

Sri Sathya Sai Centre Pinner – Celebrates 50th Anniversary





In 1968, during his visit to Puttaparthi Sri Sitaram was instructed by our beloved Swami to start a Sai Centre in the UK.

Initially Sri Sitaram held regular bhajans at his home in Cuckoo Hill Road, Pinner. On Ram Navami Day in 1969 Pinner Sai Centre was formally inaugurated. The Centre held activities at The Conservative Hall, Village way, Rayners Lane. Being the first Sai Centre in the UK, it flourished with devotees from all over London participating in Centre activities.

Couple of years later “Bal Vikas” (SSE) classes were started with Sri Sitaram one of the gurus. A number of children who attended Bal Vikas at the time are now parents of children currently attending SSE. I was one of the early Bal Vikas gurus at the Centre.

The Centre was well settled in Village Way. However, after nearly 20 years had to move as the hall was no longer available. The Centre had to move a few times before settling in one location for a long period once again:

- 1989 – 1991 Queensbury Methodist Church
- 1991 – 1993 Haydon Hall, Northwood Hills
- 1993 – 1997 Bishop Ramsey School, Ruislip
- 1997 – July 2017 Whitmore High School, Harrow

Since August 2017 the Centre is located at West Lodge Primary School, Pinner, HA5 1AF. After 50 years it is now once again close to its inaugural location in Cuckoo Hill Road, Pinner.

Anniversary program was held on 13th April 2019 at Oxhey Wood Primary School, Bushey. It was well attended and included past chairpersons and committee members of the Centre. A number are no longer with us in physical form but they were present in spirit. Without their love for our Swami and commitment, resilience and dedication the Centre could not have flourished.



The celebrations started with an uplifting and energising bhajan session with singers from the Centre, Region 2 and National level, followed by a welcome speech by Mrs Renu Vaid, current SSSCP Chair.

The packed program included:

- TALK BY MR PURI - Mr Puri, one of the founder members of the Centre and one of the first trustees of the Sathya Sai Trust UK gave a glimpse on the early days of Pinner Sai Centre as it was known then.



- MUSICAL PERFORMANCE by BRO AKILESH SRIKUMAR and party.



- TALK BY MRS SANGHVI, one the pioneers of “Ladies Wing” in the Centre and supporting the Centre activities with a number of other ladies. These ladies are now in their 80's.



- SWAMI'S LETTER to Sri Sitaram

On 4th May 1973 Swami wrote a letter to Sitaramavya as Sri Sitaram was affectionately addressed by Baba. The letter was sent with Padamanbhan who was to tour Europe and States. In the letter Swami touched on many spiritual points and enquired about the Centre and said "I believe that our Sai Organisations there are working satisfactorily". The letter was read by Bro Mayur, an SSE student at the Centre in his younger days. The letter can be found on Pinner Sai Centre Website.



- TALK BY KRISHAN KAUL, a former Chair of SSSCP and a member of the UK Sai Organisation in its early formative years.



- DANCES BY SSE Children



- TALK BY LORD GADHIA

Jitesh Gadhia as a young boy attended Balvikas at the Centre in the early 1970's. He spoke about his days in the SSE and how the teachings and values learned then are still with him and helping him in his life.



- VIDEO CLIP & CAKE CUTTING

Anniversary cake was cut by ladies who have been with the Centre from the very beginning and are now in their 80+ years.



- VOTE OF THANKS BY MR CHANDU RUNGANI, a former Centre and Region 2 Chair.



The finale was a 15 minute Medley ending with Swami singing a bhajan.



The program closed at 5 pm with Aarathi offering to Swami. Prasadam was distributed to all the attendees on leaving the venue.

The audio of the program including talks and photos can be accessed via the following links:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tiqggj8kkwygkfc/AADL3_zlMflut_2mHUmtACUa?dl=0

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/13okB0vH1ezLckeSmR-jmrmULMVEILC57>

Jai Sai Ram