved in similar voluntary contributions in other community organisations and the wider community in Swindon in general. The volunteers are the heart and soul of the Temple and the Trust

formally records its immense gratitude and thanks to all the volunteers for devoting their time, efforts and support for the activities of the Trust.

The contribution of our volunteers was specially visible and felt in every possible way specially in part of the last reporting period and this year when they worked relentlessly to refurbish the Temple after its move to the new premises, and resuming the various activities that the Temple is so well known for.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total income for the financial year ending 31 March 2025 is £41,782.04. The Income is mainly generated by donations given to the Trust by its members and the general public. The Expenditure for the same period is £25,039.39. The main expenditure items include Service charges and insurance charges to the Council, utility charges, bank fees, consumables, disposables, puja material and groceries for events/festivals. Financial statement for the year 2024-2025 is submitted along with the Trustees Annual Report.

## RESERVES POLICY

The Trust's policy is to maintain unrestricted funds in the form of free reserves, at a level that equates to approximately 12 months of operational expenditure, to organise regular events/activities and to raise funds to facilitate the establishment of a permanent building or premises for Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre which can be used by community for generations. The balance of reserves at the end of 31 March 2025 is £231,292.62.

**Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by**

Chairman

**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**  
**INCOME & EXPENSES FOR 2024-2025**  
**(Registered Charity number : 1158603)**

|                                      | 2024-2025          | 2023-2024          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents 1st April  | £214,549.97        | £210,218.00        |
| Income for the year                  | £41,782.04         | £29,637.73         |
| Total                                | <u>£256,332.01</u> | <u>£239,855.73</u> |
| Less: Expenses                       | <u>£25,039.39</u>  | <u>£25,305.76</u>  |
|                                      | £231,292.62        | £214,549.97        |
| Unaccounted                          | £231,292.62        | £214,549.97        |
| Cash in hand                         |                    |                    |
| Cash at Bank                         | £231,292.62        | £214,549.97        |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents 31st March | <u>£231,292.62</u> | <u>£214,549.97</u> |

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Swindon Hindu Temple Trust,  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO').**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Rupa Khaitan

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):

ACA (ICAEW)

Address: 7 Barrington Avenue, GL51 6TY

Date: 24/03/2026

**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158603

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# Accounts

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# Swindon Hindu Temple Trust

(Charity Registration Number: 1158603)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report and Financial Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial accounts have been prepared generally, in accordance with Accepted Accounting Practice.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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**Charity Registration Number:** 1158603

**Website:** [www.swindonhindutemple.com](http://www.swindonhindutemple.com)

**Email:** [swindonhindutemple@gmail.com](mailto:swindonhindutemple@gmail.com)

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank

### Board of Trustees

(who served during the year or up to the date of this report)

1. Mrs Neetu Bhardwaj
2. Mr Vinay Kumar
3. Mr Ram Thiagarajah
4. Mr Pradeep Bhardwaj
5. Mrs Nirupama Satish
6. Mr Suresha Gattapur

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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## Risk Management

The Trustees regularly assess the risks the charity faces, the nature of those risks, the likelihood of the risks occurring, and measures taken to manage them. The Trustees are satisfied that systems/arrangements are in place to manage the risks identified.

# AIMS & OBJECTIVES

## Aim

The aims of the charity are set out in the charity's deed of trust and summarised below:

To advance the Hindu faith in the Swindon area for the benefit of the public in particular through the holding of prayer meetings, lectures, public celebration of religious festivals.

To build and manage a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon.

To provide facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public with the objective of improving the conditions of life for all residents of Swindon and the neighbourhood by the provision, maintenance and management of a community/cultural centre.

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To provide facilities for and actively co-ordinate social care, social interaction, friendship and goodwill among people in the wider community.

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To conduct educational programmes for children as well as adults based on Hindu values and traditions.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT

The objects of the Trust are the promotion of any charitable purposes for the benefit of all residents in the Borough of Swindon and any other exclusively charitable purposes which are in the opinion of the Trustees beneficial to the peoples of Swindon. The Trust offers facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public and for thousands of Hindus in the region in particular who do not have any such facilities. Within a short period, the Trust has already made its presence felt within the wider community in several ways.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Trustees also confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that these activities provide benefits both to those who attend prayers/religious events and the wider community of Swindon. Detailed information is provided in the Activities and Achievements sections in this Report about how activities of the Trust further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The immediate identifiable benefits are (1) the value to those who regularly participate in the worship and other events of the charity and to the wider community of Swindon of the Trust's work, and (2) how the facilities provided by the Trust are made available to Hindus and the faith of Hinduism is communicated to non-Hindus through its work and that any member of the wider community of Swindon can benefit from the Trust's facilities, & social, cultural, community, charitable activities.

## STRATEGIES ADOPTED

In order to carry out day to day activities of the of the Trust, several volunteers are identified with specific skill-sets required for the various activities. Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre continues to serves as the focal point within the region for all matters related to the Hindu faith and population in respect of their religious, cultural, social, community and charitable aspirations and endeavours.

## ACTIVITIES

The Temple moved to the new premises at Regent House in Dec 2022, and formally re-opened the Temple for the congregation with a big religious ceremony on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023. Thereafter it has been a settling-in period at the new home, but we are hugely relieved that we have found a new home for the temple now and it is fully up and running. The Temple has started to organise all the festivals, events, and activities again with full vigour and enthusiasm.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

The Trust is constantly building upon the several milestones it has accomplished in the last few years. The Trust has a good visibility into the local community and the local government. The Trust has truly become the focal point of contact within the region for matters related to the Hindu faith and population. In addition to the regular congregation, the Trust has also organised celebration of several Hindu festivals and important community events. The biggest achievement was re-establishing the Temple at its new site in the Town Centre recently after the spate of multiple break-ins at the previous site of the Temple which ultimately led to the closure of the site.

