

JANUARY 2025

ISSUE 01



# ISKCON LONDON

THE SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY OF BHAKTI YOGA



BOOKS ARE THE BASIS





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# WELCOME TO ISKCON LONDON

DAYAL MORA DAS

*Temple President, ISKCON LONDON*

We all have busy lives, especially these days after the introduction of so many social media devices. It's easier than ever before in history to get distracted and forget the purpose of human life. Srila Prabhupada writes in the purport to Text 2 of Nectar of Instruction:

*..we have established the International Society for Krishna Consciousness to give people an opportunity to associate with those who have not forgotten Kṛṣṇa. This spiritual association offered by our ISKCON movement is increasing day by day. Many people from different parts of the world are joining this Society to awaken their dormant Kṛṣṇa consciousness.*



The devotees of Krishna are not ordinary people. I've been fortunate enough to observe many great devotees over the years and have developed a deep admiration for their commitment, determination and devotion in the most trying of circumstances.

To dedicate one's lifetime to following the

rules and regulations given by Rupa Goswami whilst maintaining a mood of inoffensive selfless service is nothing short of a heroic stand against the forces of darkness in a disturbing and turbulent world!

But despite holding the undisputed status of 'spiritual warriors' on the battlefield of



material existence, the devotees constantly display a kaleidoscope of saintly qualities such as humility, pridelessness, tolerance and simplicity. Being non-envious, they serve together with love and respect, minds always focussed upon the pleasure of the all powerful Supreme Personality of Godhead, Sri Krishna, the great dancer of Vrindavan.

For just a drop of nectar from the lotus feet of that most beautiful cowherd boy, the devotees perform superhuman activities which situate them on the transcendental platform, untouched by the three modes of material nature:

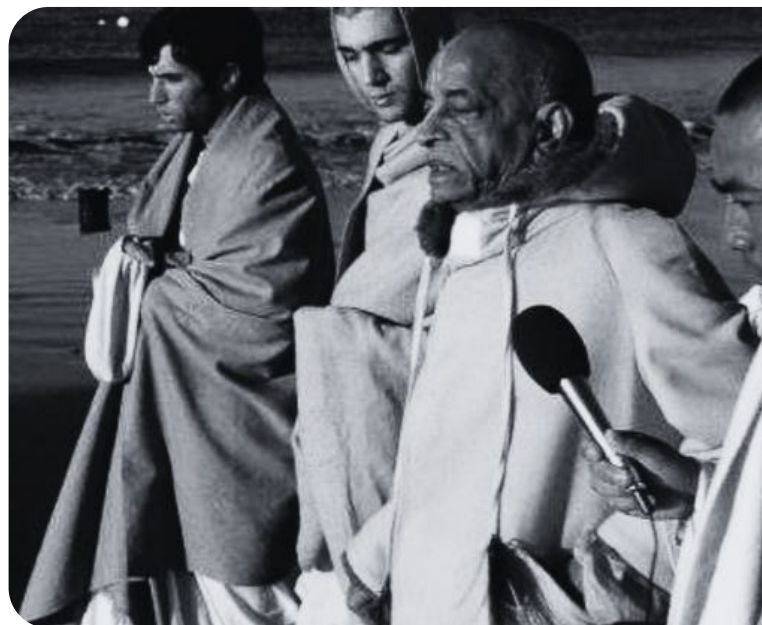
***mām ca yo 'vyabhicāreṇa  
bhakti-yogena sevate  
sa guṇān samatīyaitān  
brahma-bhūyāya kalpate***

One who engages in full devotional service, unfailing in all circumstances, at once transcends the modes of material nature and thus comes to the level of Brahman.

(BG 14.26)



Having been tricked by the butter thief of Vraja and having subsequently taken shelter at the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada, I have tried my best over the years to become a servant of those devotees, to learn from them and imbibe their good qualities.



As you turn the pages, please take the opportunity to relish the spirit of service of those who have given themselves to bringing about a revolution in the impious lives of a misdirected civilisation. Just by appreciating the fearless devotees, great service is done. Spread the good news, O brothers and sisters; encourage and contribute in whatever way that inspires you. Let's make this world a better place together under the smiling watchful gaze of Radha and Govinda.

***Hare Krishna!***

*Your servant  
Dayal Mora Das*





## PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

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With the blessings of all the devotees of ISKCON London we would like to present our new-look Radha-Krishna Temple newsletter for your perusal. For us collectively, it's an opportunity to spread the glories of the devotees in an age where bad news travels fast but good news is hard to find.

It's also a humble attempt to further galvanise our loyal community, inspire and encourage devotees to participate and support us, and drive away the shroud of mystery that sometimes appears to hang over an organisation when news isn't shared regularly.

Focusing on different departments of the temple each month, we intend to bring you in-depth coverage of our activities, opportunities to meet the people involved, and a vision of where we are heading.

We are offering this as a completely free service and are very much open to ideas and feedback from the devotees on how to develop and improve this newsletter.

We are looking forward to us getting to know one another better and hope that you will appreciate and enjoy these regular updates.

**Happy reading!**

*Your servants,  
ISKCON London Media Team*







## SRI SRI RADHA LONDONISVARA'S 55th Anniversary

In early December, ISKCON London celebrated the most auspicious 55th Anniversary of the Installation of Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Londonisvara. It was a special day, filled with divine darshans, including an additional special darshan at 4.15pm, as well as harinam and kirtan. There were inspiring themed classes given by Srila Prabhupada disciples HH Mahavishnu Swami and HG Tribhangananda das.

After the sumptuous afternoon feast, many devotees availed of a wonderful opportunity to participate in an early evening auction to receive the Deities' outfits. The main event in the evening was the breathtakingly beautiful bathing of Their Lordships with petals from over fifteen thousand flowers.

The anniversary was celebrated on Friday 6 December because it was when Odana Sasthi, the festival in the lunar calendar marking the beginning of winter, fell in 2024. The equivalent date 55 years ago in 1969, 14 December, was when Their Lordships were installed by Srila Prabhupada.





