

One Voice Event

~ Bhavisha Tailor

Sahebji

reminded devotees in the UK, that when Shastriji Maharaj built temples, he had nothing, but he would have the garbhagruh constructed, install the murtis, and then tell Shri Thakorji that the rest was up to him to complete! Sahebji told devotees, 'first let Shri Thakorji take his seat, then He will make everything else happen.' In tune with Guruvarya Param Pujya Sahebji's vision, a wonderful event happened at Anoopam Mission UK on Saturday 12 December.



At the beginning of November, a young lady approached Anoopam

Mission UK, with a proposal and the possibility of using the new Anoopam Mission mandir for an event. The young lady was Harriet Tadikonda, a Flight Lieutenant in the British Royal Air Force; herself a Sufi, married to Kranthi Tadikonda, a Hindu.

While in a war zone, she had both a realization and an inspiration to bring different faiths together. She therefore went ahead, to bring servicemen and women of different faiths from within the Armed Forces to sing and record a piece of music, to send out a strong message of peace, co-operation and harmony between all of us. In a mammoth effort, she herself wrote and composed the piece of music titled, 'One Voice – A Path to Peace'. The idea itself caught the attention of BBC's Radio 4, and they followed the story. Additionally, a production team also filmed the whole process, to produce a documentary.

While the piece was music was to be released onto iTunes in time for Christmas, none of the people from the various faiths that had come together to sing and produce this had actually heard it yet. To launch this music and have it played and heard for the very first time, Harriet said she could have arranged a conference room at the Ministry of Defence or a hall, but she did not want to do that. For something like this, she was looking for a deeply spiritual space.

When she first entered the Anoopam Mission mandir a few months ago, like everyone else, she felt the aura of complete peacefulness that pervaded not only the mandir, but the entire surroundings. Nobody knew her, or what she was looking for, but in the way that Sahebji has inculcated within devotees; one

such devotee welcomed her and showed her the mandir. The love, warmth and friendliness touched her, and she knew that this was the perfect place.

She approached AMUK and spoke of her vision to hold the launch of this music here, invite the servicemen and women, as well as all the choirs that took part, and show part of the documentary. P. Swami, P. Satishbhai and the trustees agreed to this initiative, and so on Saturday 12 December, everyone gathered, and the atmosphere of so many devotees of so many different faiths, together, itself created a powerful vibration.

AMUK was honoured to receive Group Captain P.R. Sanger-Davies (Group Captain of Recruitment and Selection, RAF), Lord Dolar Popat and local Counsellor Roger Reed, members from the local church in Denham amongst many other community members.

The event began beautifully with the live blessings of Guruvarya Param Pujya Sahebji, and everyone was fortunate to have his darshan. G.P.P. Sahebji congratulated Harriet and everyone involved on such a wonderful initiative and expressed how happy Anoopam Mission is to be hosting this event. He said that, 'Our Guru, Yogiji Maharaj used to say that although our paths are many, we are one – and that true faith expresses itself in man becoming truly human. To live in faith and be truly human means to live a life of compassion, of love, kindness and giving.'

Harriet expressed her thanks to Anoopam Mission for hosting the entire event, and this was followed by speeches from Chris Mann and Thelma Stober (a survivor of the 7/7 bombings in London). This was followed by Lord Dolar Popat's inspiring address, and after this the CD was finally released, and everyone listened to the powerful piece of music. Pujya Satishbhai concluded the event, speaking beautifully of Guruvarya Sahebji's vision, the new mandir and thanking everyone for attending. Mahaprashad lunch was then served, and following this, the crew continued final filming for the documentary, on the grounds of Anoopam Mission.