### EVENTS /FESTIVALS

Since the re-opening of the Temple formally on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023, the Temple has swiftly started hosting most of the diverse festival celebrations. Below are some of the festivals and events the Temple has hosted in the reporting period.

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 Sri Srinivas Balaji Kalyanam

25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Scouts

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 Cubs visit

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 SBC Community Connections Forum

19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Savitri Vrat

11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 TCS TT Tournament

17<sup>th</sup> June 2023 INSIGHT UK Seminar

25<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Sukshmakriya Meditation

19<sup>th</sup> Aug 2023 Diabetes Day

20<sup>th</sup> Aug 2023 Pravachan and Satsang by Swamini Chidekarasaananda Saraswati

3<sup>rd</sup> Sep 2023 Rotary Cricket & Family Fun Day at Nationwide Cricket Ground

16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023 Rakshabandhan celebrations with Brahmakumaris

14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 Diabetes Health Day

14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 Pre-Navratri Garba and celebrations

15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 Mata ki Chowki

29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 Pravachan and Satsang by Swamini Chidekarasaananda Saraswati

28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023 Scouts visit

13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 Ayyappa Puja

14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 Makar Sankranti & Pongal celebrations

21<sup>st</sup> Jan and 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024 Two-days non-stop Akhand Ramayana recitation – Swindon Hindu Temple was the only temple in the UK to observe this coinciding the consecration of the Shri Ram Dham temple in Ayodhya in India. Hundreds of devotees participated with utmost enthusiasm in the recitation and the festivities.

27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 Republic Day of India celebrations

28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 Satyanarayana Puja

8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Mahashivratri

9<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Mahashivratri Talk by Brahmakumaris

After a very difficult time for the Temple and the entire community, the Temple is back again on its feet, with renewed energy and sense of purpose, serving the people and the town with full vigour and enthusiasm.

## CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an important and valuable resource in both our faith and community work. While the Trustees provide overall leadership and strategic long-term oversight for the Trust, the day-to-day activities of the Trust are mainly managed and run by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who strongly believe in the cause and offer full support to the Trust. Swindon Hindu Temple Trust is well known in the entire area for its charitable work and activities and the strength of its volunteers.

The volunteers not only support the activities of the Trust but are also involved in similar voluntary contributions in other community organisations and the wider community in Swindon in general. The Trust formally records its immense gratitude and thanks to all the volunteers for devoting their time, efforts and support for the activities of the Trust.

The contribution of our volunteers was specially visible and felt in every possible way specially in this year when they worked relentlessly to refurbish the Temple after its move to the new premises early in the year, and resuming the various activities that the Temple is so well known for.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total income for the financial year ending 31 March 2024 is £29,637.73. The Income is mainly generated by donations given to the Trust by its members and the general public. The Expenditure for the same period is £25,305.76. The main expenditure items include Service charges and insurance charges to the Council, utility charges, bank fees, consumables, disposables, puja material and groceries for events/festivals. Financial statement for the year 2023-2024 is submitted along with the Trustees Annual Report.

## RESERVES POLICY

The Trust's policy is to maintain unrestricted funds in the form of free reserves, at a level that equates to approximately 12 months of operational expenditure, to organise regular events/activities and to raise funds to facilitate the establishment of a permanent building or premises for Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre which can be used by community for generations. The balance of reserves at the end of 31 March 2024 is £214,549.97.

**Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by**

Chairman

**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**  
**INCOME & EXPENSES FOR 2023-24**  
**(Registered Charity number : 1158603)**

|                                             | 2023-24            | 2022-23            |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents 1st April         | £210,218.00        | £203,964.28        |
| Income for the year                         | £29,637.73         | £23,249.36         |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>£239,855.73</b> | <b>£227,213.64</b> |
| Less: Expenses                              | £25,305.76         | £16,995.64         |
|                                             | £214,549.97        | £210,218.00        |
| Unaccounted                                 | £214,549.97        | £210,218.00        |
| Cash in hand                                |                    |                    |
| Cash at Bank                                | £214,549.97        | £210,218.00        |
| <b>Cash and Cash Equivalents 31st March</b> | <b>£214,549.97</b> | <b>£210,218.00</b> |



**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Swindon Hindu Temple Trust,  
Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('the CIO').**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Name: Rupa Khaitan

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):  
ACA (ICAEW)

Address: 7 Barrington Avenue, GL51 6TY

Date: 26/03/2024

**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158603

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# Accounts

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# Swindon Hindu Temple Trust

(Charity Registration Number: 1158603)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report and Financial Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial accounts have been prepared generally, in accordance with Accepted Accounting Practice.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Charity Name:** Swindon Hindu Temple Trust

**Charity Registration Number:** 1158603

**Website:** [www.swindonhindutemple.com](http://www.swindonhindutemple.com)

**Email:** [swindonhindutemple@gmail.com](mailto:swindonhindutemple@gmail.com)

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank

### Board of Trustees

(who served during the year or up to the date of this report)

1. Mrs Neetu Bhardwaj
2. Mr Vinay Kumar
3. Mr Ram Thiagarajah
4. Mr Pradeep Bhardwaj
5. Mrs Nirupama Satish
6. Mr Suresha Gattapur

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Governing Document

Swindon Hindu Temple Trust is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 under Charity Number 1158603. It is governed by a constitution/deed of trust last updated in Sep 2014.