This event marked a historic moment, as it was the first time Radha-Krishna deities were formally worshipped in the West. It was also a groundbreaking moment in the spreading of Krishna consciousness all over the world.

In 1969, Srila Prabhupada told his early disciples that Sri Sri Radha-Londonisvara would bring them close to Vrindavan.

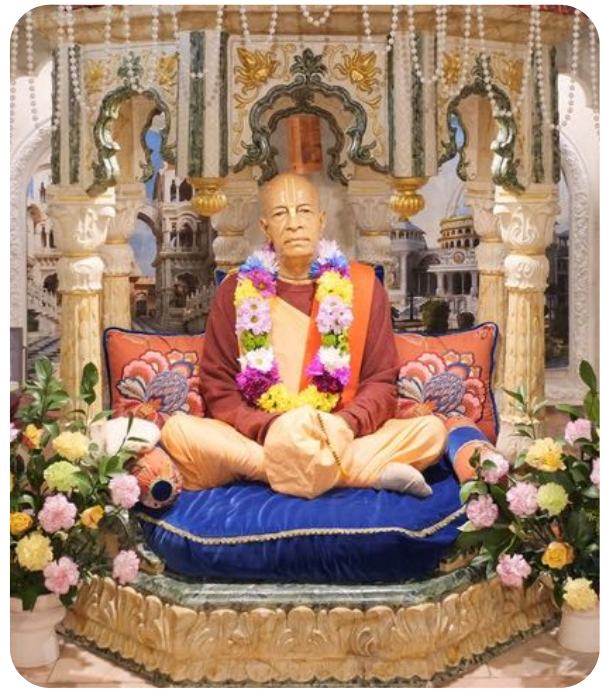
The original founders of ISKCON in the UK had travelled from the US to be pioneers in London at the request of Srila Prabhupada in 1968.

They worked selflessly in unfamiliar conditions to fulfil Srila Prabhupada's desire for a temple with presiding Deities in London, and in this undertaking they depended on the invaluable help of Beatles member George Harrison.

There were various classes on the theme of the 55th anniversary in the buildup to the actual day. One point that stood out was from Mahavishnu Swami based on a Srila Prabhupada lecture in Hyderabad in 1976. He explained that because the pastimes of Krishna are eternal, in some universe the installation of Sri Sri Radha-Londonisvara is going on as we speak.

On the 2024 festival day, devotees came together to lovingly serve Their Lordships by removing petals from thousands of flowers to prepare for the flower petal bathing ceremony.

The special late afternoon darshan featured Sri Londonisvara in yellow and Srimati Radharani in a delicate light pink outfit. There were intricately sewn flower designs on the borders of both outfits.



The appropriately-named HG Radha-Londonisvara das happily led a rip-roaring kirtan during the colourful flower petal bathing ceremony. A vibrant scene was created by the strewn petals of many different shades, including pink, velvet, yellow and white.

The night time darshan included artistically placed flower garlands on top of soft pink winter shawls for Their Lordships. The outfits had a delicate white theme, which was particularly elegant and striking on Srimati Radharani's wavy gown.

One delighted pilgrim quoted a saint:

*"A tilted crown rests on His head  
placed with such grace;  
Compassion is showering from His eyes  
filled with mercy;  
I have been sold without a price  
since He gazed upon me;  
The Lord of Vrindavan, Shri Bihari,  
is being adorned with flowers."*

# Prabhupada Vani

*The following text is an extract from a Morning Walk  
with Srila Prabhupada At Cheviot Hills Golf Course  
May 15, 1973, Los Angeles*

**Svarūpa Dāmodara:** So those trees which bear nice fruits and nice flowers, they are...

**Prabhupāda:** Yes, they are pious, pious trees. Otherwise why I am taking care of this leaf? Because the flower is there. And who cares for this leaf? Trampling down. As in the human society, there is first-class man, second-class man, third-class man, similarly in every field, first-class, animal also.

**Svarūpa Dāmodara:** Cows.

**Prabhupāda:** Yes. Useful, giving milk. Most humble, useful. Even after death it is useful. And they are so rascal, they are taking care of the dog, not of the cow. Just see how they are rascals. And they are advanced, civilized. They do not know what is meant by civilization. Now, according to Vedic scripture, cow killing is sinful. It is never written, dog killing is sinful. Generally, any animal you kill, that is sinful. But especially cow killing is sinful. Go-hatya. Go-hatya. And that cow killing is going on by the Christian world, and still, they are religious. What kind of religion? Christian religion says generally, "Thou shalt not kill." All... And especially they are killing cows. Generally killing and especially killing. First thing is why they shall kill at all? In America, oh, they have got sufficient food. So much

rice, so much wheat, so much oats, fruits, grains and butter and ghee. So why they shall kill? What is the reason?

**Umāpati:** Uncontrollable tongue.

**Prabhupāda:** Yes. Now what is that bird who is killed in Christmas?

**Devotees:** Turkey.

**Prabhupāda:** Turkey, you see. Now, Christmas, God's Christmas, Jesus Christ. He said, "Thou shalt not kill." But his birthday is observed by killing, killing, killing, killing, killing, killing.

