



How Religious Communities Locally Responded to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Name of Religious Tradition: Hinduism

Location: Coventry

Place of Worship: Coventry Hindu Temples

During the Pandemic, the main changes to our ways of worshipping:

We Hindus have lot of diversity...

- But in this diversity, there is unity...Why?
- Because we have so many gods & goddesses. India has 28 states and 6 Union territories.
- Each one has different beliefs, rituals, language, culture, eating habits, dresses etc.
- Every Hindu connects to their respective God or GURU who leads them to their God. This is Yog.
- But all Hindus are governed by SANATAN DHARMA = SATYA (TRUTHFULNESS), PREM (LOVE), AHINSA (NON VIOLENCE), KARUNA (HUMILITY) & SEWA (SERVE THE NEEDY).
- Every Hindu has a small personal temple (MANDIR) in their house and a main temple in their city/town for joint rituals.
- So, during the Pandemic, when there was a lockdown of all places of worship, all Hindus have been doing daily religious YOG in their homes.
- In Coventry on our main religious days, the rituals are broadcasted virtually via many social platforms. People are connected to the Hindu community via Whatsapp , Facebook, Twitter etc.

During the Pandemic, the ways in which our religious community reached out to the local community:

Coventry SACRE & Warwickshire SACRE

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- We have Coventry SEWA TEAM who delivered goods to meet the needs (e.g. food & other essentials) to the elderly, vulnerable and single parents etc.
- We have five Hindu Temples in Coventry and each have their own communication social media groups and have supported the bereaved, lonely and depressed during these testing times.
- We have also encouraged businesses in what they can claim from the government and local councils during lockdown.
- We have encouraged all to have the Covid-19 vaccination as we feel this is the only weapon we have to fight this virus.
- We have been conducting virtual sessions for exercise and yoga in efforts to increase the Immunity of local Hindus as this virus appears to affect the Black and ethnic minority communities the most.
- Lastly, we conducted Zoom meetings to encourage all to participate in the forthcoming census.