### Organisational Structure

The Charity Trustees are responsible for the general control, management and governance of the Charity. The Trustees give their time, skills and services freely and receive no remuneration or financial benefits.

The Trustees meet together as a body on a regular basis and are responsible for all decisions taken in relation to running the Trust and the community facilities and activities provided by the charity.

## Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Seven (7) Trustees were appointed initially at the time of setting up the Trust in 2014. Currently there are six (6) Trustees. Appointment of Trustees was made taking into consideration their individuals' skills, expertise, variety of backgrounds, past contributions, commitment and availability to undertake the Trust's activities and duties. In selecting new trustees, we seek to identify people who have consistently demonstrated strategic leadership, vision & forward thinking, regularly contributed to the objectives of the Trust, attend events and functions organised by the charity and are willing to volunteer to help in our broader community work and main objectives of establishing and managing the Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon. New trustees are appointed only after they have successfully demonstrated their eligibility, personal competence, contributions, commitment, availability, specialist knowledge and skills over a period of time. No new trustees were appointed in the reporting period. There were no resignations in the reporting period.

## Induction and Training of Trustees

Following appointment, new Trustees are introduced to their role, the governing document, aims of the Trust, policies of the charity and the guidance from Charity Commission on charities and public benefit. This ensures that the new Trustees are aware of the scope of their responsibilities under the Charities Act. All Trustees are given induction training. The Trustees are also encouraged to undertake other training such as Basic First Aid Training.

## Risk Management

The Trustees regularly assess the risks the charity faces, the nature of those risks, the likelihood of the risks occurring, and measures taken to manage them. The Trustees are satisfied that systems/arrangements are in place to manage the risks identified.

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

### Aim

The aims of the charity are set out in the charity's deed of trust and summarised below:

To advance the Hindu faith in the Swindon area for the benefit of the public in particular through the holding of prayer meetings, lectures, public celebration of religious festivals.

To build and manage a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon.

To provide facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public with the objective of improving the conditions of life for all residents of Swindon and the neighbourhood by the provision, maintenance and management of a community/cultural centre.

### Objectives

To promote Hindu Faith, its doctrines, its scriptures and practice Hindu beliefs through assembly, worship and discourse.

To establish, maintain and manage a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre for religious, social, and cultural activities for the use of the public.

To offer facilities for religious functions and for performing religious rites (as per Hindu Faith) related to births, deaths and marriages for people of all faiths.

To provide a meeting place for Hindus and for others who are interested in Hinduism.

To advance traditional Hindu cultural activities, religious studies & performing arts.

To provide facilities for and actively co-ordinate social care, social interaction, friendship and goodwill among people in the wider community.

To form a charitable and educational organization to promote social, cultural, religious principles and practice.

To conduct educational programmes for children as well as adults based on Hindu values and traditions.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT

The objects of the Trust are the promotion of any charitable purposes for the benefit of all residents in the Borough of Swindon and any other exclusively charitable purposes which are in the opinion of the Trustees beneficial to the peoples of Swindon. The Trust offers facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public and for thousands of Hindus in the region in particular who do not have any such facilities. Within a short period, the Trust has already made its presence felt within the wider community in several ways.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Trustees also confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that these activities provide benefits both to those who attend prayers/religious events and the wider community of Swindon. Detailed information is provided in the Activities and Achievements sections in this Report about how activities of the Trust further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The immediate identifiable benefits are (1) the value to those who regularly participate in the worship and other events of the charity and to the wider community of Swindon of the Trust's work, and (2) how the facilities provided by the Trust are made available to Hindus and the faith of Hinduism is communicated to non-Hindus through its work and that any member of the wider community of Swindon can benefit from the Trust's facilities, & social, cultural, community, charitable activities.

## STRATEGIES ADOPTED

In order to carry out day to day activities of the of the Trust, several volunteers are identified with specific skill-sets required for the various activities. Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre continues to serves as the focal point within the region for all matters related to the Hindu faith and population in respect of their religious, cultural, social, community and charitable aspirations and endeavours.

## ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, the Trust mainly organised volunteering activities, and moved many of its activities to virtual/online format. As the Trust lost its premises due to the multiple break-ins in 2021, the Trust spent a significant amount of time, energy and resources to find new premises for the temple and then to refurbish and relocate the temple. This has been a very challenging period for the organisation as well as its members, office bearers and the congregation at large but we are relieved that we have found a new home for the temple now and it is fully up and running.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

The Trust has accomplished several milestones in a short period in last few years. The Trust has a good visibility into the local community and the local government. The Trust has truly become the focal point of contact within the region for matters related to the Hindu faith and population. In addition to the regular congregation, the Trust has also organised celebration of several Hindu festivals and important community events. The biggest achievement was re-establishing the Temple at its new site in the Town Centre.

### EVENTS /FESTIVALS

Since the loss of the original Temple site at Cheney Manor Industrial Estate on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021, due to the lease of the premises terminated on health and safety grounds, the Temple was not operational for most part of the year. The moorthis and all the other possessions of the Temple were kept in temporary storage at Wyvern House, a site taken from the Council.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022, we had announced our plans for new premises for the Temple at Regent House, another site owned by the Council in the Town Centre. Rigorous work was then carried out to acquire this new site, as well as to obtain statutory planning consent and to undertake extensive refurbishment including moving the heavy wooden hand-carved mandapams, re-installing them at the new premises and redecorating the premises.

On 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022, we signed a formal lease with the Council for Regent House and after a prolonged period, we received the Planning permission for Regent House on 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022.

On 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022, we formally took for possession for Regent House and started to operate the Temple again from these new premises in the Town Centre, comprising of 4 halls located on 2 floors above the Chaat Café, opposite the Central Library.