**Paramahaṁsa:** And ham. Ham is also cow, isn't it?

**Karandhara:** Pig.

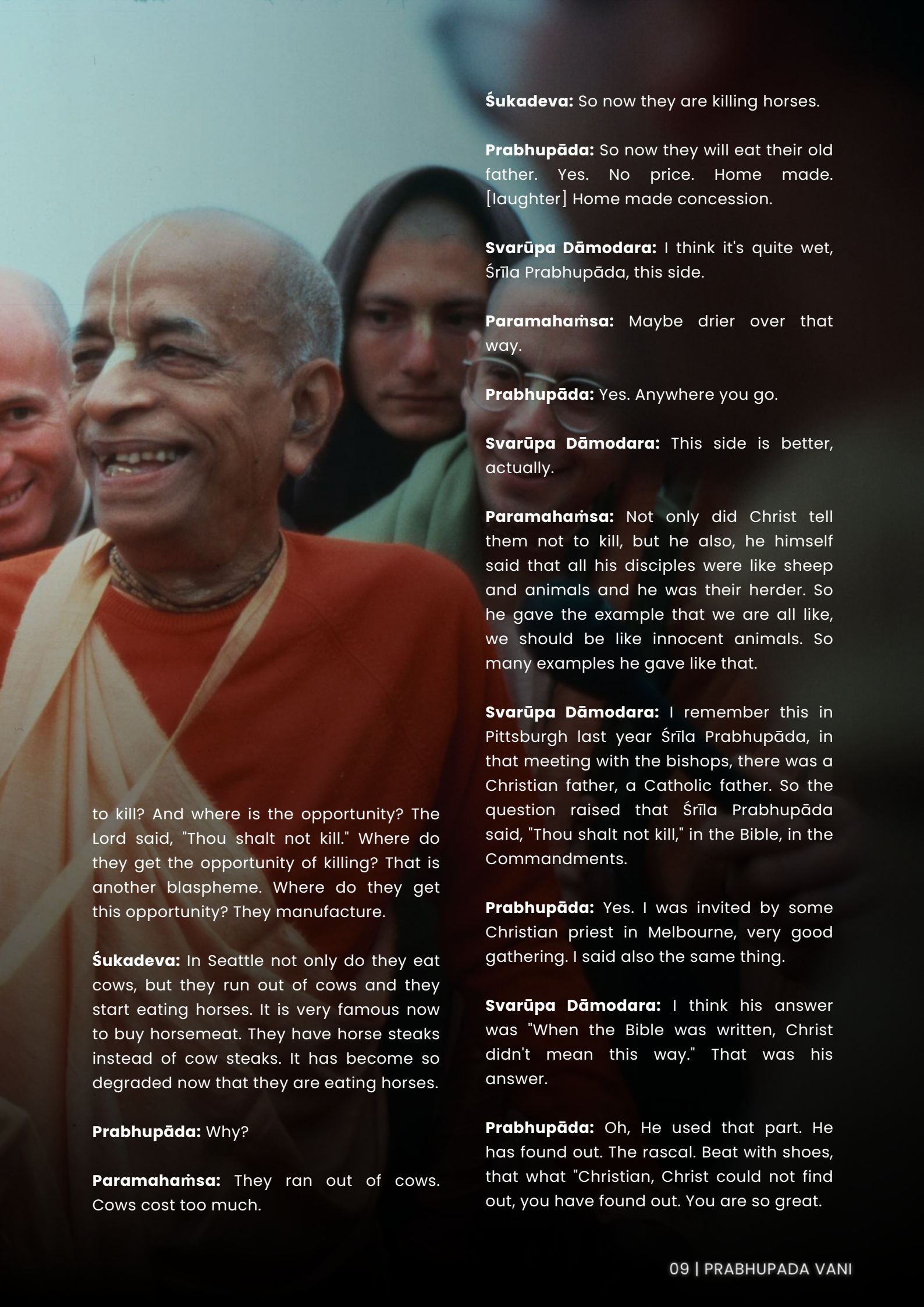
**Paramahaṁsa:** Pig. Pig and turkey they have.

**Kṛṣṇa-kāntī:** Actually, they kill the turkey on Thanksgiving, which is the day that they acknowledge and give thanks to the Lord.

**Umāpati:** For this great country.

**Prabhupāda:** For giving them opportunity





to kill? And where is the opportunity? The Lord said, "Thou shalt not kill." Where do they get the opportunity of killing? That is another blaspheme. Where do they get this opportunity? They manufacture.

**Śukadeva:** In Seattle not only do they eat cows, but they run out of cows and they start eating horses. It is very famous now to buy horsemeat. They have horse steaks instead of cow steaks. It has become so degraded now that they are eating horses.

**Prabhupāda:** Why?

**Paramahaṁsa:** They ran out of cows. Cows cost too much.

**Śukadeva:** So now they are killing horses.

**Prabhupāda:** So now they will eat their old father. Yes. No price. Home made. [laughter] Home made concession.

**Svarūpa Dāmodara:** I think it's quite wet, Śrīla Prabhupāda, this side.

**Paramahaṁsa:** Maybe drier over that way.

**Prabhupāda:** Yes. Anywhere you go.

**Svarūpa Dāmodara:** This side is better, actually.

**Paramahaṁsa:** Not only did Christ tell them not to kill, but he also, he himself said that all his disciples were like sheep and animals and he was their herder. So he gave the example that we are all like, we should be like innocent animals. So many examples he gave like that.

**Svarūpa Dāmodara:** I remember this in Pittsburgh last year Śrīla Prabhupāda, in that meeting with the bishops, there was a Christian father, a Catholic father. So the question raised that Śrīla Prabhupāda said, "Thou shalt not kill," in the Bible, in the Commandments.

**Prabhupāda:** Yes. I was invited by some Christian priest in Melbourne, very good gathering. I said also the same thing.

**Svarūpa Dāmodara:** I think his answer was "When the Bible was written, Christ didn't mean this way." That was his answer.

**Prabhupāda:** Oh, He used that part. He has found out. The rascal. Beat with shoes, that what "Christian, Christ could not find out, you have found out. You are so great.

Thank you very much. You are more intelligent than Christ. Oh. So why Bible. Why not write your Bible? Let us follow."

**Paramahansa:** Generally there are now something like 451 different translations. Just like the Gītā. They interpret in so many ways.

**Prabhupāda:** No Gītā, or... Many translations, but the original Gītā is perfect.

# SRILA PRABHUPADA'S BOOK DISTRIBUTION MARATHON 2024



The marathon took place from 29 November to 24 December, with the theme of Team 508, aiming to inspire 508 devotees to go out and try distributing at least one book during the marathon in the service of Srila Prabhupada's divine mission. Indeed, hundreds of devotees took up the challenge and partook of the exciting adventure of book distribution.