Finally, on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023, we had a big re-opening ceremony of the Temple with Ganesh Homam and Sudarshan Homam puja performed by professional priests. Hundreds of people participated in the re-opening ceremony. It was exactly 479 days since we lost our previous home for the Temple in Cheney Manor Industrial Estate and we were very excited to be able to start serving the religious, cultural, social and charitable needs of the community again. During this time, our countless volunteers worked relentlessly to re-establish the Temple and transform the place into a colourful, vibrant and welcoming hub for the community.

On 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023, we celebrated the auspicious festival of Maha Shivratri, attended by hundreds of people.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023, we observed the Festival of Colours, Holi at the Temple and then organised a big public celebration of Holi at Southbrook Inn on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 where hundreds of people played with colours.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023, we hosted a programme of Sukshmakriya Yoga/Meditation.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, we celebrated the festival of Ram Navami.

It was a very difficult year for the Temple and the entire community but the Temple is back again on its feet, serving the people and the town with full vigour and enthusiasm.

## CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an important and valuable resource in both our faith and community work. While the Trustees provide overall leadership and strategic long-term oversight for the Trust, the day-to-day activities of the Trust are mainly managed and run by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who strongly believe in the cause and offer full support to the Trust. Swindon Hindu Temple Trust is well known in the entire area for its charitable work and activities and the strength of its volunteers.

The volunteers not only support the activities of the Trust but are also involved in similar voluntary contributions in other community organisations and the wider community in Swindon in general. The Trust formally records its immense gratitude and thanks to all the volunteers for devoting their time, efforts and support for the activities of the Trust.

The contribution of our volunteers was specially visible and felt in every possible way specially in this year when they worked relentlessly to restart the Temple at its new premises, moving all the artefacts, moorthis, mandapams, refurbishing and redecorating the premises and resuming the various activities that the Temple is so well known for.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total income for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 is £23,249.36. The Income is mainly generated by donations given to the Trust by its members and the general public. The Expenditure for the same period is £16,995.64. The main expenditure items include professional services for Planning application for potential sites at Regent House and Old Coop Wroughton, Transport Planning consultancy for planning application, refurbishment expenses for Regent House, utility charges, insurance, bank fees, new website charges. Financial statement for the year 2022-2023 is submitted along with the Trustees Annual Report.

## RESERVES POLICY

The Trust's policy is to maintain unrestricted funds in the form of free reserves, at a level that equates to approximately 12 months of operational expenditure, to organise regular events/activities and to raise funds to facilitate the establishment of a permanent building or premises for Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre which can be used by community. The balance of reserves at the end of 31 March 2023 is £210,218.

**Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by**

Chairman

**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**  
**INCOME & EXPENSES FOR 2022-23**  
**(Registered Charity number : 1158603)**  
2022-23

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents 1st April  | £203,964.28        |
| Income for the year                  | £23,249.36         |
| Total                                | <u>£227,213.64</u> |
| Less: Expenses                       | <u>£16,995.64</u>  |
|                                      | £210,218.00        |
| Unaccounted                          | £210,218.00        |
| Cash in hand                         |                    |
| Cash at Bank                         | £210,218.00        |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents 31st March | <u>£210,218.00</u> |

2021-22

£204,314.51

£14,515.83

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£218,830.34

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£14,866.06

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£203,964.28

£203,964.28

£203,964.28

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£203,964.28

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**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158603

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# Accounts

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# Swindon Hindu Temple Trust

(Charity Registration Number: 1158603)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report and Financial Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial accounts have been prepared generally, in accordance with Accepted Accounting Practice.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Charity Name:** Swindon Hindu Temple Trust

**Charity Registration Number:** 1158603

**Website:** [www.swindonhindutemple.com](http://www.swindonhindutemple.com)

**Email:** [swindonhindutemple@gmail.com](mailto:swindonhindutemple@gmail.com)

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank

### Board of Trustees

(who served during the year or up to the date of this report)

1. Mrs Neetu Bhardwaj
2. Mr Vinay Kumar
3. Mr Ram Thiagarajah
4. Mr Pradeep Bhardwaj
5. Mrs Nirupama Satish
6. Mr Suresha Gattapur

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Governing Document

Swindon Hindu Temple Trust is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 under Charity Number 1158603. It is governed by a constitution/deed of trust last updated in Sep 2014.

### Organisational Structure

The Charity Trustees are responsible for the general control, management and governance of the Charity. The Trustees give their time, skills and services freely and receive no remuneration or financial benefits.

The Trustees meet together as a body on a regular basis and are responsible for all decisions taken in relation to running the Trust and the community facilities and activities provided by the charity.

## Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Seven (7) Trustees were appointed initially at the time of setting up the Trust in 2014. Currently there are six (6) Trustees. Appointment of Trustees was made taking into consideration their individuals' skills, expertise, variety of backgrounds, past contributions, commitment and availability to undertake the Trust's activities and duties. In selecting new trustees, we seek to identify people who have consistently demonstrated strategic leadership, vision & forward thinking, regularly contributed to the objectives of the Trust, attend events and functions organised by the charity and are willing to volunteer to help in our broader community work and main objectives of establishing and managing the Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon. New trustees are appointed only after they have successfully demonstrated their eligibility, personal competence, contributions, commitment, availability, specialist knowledge and skills over a period of time. No new trustees were appointed in the reporting period. There were no resignations in the reporting period.

## Induction and Training of Trustees

Following appointment, new Trustees are introduced to their role, the governing document, aims of the Trust, policies of the charity and the guidance from Charity Commission on charities and public benefit. This ensures that the new Trustees are aware of the scope of their responsibilities under the Charities Act. All Trustees are given induction training. The Trustees are also encouraged to undertake other training such as Basic First Aid Training.

## Risk Management

The Trustees regularly assess the risks the charity faces, the nature of those risks, the likelihood of the risks occurring, and measures taken to manage them. The Trustees are satisfied that systems/arrangements are in place to manage the risks identified.

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

### Aim

The aims of the charity are set out in the charity's deed of trust and summarised below:

To advance the Hindu faith in the Swindon area for the benefit of the public in particular through the holding of prayer meetings, lectures, public celebration of religious festivals.

To build and manage a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon.

To provide facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public with the objective of improving the conditions of life for all residents of Swindon and the neighbourhood by the provision, maintenance and management of a community/cultural centre.

### Objectives

To promote Hindu Faith, its doctrines, its scriptures and practice Hindu beliefs through assembly, worship and discourse.

To establish, maintain and manage a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre for religious, social, and cultural activities for the use of the public.

To offer facilities for religious functions and for performing religious rites (as per Hindu Faith) related to births, deaths and marriages for people of all faiths.

To provide a meeting place for Hindus and for others who are interested in Hinduism.

To advance traditional Hindu cultural activities, religious studies & performing arts.

To provide facilities for and actively co-ordinate social care, social interaction, friendship and goodwill among people in the wider community.

To form a charitable and educational organization to promote social, cultural, religious principles and practice.

To conduct educational programmes for children as well as adults based on Hindu values and traditions.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT

The objects of the Trust are the promotion of any charitable purposes for the benefit of all residents in the Borough of Swindon and any other exclusively charitable purposes which are in the opinion of the Trustees beneficial to the peoples of Swindon. The Trust offers facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public and for thousands of Hindus in the region in particular who do not have any such facilities. Within a short period, the Trust has already made its presence felt within the wider community in several ways.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Trustees also confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that these activities provide benefits both to those who attend prayers/religious events and the wider community of Swindon. Detailed information is provided in the Activities and Achievements sections in this Report about how activities of the Trust further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The immediate identifiable benefits are (1) the value to those who regularly participate in the worship and other events of the charity and to the wider community of Swindon of the Trust's work, and (2) how the facilities provided by the Trust are made available to Hindus and the faith of Hinduism is communicated to non-Hindus through its work and that any member of the wider community of Swindon can benefit from the Trust's facilities, & social, cultural, community, charitable activities.

## STRATEGIES ADOPTED

In order to carry out day to day activities of the of the Trust, several volunteers are identified with specific skill-sets required for the various activities. Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre continues to serves as the focal point within the region for all matters related to the Hindu faith and population in respect of their religious, cultural, social, community and charitable aspirations and endeavours.

## ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, the Trust mainly organised volunteering activities, and moved many of its activities to virtual/online format. As the Trust faced multiple break-ins at its premises and as a result subsequently lost the premises during the reporting period, it also had to deal with remedial measures first, safeguarding the premises and the assets, and then having to try find new premises to move the items and the temple. This has taken a significant toll on our energy and resources, and it has been the most difficult period for the organisation as well as its members, office bearers and the congregation at large.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

The Trust has accomplished several milestones in a short period in last few years. The Trust has a good visibility into the local community and the local government. The Trust has now truly become the focal point of contact within the region for matters related to the Hindu faith and population. In addition to the regular congregation, the Trust has also organised celebration of several Hindu festivals and important community events. Also, since it was the only Hindu Temple in this region, there was a huge demand for regular school visits from both schools within and outside the area which the Temple has been very actively hosting on a frequent basis. However, the biggest achievements of the Trust were to contribute to the society at a period of great difficulty due to pandemic and to stay float as an organisation in spite of multiple break-ins faced by the temple and the total loss of the Temple subsequently. The Trust Chairman as well as one of our Executive Committee members were honoured by Rotary Club of Swindon Phoenix with Rotary Vocational Service Award, in recognition of "demonstrating Service above Self commitment to community during Covid19 pandemic".

## EVENTS /FESTIVALS

Whist the years 2020 and 2021 were particularly difficult due to COVID and the lockdowns, 2021 brought unprecedented misery and tragedy for the Temple and the Hindu community of Swindon. As the Temple is located in an industrial estate and lockdowns and restrictions were in place, the bad actors used this as an opportunity to burgle and break-into the Temple on no less than 6 different occasions, taking away many religious artefacts including 2 big brass lamps, several small lamps, bells, deepams, etc. as well as the electrical substation equipment, and most of the electrical cabling in the temple and the adjoining warehouse, causing complete and permanent loss of power supply, hence the lighting, security systems, alarm systems, evacuation systems, etc. We incurred significant costs and efforts in remedial measures to mitigate the situation through a multi-pronged strategy but ultimately, **the lease of the premises was terminated on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021**, by the authorities on health & safety grounds and we **lost the first Hindu Temple in the County** that we had managed to establish after years of toil, hard work and personal/collective sacrifices. This was a period of nightmare we never imagined in our worst dreams that we would face and go through. But the sheer character and perseverance we displayed as individuals, as a community and as an organisation, allowed us to stay afloat and continue to work for the future of the Hindu community in the region and the next generations to follow. We organised events at outside hired venues, we moved many events to online format. And importantly, we continued to work tirelessly to find a new venue for the Temple.

Swindon Hindu Temple took active part in supporting and promoting the Census 2021 within our communities and we were awarded Census Champion certificate by ONS in recognition of our hard work.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021, we hosted Chai-for-Charity event, to support fundraising by Arsha Dipa in support of its COVID-19 relief activities in India.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021, we hosted COVID-19 Vaccination walk-in clinics at the Temple.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021, we celebrated Krishna Janmashtami festival.