This team-based endeavour was inspired by none other than Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, who beautifully said, "I am the only gardener. If I do not distribute these fruits, what shall I do with them? How many fruits can I alone eat?"



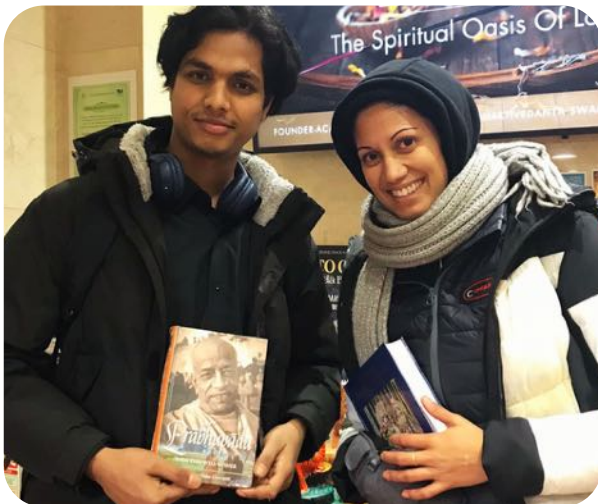
Thus devotees tried to channel the selfless compassion of Mahaprabhu and His realisation that the task of delivering the fruits of devotion is so vast that it requires the collective effort of all His followers.

This annual marathon has a rich history originating over half a century ago. On December 22, 1972, devotees in Los Angeles noticed that stores in the area were staying open until midnight, and still attracting fervent Christmas shoppers intent on spending their money. Why not give them spiritual gifts? Devotees began to distribute books and magazines in a spirit of healthy competition, vying for prizes the leaders had set for them.

***Some inspiring messages from our dexterous book distributors sharing their experiences***



From the Chelmsford Gauranga Book Distribution Team, Urvashi Mataji related, "When the marathon started, we were wondering: how will we actually distribute books? From the first day, however, I realised that, as we pray and go out, people are ready to receive mercy. Srila Prabhupada bestows his mercy and makes it all easy. We just need to take the first step by going out. Once we are out, whatever the time or weather, nothing affects us, because Srila Prabhupada's Book Distribution just lifts everyone to the transcendental platform."



**Jhulan Lila dd:** "Sajit from Nepal was stopped by devotees there many years ago. Surprised to see the Bhagavad-gita on a table today in Dean Street, he stopped and told me that he always wanted to go to an ISKCON temple. He came to the temple, took an English Gita and Srila Prabhupada's book at the end of the visit."



**Vanamalini dd:** "Toyah from Jamaica saw the Gita page with the 'changing bodies' image, and she suddenly shared her own previous realisations about how our bodies are 'just vessels' for our soul inside. She happily took a Gita."

**Aarti:** "I had the opportunity to give a Bhagavad-gita to a lovely lady at my local Tesco. When I returned today for my shopping, I was pleasantly surprised to see her searching for me, clearly feeling overwhelmed with joy."

**Dhirodatta das:** Dhirodatta's infinite compassion will save the whole world! This homeless person just received some mercy from the devotees! Soon after this interaction, a fellow distributor met some Indian people, urging them to take some Bhagavad-gitas. The homeless gentleman sponsored a Gita for them. Dhirodatta's compassion transformed him to such an extent that he decided to participate in book distribution himself!





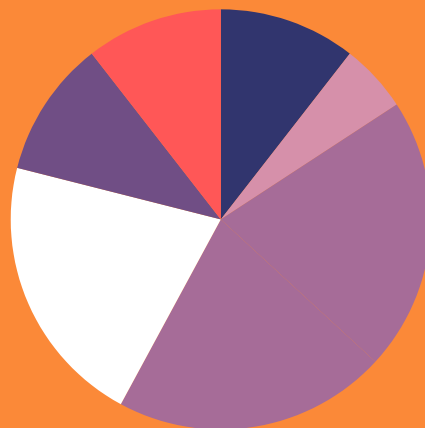


**Pari:** "As soon as Sai saw us, he opened the door and took Srila Prabhupada's books and was so enthusiastic! He was so ecstatic, he went back to his house for a minute and came back ready to distribute books with us! He's agreed to come to house programmes and even took beads so he can chant every day. What an amazing soul!"



**Caterina:** "I have an incredible story to tell you. Last night, I was still working in the restaurant. It was very late, when a boy saw the book stand. He looked at the books and asked me: 'Who is Krishna? I have a friend with the same name: Krishna. This evening I have constantly been thinking of calling my friend Krishna on the phone. Can you tell me who this particular Krishna is please? I want to know.' I said, 'Oh yes, Krishna is the Supreme God. These are beautiful books. If you read them, they will change your life. The Bhagavad-gita contains Krishna's words and is the oldest book in the world.' He then took a Gita, held it close to himself and went away happy!"

## 2024 MARATHON SCORE



**441 DEVOTEES DISTRIBUTED 28,643 BOOKS**  
**BOOK POINTS OF 43,368**  
**TOTAL LAXMI £1,61,007**

- 10 BHAGAVATAM SETS
- 5 CHAITANYA CARITAMRITA SETS
- 18,675 MAHA-BIG BOOKS
- 1,684 BIG BOOKS
- 4,229 MEDIUM BOOKS
- 3,936 SMALL BOOKS
- 104 ARABIC BOOKS

**Vishnu Jagatpalaka das:** "I met this nice delivery person today. He shared his story of how he was ridiculed for not knowing proper English by customers who received food orders from him.

He asked if he could take an English Bhagavad-gita and learn English while reading about Krishna. He took a Gita as well as a set of another five books to read in order to get some in-depth knowledge. He left with a smile and a generous donation!"