On 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021, we organised the very popular Ganesh Utsav festival.

On 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021, we organised Karwa Chauth festival virtually on Zoom, this is a festival celebrated by married ladies.

On 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021, we hired an outside venue for our Diwali celebrations, which was very difficult as we had lost our own Temple but in spite of all the challenges, we managed to deliver a successful Diwali event and experience for our devotees. We also celebrated Govardhan Pooja and Annakoot festivals.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, we facilitated a visit by the Rotary Cub of Swindon to the Sikh Gurudwara – it was a visit to the temple that was planned in advance but as we had lost the temple, we did not want to cancel the event and cause disappointment to the Rotarians, so managed to take them to our Sikh Temple, also showcasing our inter-faith commitment.

On 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, Swindon Hindu Temple hosted a very unique and prestigious event titled “From Antarctica to Swindon” at New College Swindon, whereby we hosted the incredible British Army Captain Preet Chandi nicknamed Polar Preet, for an inspirational talk and an insight into her most amazing solo expedition 700 miles in 40 days to South Pole, Antarctica, which she completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2022 and in the process became the first woman of colour to do so.

On 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, the Trust Chairman participated in an initiative by Wroughton Parish Council to plant 1,000 saplings of Birch, Maple and Oak trees, at the Maunsell Way Field Recreation Ground in Wroughton, and served the volunteers delicious hot Indian meals.

On 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, Maha Sivarathri was celebrated at Park South Community Centre, in conjunction with Arshdipa charity with Abhishekam to Lord Shiva, Archana and prayers. We carried our very big and heavy Shiva-parivar Moorthy to the venue for the big festival event.

We launched our new website – <https://swindonhindutemple.org.uk/> on the occasion of Maha Shivarathri. This comprehensive website narrates our story – our past, our present and our future. It encapsulates our struggles, our accomplishments and our vision moving forward. It provides our history, our mission, our shrines, our services, festivals, events, classes and initiatives, our policies, projects.

On 19th March 2022, we organised the Festival of Colour with a partner at an outdoor venue in the outside open car park area.

## CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an important and valuable resource in both our faith and community work. While the Trustees provide overall leadership and strategic long-term oversight for the Trust, the day-to-day activities of the Trust are mainly managed and run by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who strongly believe in the cause and offer full support to the Trust. Swindon Hindu Temple Trust is well known in the entire area for its charitable work and activities and the strength of its volunteers. In fact, as the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result, the lockdown started in the country in March 2020, the volunteers of Swindon Hindu Temple Trust were one of the very first in the country to start volunteering in different ways to help the elderly and the vulnerable in the society. As the country grappled with new waves and variants of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued the great work in 2021-2022, hosting mobile vaccination clinics at the temple, working together with NHS/CCG to increase the uptake of vaccination and tackling vaccination hesitancy through panel sessions like Open Doors, volunteering at vaccination centres, engaging in a variety of community and charitable activities to alleviate the impact of the pandemic, to name a few.

The volunteers not only support the activities of the Trust but are also involved in similar voluntary contributions in other community organisations and the wider community in Swindon in general. The Trust formally records its immense gratitude and thanks to all the volunteers for devoting their time, efforts and support for the activities of the Trust.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total income for the financial year ending 31 March 2022 is £14,515.83. The Income is mainly generated by donations given to the Trust by its members and the general public. The Expenditure for the same period is £14,866.06. The main expenditure items include maintenance, utility charges, hall hire charges, bulk disposable cutlery, security at premises, Planning Application fees, equipment for COVID-related safeguards, fire-safety, broadband charges, insurance, bank fees, waste collection, website charges. Financial statement for the year 2021-2022 is submitted along with the Trustees Annual Report.

## RESERVES POLICY

The Trust's policy is to maintain unrestricted funds in the form of free reserves, at a level that equates to approximately 12 months of operational expenditure, to organise regular events/activities and to raise funds to facilitate the establishment of a permanent building or premises for Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre which can be used by community. The balance of reserves at the end of 31 March 2022 is £203,964.28.

**Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by**

Chairman

**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**  
**INCOME & EXPENSES FOR 2021-22**  
**(Registered Charity number : 1158603)**

|                                      | 2021-22            | 2020-21            |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents 1st April  | £204,314.51        | £198,675.91        |
| Income for the year                  | £14,515.83         | £8,895.72          |
| Total                                | <u>£218,830.34</u> | <u>£207,571.63</u> |
| Less: Expenses                       | <u>£14,866.06</u>  | <u>£3,257.12</u>   |
|                                      | £203,964.28        | £204,314.51        |
| Unaccounted                          | £203,964.28        | £204,314.51        |
| Cash in hand                         |                    |                    |
| Cash at Bank                         | £203,964.28        | £204,314.51        |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents 31st March | <u>£203,964.28</u> | <u>£204,314.51</u> |

**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158603

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# Accounts

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# Swindon Hindu Temple Trust

(Charity Registration Number: 1158603)

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their annual report and Financial Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial accounts have been prepared generally, in accordance with Accepted Accounting Practice.

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Charity Name:** Swindon Hindu Temple Trust

**Charity Registration Number:** 1158603

**Website:** [www.swindonhindutemple.com](http://www.swindonhindutemple.com)

**Email:** [swindonhindutemple@gmail.com](mailto:swindonhindutemple@gmail.com)

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank

### Board of Trustees

(who served during the year or up to the date of this report)

1. Mrs Neetu Bhardwaj
2. Mr Vinay Kumar
3. Mr Ram Thiagarajah
4. Mr Pradeep Bhardwaj
5. Mrs Nirupama Satish
6. Mr Suresha Gattapur

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Governing Document

Swindon Hindu Temple Trust is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charity Commission on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 under Charity Number 1158603. It is governed by a constitution/deed of trust last updated in Sep 2014.