# Devotee Journeys

In Krishna consciousness, serving others with love and devotion reflects the spirit of seva. As Srila Prabhupada said, "Devotional service is not a matter of sentiment; it is a practical engagement." Google Reviews, in this light, become a tool for expressing how well Govinda's fulfills its dharma of hospitality, sharing Krishna's mercy through prasadam (sanctified food) with excellence. These reviews build trust, influence choices, and increase visibility, enabling more souls to experience Krishna's love in the form of food and service.

Since their introduction in 2007, Google Reviews have become vital for restaurants. By January 2022, however, we had only gathered 1,320 reviews with a 4.2-star rating. In mid-2022, I met Naveen Prabhu, who humbly washed pots every weekend as part of his seva. Recognizing his skill sets, I encouraged him to assist Govinda's in IT and marketing, amplifying this offering to the Lord and His devotees. While we began tracking reviews, we initially struggled to gather even one review per day.

Krishna's plan unfolded when Kathiravan Prabhu joined as restaurant manager in December 2022. With his innovative spirit, he introduced techniques like QR codes, dedicated guest-greeter roles, regular feedback sessions for staff devotees and many more. His efforts elevated our

process, yielding an average of 12 reviews daily and improving our rating to 4.6 out of 5.

Inspired by the Bhagavad Gita's instruction to act with devotion and excellence (yogah karmasu kaushalam), we focused on refining every aspect of our service, from kitchen operations to guest care. Exceptional devotees like Praveen and Hridoy Prabhu embraced the role of guest-greeters, sometimes gathering up to seventy reviews in a single day. Through their efforts and Krishna's mercy, we surpassed 17,500 reviews with a remarkable 4.8-star rating. Among UK restaurants, only two hold such a high rating with a substantial review count, and we are honored to be ranked second.



**His Grace Thirupati Gauranga Das**  
(Govinda's Restaurant Manager)





# Govinda's UPDATE

In November, we introduced incentives for staff devotees to achieve thirty five-star reviews in a single day—a feat we've joyfully accomplished three times so far. By aligning our efforts with Krishna's teachings and offering every action as service, Govinda's continues to thrive as a beacon of prasadam distribution and devotional hospitality. This is evident from several guests who leave positive reviews about their experience in visiting Govinda's. As Srila Prabhupada says "Prasadam is the mercy of the Lord; when we take prasadam, we are directly connecting with Krishna's divine energy. It is not just food, but a means to purify our hearts and minds."

By serving prasadam to over 700 guests



daily, we aim to further utilize the thousands of positive reviews as a means to attract even more souls to the restaurant while guiding them toward the temple upstairs. In my journey, I have witnessed how prasadam serves as a divine gateway, transforming casual visitors into dedicated devotees. Scott Prabhu is a beautiful example—initially drawn to Govinda's while searching for vegan food, he has since devoted the last 30 years to selfless service in Govinda's kitchen, exemplifying the transformative power of Krishna's mercy through prasadam.

I want to sincerely thank all the staff and volunteers who have made all these achievements possible.

*Your sincere servant,  
Thirupati Gauranga das*







## CELEBRATING THE SONG OF GOD

# GITA JAYANTI

On December 11, ISKCON London celebrated Gita Jayanti, the anniversary of the day when the Bhagavad-gita was spoken by Lord Krishna to His best friend Arjuna on the battlefield of Kurukshetra more than five thousand years ago. This momentous occasion marked the birth of one of the most important and revered scriptures in Vaishnava philosophy, which forms the foundation of the practice of Bhakti Yoga, devotional service to Lord Sri Krishna.

The Bhagavad-gita is a sacred text and is considered a summary of all ancient Vedic philosophical texts. The Bhagavad-gita literally means "The Lord's Song" and is meant for the whole world's benefit. Devotees gathered together in the temple room after lunch to recite all 700 verses together in Sanskrit and English, enabling them all to remember that sacred

conversation between Krishna and His dear devotee Arjuna. The recitation was facilitated by Srila Prabhupada disciple HG Tribhangananda das, as well as HG Tripada das and HG Saci Kumar Nimai das.

Bhagavad Gita is organised into 18 chapters and contains 700 verses. The Gita can also be divided into three sections (6 chapters each):

- Section 1: Karma Yoga
- Section 2: Bhakti Yoga
- Section 3: Jnana Yoga

The word "yoga" is nowadays associated with stretching postures and exercises, yet its true meaning is "the process of linking". Specifically, it refers to the process of linking our activities to the Supreme Person, God.





The daily reading of Bhagavad Gita together with chanting the Hare Krishna mantra can bring about rapid spiritual advancement for any person.

Out of numerous translations of the Gita, "Bhagavad Gita As It Is" shines foremost as it brings to bear the purity and competence of its author and offers answers carefully preserved by a chain of teachers which can be traced back to Lord Sri Krishna.

"Bhagavad Gita As It Is" consists of Sanskrit verses together with translations and purports by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Within the pages of the Gita, the workings of karma, reincarnation and yoga are to be found, as instructed by Lord Krishna to Arjuna.

Linking Gita Jayanti with the book marathon, the devotees distributed a thousand Bhagavad-gitas in twenty-four hours on the last Sunday of the December marathon; this was something that had previously never been done before!



Visitors to ISKCON London may have noticed a softly spoken elderly lady, Mother Sarada, greeting them and offering them the opportunity to buy Srila Prabhupada's books or sponsor them to be given to others. Well, the incredibly dedicated Sarada marked Gita Jayanti by distributing 900 Bhagavad-gitas!





# LADIES' LABOUR OF LOVE

## FOR THEIR LONDON LORDSHIPS

HG Guru Carana Padma Dasi, disciple of Srila Prabhupada, recently related to the ISKCON London community the vital importance of the innovative Ladies' Book Distribution Team and how they funded the Soho Street building payments in the 1980s.

Before Guru Carana Padma came to the UK, she had been serving in the United States. "In 1979, I came by plane, took the tube to Leicester Square and walked to Soho Street," she remembers. "Sri Sri Radha-Londonisvara were here and I took shelter at Their lotus feet. It was a big journey for me coming across the ocean. It was a difficult decision to leave such a beautiful Krishna conscious team in Chicago under the guardianship of Sri Sri Kishor-Kishori [the Deities residing at the Chicago temple] and come here to London.