### Organisational Structure

The Charity Trustees are responsible for the general control, management and governance of the Charity. The Trustees give their time, skills and services freely and receive no remuneration or financial benefits.

The Trustees meet together as a body on a regular basis and are responsible for all decisions taken in relation to running the Trust and the community facilities and activities provided by the charity.

## Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Seven (7) Trustees were appointed initially at the time of setting up the Trust in 2014. Currently there are six (6) Trustees. Appointment of Trustees was made taking into consideration their individuals' skills, expertise, variety of backgrounds, past contributions, commitment and availability to undertake the Trust's activities and duties. In selecting new trustees, we seek to identify people who have consistently demonstrated strategic leadership, vision & forward thinking, regularly contributed to the objectives of the Trust, attend events and functions organised by the charity and are willing to volunteer to help in our broader community work and main objectives of establishing and managing the Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon. New trustees are appointed only after they have successfully demonstrated their eligibility, personal competence, contributions, commitment, availability, specialist knowledge and skills over a period of time. No new trustees were appointed in the reporting period. There were no resignations in the reporting period.

## Induction and Training of Trustees

Following appointment, new Trustees are introduced to their role, the governing document, aims of the Trust, policies of the charity and the guidance from Charity Commission on charities and public benefit. This ensures that the new Trustees are aware of the scope of their responsibilities under the Charities Act. All Trustees are given induction training. The Trustees are also encouraged to undertake other training such as Basic First Aid Training.

## Risk Management

The Trustees regularly assess the risks the charity faces, the nature of those risks, the likelihood of the risks occurring, and measures taken to manage them. The Trustees are satisfied that systems/arrangements are in place to manage the risks identified.

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

### Aim

The aims of the charity are set out in the charity's deed of trust and summarised below:

To advance the Hindu faith in the Swindon area for the benefit of the public in particular through the holding of prayer meetings, lectures, public celebration of religious festivals.

To build and manage a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Swindon.

To provide facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public with the objective of improving the conditions of life for all residents of Swindon and the neighbourhood by the provision, maintenance and management of a community/cultural centre.

### Objectives

To promote Hindu Faith, its doctrines, its scriptures and practice Hindu beliefs through assembly, worship and discourse.

To establish, maintain and manage a Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre for religious, social, and cultural activities for the use of the public.

To offer facilities for religious functions and for performing religious rites (as per Hindu Faith) related to births, deaths and marriages for people of all faiths.

To provide a meeting place for Hindus and for others who are interested in Hinduism.

To advance traditional Hindu cultural activities, religious studies & performing arts.

To provide facilities for and actively co-ordinate social care, social interaction, friendship and goodwill among people in the wider community.

To form a charitable and educational organization to promote social, cultural, religious principles and practice.

To conduct educational programmes for children as well as adults based on Hindu values and traditions.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT

The objects of the Trust are the promotion of any charitable purposes for the benefit of all residents in the Borough of Swindon and any other exclusively charitable purposes which are in the opinion of the Trustees beneficial to the peoples of Swindon. The Trust offers facilities for religious, social and cultural activities for the use of the public and for thousands of Hindus in the region in particular who do not have any such facilities. Within a short period, the Trust has already made its presence felt within the wider community in several ways.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Trustees also confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The Trustees consider that these activities provide benefits both to those who attend prayers/religious events and the wider community of Swindon. Detailed information is provided in the Activities and Achievements sections in this Report about how activities of the Trust further the charity's purposes for the public benefit. The immediate identifiable benefits are (1) the value to those who regularly participate in the worship and other events of the charity and to the wider community of Swindon of the Trust's work, and (2) how the facilities provided by the Trust are made available to Hindus and the faith of Hinduism is communicated to non-Hindus through its work and that any member of the wider community of Swindon can benefit from the Trust's facilities, and social, cultural, community & charitable activities.

## STRATEGIES ADOPTED

In order to carry out day to day activities of the of the Trust, several volunteers are identified with specific skill-sets required for the various activities. Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre continues to serves as the focal point within the region for all matters related to the Hindu faith and population in respect of their religious, cultural, social, community and charitable aspirations and endeavours.

## ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, the Trust organised regular prayers, religious, social and community events, congregations and festivals at its own premises as well as many fundraising and charitable activities and provided free meals to the congregation at its events. Most of these events were well attended by people of all ages within the Hindu community. All the events organised by the Trust are free to attend for everyone.

The Trust has a significant online presence on website, email newsletter and social media like Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp.

The Trust has also established excellent communication channels with the local government, press & media, and charitable sector to further the main objectives as well as part of a wider community integration. The Trust has worked very hard in last few years and has left no stone unturned in highlighting and bringing attention to the urgent needs of the vast Hindu population in the region.

The following activities are currently being run/planned:

- Regular prayers (satsang, aarti, havan, paath)
- Religious ceremonies
- Religious rites related to births, deaths, marriages, grah-pravesh, etc.
- Religious festivals
- Narration of religious scriptures
- Prerna- Inspiration discourse by prominent speakers across the world
- Regular sessions for the elderly people
- Chess Club
- Language Classes- Kannada, Gujarati and Hindi
- Wellbeing:
  - Daily Yoga classes
  - Regular Meditation classes
  - Weekly activity for children focusing mental and physical well-being
  - Weekly elderly club
  - Monthly ladies club

## ACHIEVEMENTS

The Trust has accomplished several milestones in a short period. The Trust has a good visibility into the local community and the local government. The Trust has now truly become the focal point of contact within the region for all matters related to the Hindu faith and population. In addition to the regular congregations, the Trust has also organised celebration of several Hindu festivals and important community events. Also, since it is now the only Hindu Temple in this region, there is a huge demand for regular school visits from both schools within and outside the area which the Temple has been very actively hosting on a frequent basis. In addition, the Trust also takes huge pride in its proactive outreach to the other faiths to promote interfaith integration.