"The Soho Street temple at that time was under construction, it wasn't as it is today, but Their Lordships were here. The Ladies' Sankirtan House was in Clapham, where we would live. Every morning at 3.30am we would drive here to Soho Street. We'd have a knees-up, really enthusiastic morning programme!

"We would then go out and disperse to spread the web of Lord Caitanya's love to all the famous London spots, trying to catch everyone in it. It was a lot of fun.



Her Grace Guru Carana Padma Dasi

”

“They were probably the *best days of my life*. We knew how to distribute books in every language, because London is of course the city of tourists.



"One of my spots was Oxford Street, and we had spots such as Leicester Square, the Houses of Parliament and Madame Tussauds. We'd take our boxes of books and get shopkeepers to hold them for us."

In a separate discussion with the newsletter team, Guru Carana Padma was joined by the Head of the Ladies Sankirtan Party, HG Kamadhuk devi dasi, who managed the team of fifteen ladies for two years prior to Guru Carana Padma's arrival to the UK. Guru Carana Padma recalls, "Kamadhuk Prabhu saw to the ladies' every need whilst they went out all hours on the streets of London. When the temple moved to Soho, it was a big step up for the Ladies Party and gave us a fresh burst of energy and enthusiasm."

Kamadhuk recalled how Soho Street was luxurious in comparison to Bury Place, as the ladies got to use a beautiful Sankirtan Office. The ladies had access to deity worship and the carpeted office was useful as a resting place for the book distributors when they would feel tired, having risen before 4am.

Kamadhuk continued to describe how an atmosphere of dependence on Krishna, lots

of prayer and a razor-sharp focus on book distribution enabled the team to collect £15k a week for the Soho temple construction.

” “There was a weekly international newsletter on book distribution which Srila Prabhupada would read,” remembers Guru Carana Padma. “Quite often the ladies and, indeed, the temple at Soho Street would come first!”

Kamadhuk relates that every distributor knew what to do, had an incredible amount of determination and willingness to practise austerity and make sacrifices for the pleasure of Srila Prabhupada. May we all be inspired by their example.





# MEET THE TEAM



ISKCON LONDON



**Krishna Priya das**  
Receptionist



**Jadavji**  
Krishna's Handyman



**Tripada das**  
Receptionist



**Abhinandan Gopa das**  
CVA Leader



**Manjari Gopika dd**  
Donor Care



**Manjuali devi dasi**  
Financial Controller



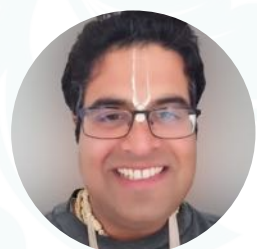
**Rupanuga Bhakti das**  
Vice President



**Dayal Mora das**  
Temple President



**Dhirodatta das**  
Trustee, Mentor



**Acyuta Charan das**  
FFL Coordinator



**Parasuram Das**  
FFL Coordinator



**Radha Raman das**  
Vice President



**Vamsi Vata das**  
Head Pujari



**Aravinda Krishna das**  
Devotee Care



**Yamuneshwari dd**  
Devotee Care



**Rsi Raya Gauranga das**  
General Manager



**Ramanath-Sukha das**  
Receptionist



**Thirupati Gauranga das**  
Govinda's Manager





**Dipadatri Gaurangi dd**  
LCVS Coordinator



**Amala Manjari dd**  
Bhakti Steps Coordinator



**Bhakta Matteo**  
Sankirtan Leader



**Mani Manjari dd**  
Krishna Club

# GET INVOLVED

and learn how you  
can **contribute**...

## YOUR SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

With the advent of this new newsletter and in a **collaborative mood**, we want to offer you, **our readers**, the opportunity to **write in with suggestions** for future newsletter articles: both what you would like to see or even write yourself.

**Please send suggestions to [newsletter@iskcon.london](mailto:newsletter@iskcon.london).  
We eagerly look forward to hearing from you all!**



# NEWSREEL

## BHAKTI STEPS

Srila Prabhupada once said that “Kṛṣṇa Consciousness is so easy that you can miss it!” Similarly, Bhakti Steps is such a simple formula that many may overlook it as “being for beginners.” This, however, would be a grave error.

To become a mature devotee (madhyam) one must have relationships with the following three types of persons:

- 1) Mentors/teachers/gurus who guide and support one.
- 2) Friends with whom one can relax and reveal one’s minds, and
- 3) Juniors whom we care for and to whom we pass down our knowledge and realisations.

Without all three of these links of the chain working together, one will struggle to move forward through the nine stages of bhakti, from sraddha to prema.

Why not actualise your potential and participate in the transcendental system of training and education given by the acarya’s?

One need look no further than becoming part of the Bhakti Steps Community. By devoting oneself to the mission of Rupa-Raghunatha and all the previous acharyas, one is absolved of all debts and the future is very bright indeed.

For more information please write to  
Amala Manjari Devi Dasi:  
[bhaktisteps@iskcon.london](mailto:bhaktisteps@iskcon.london)

## WINTER WONDERLAND

***Sri Sri Radha Londonisvara’s Winter Wonderland for Children*** took place all day on Saturday 14 December, an auspicious day, being the 55th anniversary of when Their Lordships were installed by Srila Prabhupada on 14 December 1969. Children enjoyed any number of a variety of activities, including arts & crafts, book distribution, face painting & henna, harinam, a japa workshop, kirtan and dance, rhyme time, interactive storytelling, a yoga adventure (through Vrindavan!), experiencing Krishna’s Grotto.



It marked the very first Krishna conscious all-day event for children and children had a magical experience in the spiritual oasis that is the Radha-Krishna temple. One of the highlights was Krishna’s Grotto providing a special experience for children to meet and speak with Krishna!







# LONDON COLLEGE OF VEDIC STUDIES

Learn Bhakti Yoga through different courses and seminars

**BHAKTI SASTRI**  
Starting from Sunday 2nd June 2024  
In-depth study of Bhagavad-Gita as it is, Nectar of Devotion, Sri Isoparnishad and Nectar of Instruction

Course Facilitated by:  
HG Gaura Keshava Dasa (ACBSP)  
Fridays, 17th & 24th January 2025  
4pm Onwards (Online only)

Time: 10:30 am to 1:30 pm, Every Sunday  
Venue: Seminar Room, ISKCON London, 10 Soho Street W1D 3DL  
Course Fees £299

**HYBRID COURSE**  
Available both Online and Onsite

For more information email: [LCV@ISKCONLondon](mailto:LCV@ISKCONLondon) or contact: [Dipadati Gaurangi Devi Dasi](mailto:Dipadati.Gaurangi@devi.dasi)

**Introduction to Vedanga**  
(Limbs of Veda) and Agama

Course Facilitated by:  
HG Gaura Keshava Dasa (ACBSP)  
Fridays, 17th & 24th January 2025  
4pm Onwards (Online only)

Overview of the 6 Vedangas or sections of Vedic knowledge which include:

- 1. Siksha (pronunciation)
- 2. Vyakarana (grammar)
- 3. Nirukta (etymology)
- 4. Chandas (metrics)
- 5. Jyotish (astrology)
- 6. Kalpe (rituals)

For more information email: [LCV@ISKCONLondon](mailto:LCV@ISKCONLondon) or contact: [Dipadati Gaurangi Devi Dasi](mailto:Dipadati.Gaurangi@devi.dasi)

FEES £10

**BENGALI**  
Course for Beginners

Unlock the beauty of the Bengali language with our Beginners Bengali Course! Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to connect with Bengali culture, this course is the perfect starting point. Learn essential phrases, vocabulary, and basic grammar to communicate effectively in everyday situations.

Course Facilitated by:  
HG Rupeshwar Nimai Dasa  
Starting from:  
7th February 2025  
Every Friday 10 Sessions  
07 pm to 08 pm

**ONLINE CLASS**

For more information email: [LCV@ISKCONLondon](mailto:LCV@ISKCONLondon) or contact: [Dipadati Gaurangi Devi Dasi](mailto:Dipadati.Gaurangi@devi.dasi)

FEES £35

Starting from 1st February 2025

**Tulasi Seva Training Seminar**

Venue: Seminar Room  
Saturday Onsite & Online - 4 pm  
Wednesday (Online Only) 5 - 8 pm

We are delighted to announce our 2nd comprehensive Tulasi Seva training seminar. This seminar will include an in-depth study of the Tulasi Seva ritual, its significance, and practical aspects of Tulasi Seva. Participants will receive a Tulasi plant and a Tulasi mala. The seminar will be held in a seminar room with a whiteboard and a projector. The seminar will be held in a seminar room with a whiteboard and a projector. The seminar will be held in a seminar room with a whiteboard and a projector.

Topics to be covered include:

- History of Tulasi Seva and its significance in the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition.
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FEES £25

**UNITY IN DISCOVERY:**  
Exploring Science and Spirituality

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP

Starting:  
12th February  
Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

This enlightening session dives into how timeless spiritual principles align with scientific discoveries, offering a harmonious perspective on life's greatest mysteries.

Facilitated by:  
HG Devasri Dasa

For more information email: [LCV@ISKCONLondon](mailto:LCV@ISKCONLondon) or contact: [Dipadati Gaurangi Devi Dasi](mailto:Dipadati.Gaurangi@devi.dasi)

**MRDANGA**  
Workshop for Beginners

Course Facilitated by:  
HG Dayanidhi Dasa  
Starting from:  
1st March 2025  
Every Saturday 12 Sessions  
02 pm to 04 pm

Workshop will be in the seminar room and advised to bring own mrdanga

For more information email: [LCV@ISKCONLondon](mailto:LCV@ISKCONLondon) or contact: [Dipadati Gaurangi Devi Dasi](mailto:Dipadati.Gaurangi@devi.dasi)

FEES £40

**GLORIES OF SRIMAD BHAGAVATAM**

Discover the profound wisdom of the timeless Srimad Bhagavatam in this inspiring course led by the insightful HG Karthik Candia Das. Deepen your understanding and ignite your spiritual journey!

Course Facilitated by:  
HG Karthik Candia Das  
Starting from:  
14th March 2025  
Every Sunday 10 Sessions  
09:30 am to 01 pm

**ONLINE CLASS**

For more information email: [LCV@ISKCONLondon](mailto:LCV@ISKCONLondon) or contact: [Dipadati Gaurangi Devi Dasi](mailto:Dipadati.Gaurangi@devi.dasi)

FEES £25

**THE JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY**

Course Facilitated by:  
HG Vamsi Dhari Das  
Starting from:  
April 2025

For more information email: [LCV@ISKCONLondon](mailto:LCV@ISKCONLondon) or contact: [Dipadati Gaurangi Devi Dasi](mailto:Dipadati.Gaurangi@devi.dasi)

## ONGOING

- Bhakti Sastri: Currently ongoing, facilitated by Dayal Mora Dasa, Murli Manohar Dasa, Vamsi Dhari Dasa

## JANUARY 2025

- Introduction to Vedanga (limbs of Veda) and Agama: facilitated by Gaura Keshava Dasa
- ISKCON UK Bhakti Vaibhava: facilitated by Navadvip Candra Dasa

## FEBRUARY 2025

- Beginners Bengali Course: facilitated by Rupeshwar Nimai Dasa

## • Tulasi Seva Training:

facilitated by Ratnavali Devi dasi

## • Unity in discovery:

exploring science and spirituality facilitated by Devasri Dasa

## MARCH 2025

### • Mrdanga Workshop:

facilitated by Dayanidhi Dasa

### • Glories of Srimad Bhagavatam:

Facilitated by Karthik Candia Dasa

## APRIL 2025

### • The Journey of Self-Discovery:

facilitated by Vamsi Dhari Dasa



## SOUND SYSTEM UPGRADE

In mid-December, the maintenance team carried out the latest phase of the sound system upgrade which will result in bigger speakers, a new amplifier and a subwoofer. The upgrade will provide a much nicer experience in kirtan with a more balanced sound compared to the current situation whereby the noise may be too loud for those standing close to the speakers.