## EVENTS /FESTIVALS

The years 2020 and 2021 have been very different and difficult in more ways than one. The COVID-19 pandemic and as a result, the lockdown started in the country in March 2020, and since then the entire nation has been in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic through most part of the reporting period barring brief periods when the restrictions were lifted. Therefore, compared to the previous years, it was a very striking contrast this year in terms of the number of events we would organise. But still, we managed to organise a few events. And, the volunteers of the community went out of their way to help significantly in a variety of community and charitable activities to alleviate the impact of the pandemic.

On 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020, the very highly revered festival of Shri Krishna Janmashtami (birthday celebration of Lord Sri Krishna) was celebrated.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020, India Day (Independence Day of India) was celebrated with the hoisting of British and Indian flags and singing the national anthem.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020, we celebrated Ganesha Chaturthi, a popular form of God everyone worships.

From 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020, we celebrated Navaratri, a celebration of goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswathi, females forms of God, for nine nights. Celebration included puja and bhajan (devotional singing).

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Karwa Chouth festival was celebrated by married ladies in Temple.

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020, it was time for our Diwali celebrations, which was very difficult, as we organised traditional Diwali festivities, namely Chopda puja & Laxmi puja on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. On 15<sup>th</sup> Nov, we had to organise Diwali event was shifted to a Zoom only event, very well attended by host of dignitaries and devotees only.

During this year, we organised 3 Blood Donation Camps for the NHS – on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2020 and 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021. The Temple is a registered and certified venue for such camps and a very popular one for that matter. The Temple takes huge pride in such activities and its volunteers work with great enthusiasm to prepare the venue and provide excellent hospitality to our hardworking NHS staff and the donors.

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Maha Sivarathri was celebrated in the Temple in a curtailed way with Abhishekam to Lord Shiva, Archana and prayers. Bhajans (devotional songs) were sung at the event.

On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021, we organised Holika Dahan even in a curtailed way in the outside open car park area, keeping in mind the COVID restrictions.

## CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an important and valuable resource in both our faith and community work. While the Trustees provide overall leadership and strategic long-term oversight for the Trust, the day-to-day activities of the Trust are mainly managed and run by a team of enthusiastic volunteers who strongly believe in the cause and offer full support to the Trust. Swindon Hindu Temple Trust is well known in the entire area for its charitable work and activities and the strength of its volunteers. In fact, as the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result, the lockdown started in the country in March, the volunteers of Swindon Hindu Temple Trust were one of the very first in the country to start volunteering in different ways to help the elderly and the vulnerable in the society. The entire nation has been in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic through most part of the reporting period during which the volunteers of the community helped significantly in a variety of community and charitable activities to alleviate the impact of the pandemic.

There are several aspects/areas which are fully supported by the volunteers:

- Membership
- Website, Social Media
- Communication
- Public Relations
- Liaising with Local Government & officials
- Dealings with HMRC and other govt. bodies
- Bhajans, singers, musicians, equipment
- Dates, diaries, venues
- Setting up venue
- Clearing & cleaning up the venue after the event
- Setting up PA system & equipment
- Managing Parking
- Decoration of the Centre
- Organising priests and coordination
- Preeti bhoj meals (logistics, cooking, coordination).

The volunteers not only support the activities of the Trust but are also involved in similar voluntary contributions in other community organisations and the wider community in Swindon in general.

The Trust formally records its immense gratitude and thanks to all the volunteers for devoting their time, efforts and support for the activities of the Trust.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Total income for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 is £8,895.72. The Income is mainly generated by donations given to the Trust by its members and the general public. The Expenditure for the same period is £3,257.12. The main expenditure items include refurbishment and Maintenance, utility charges, broadband charges, insurance, bank fees, waste collection, website charges and for organising religious events, congregations, festivals,

providing free meals to the congregation. Financial statement for the year 2020-2021 is submitted along with the Trustees Annual Report.

### **RESERVES POLICY**

The Trust's policy is to maintain unrestricted funds in the form of free reserves, at a level that equates to approximately 12 months of operational expenditure, to organise regular events/activities and to raise funds to facilitate the establishment of a permanent building or premises for Swindon Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre which can be used by community. The balance of reserves at the end of 31 March 2021 is £204,314.51.

**Approved by the Trustees and signed on its behalf by**

Chairman

**SWINDON HINDU TEMPLE TRUST**  
**(Registered Charity number : 1158603)**  
**INCOME & EXPENSES FOR 2020-21**

|                                      | 2020-21            | 2019-20            |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents 1st April  | £198,675.91        | £146,261.63        |
| Income for the year                  | £8,895.72          | £91,452.45         |
| Total                                | <u>£207,571.63</u> | <u>£237,714.08</u> |
| Less: Expenses                       | <u>£3,257.12</u>   | <u>£39,038.17</u>  |
|                                      | £204,314.51        | £198,675.91        |
| Unaccounted                          |                    |                    |
|                                      | £204,314.51        | £198,675.91        |
| Cash in hand                         |                    |                    |
| Cash at Bank                         | £204,314.51        | £198,675.91        |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents 31st March | <u>£204,314.51</u> | <u>£198,675.91</u> |