## GOVINDA'S RESTAURANT

Govinda's has been busier than ever in its 45-year history, breaking sales records every month in comparison to records of previous years. In fact, the restaurant broke the overall sales record in any one month with over £200k of sales in August.

Restaurant Manager, Thirupati Gauranga das said, "This has only been possible with the mercy of Their Lordships, Sri Sri Radha Londonisvara, guru and Gauranga, all the incredible hard work of staff, and all our wonderful customers."

Temple president Dayal Mora das reflected, "Govinda's continues to reach to higher heights. Due respect must be given to Thirupati Gauranga Prabhu for driving this department and acting as an instrument of the Lord in pursuance of the mission of Srila Prabhupada."



## FOOD FOR LIFE

Food for Life volunteers serve prasadam, meals of sanctified food, to the homeless and needy in the early evening six days a week. They have a new prasadam partnership with Food For All where food is delivered from their kitchen in Euston. Each meal consists of a main dish, rice, curry, khichdi (lentil rice combo), cake and fruits. Approximately 600 such meals are served every week by the hardworking and dedicated

team of volunteers.

The team has welcomed a new volunteer, Danny Foster, to manage their Instagram social media presence. The team also recently had a community gathering for an evening of music and prasadam to celebrate the work and mission of Food for Life London (and all its amazing volunteers).







## WORLD EVENTS



### RURAL EUROPE YOUTH INITIATIVE

From 2021 to 2024, the Rural Entrepreneurship for You(th) project united eight ISKCON and ISKCON-friendly organisations from European countries in a common effort to address challenges faced by rural communities concerning young people. Funded by the EU's Erasmus+ program in Hungary, this collaborative project sought to empower youth by fostering entrepreneurship, promoting sustainability, and encouraging cultural exchange. At the heart of its continuity lies the Online Educational Platform—a resource designed to share and preserve the initiative's achievements and inspire future projects.

The website EduYouth ([www.eupronet.eu/blog-news-eupronet/categories/eduyouth](http://www.eupronet.eu/blog-news-eupronet/categories/eduyouth)) serves as a great starting point for anyone interested in learning more about the project, joining, or contributing.

# ISKCON WORLDWIDE

## ISKCON FEATURE AT UZBEKISTAN RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE

Sadhu Priya Das, ISKCON Russia, and Sri Madhava Das, ISKCON Uzbekistan, were invited to take part in the International Conference for Religious Tolerance in Uzbekistan on 16 November 2024. The Conference was held at the initiative of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of Uzbekistan, to commemorate International Tolerance Day.

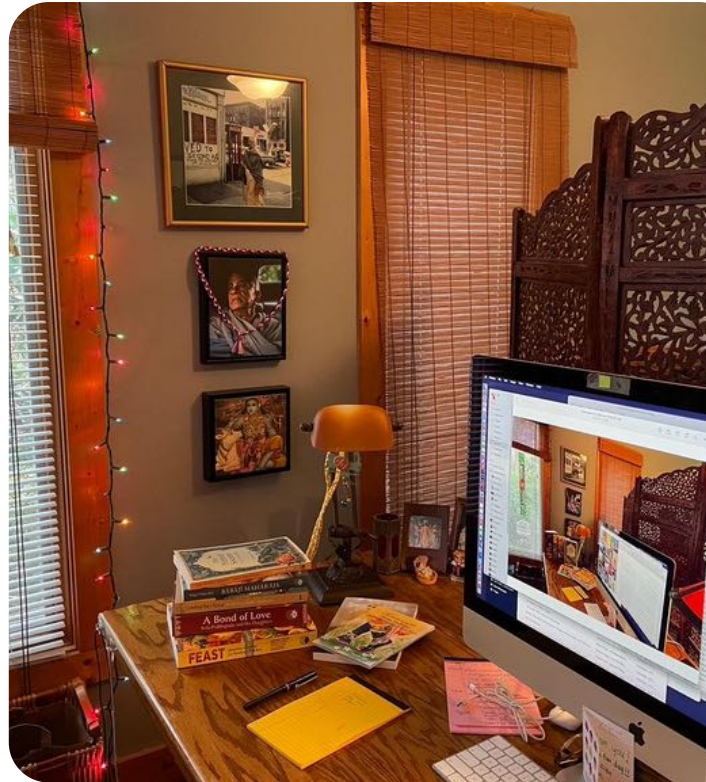
ISKCON devotees and other representatives of the Hindu faith were invited. Sadhu Priya Das spoke in front of the assembly of different faith leaders as a representative of the Hindu Council of Russia. He said that all authentic religious paths are facets of God's pure love and light and that Sanatana Dharma teaches tolerance towards other religions, as well as respect. Everyone has the right to their own spiritual path, and no one should be persecuted or bullied for their beliefs.





## PRESERVING SRILA PRABHUPADA'S LEGACY

Srila Prabhupada disciple Mayapriya Dasi has been practising Krishna Consciousness for over five decades. She lives in Virginia and started her own book design studio, Bookwrights, in 1993. She has a publishing company, Bookwrights Press, which has as one of its most notable projects the publication of *A Bond of Love*, a book whose profits are dedicated to the Vaishnavi Ministry. It contains over 300 interviews with Srila Prabhupada's female disciples, recounting their memories of him. Mayapriya said readers would "realise how very kind and fair Srila Prabhupada was in his interactions with all his female disciples." To see all of Bookwrights Press's titles, as well as to learn more about their publishing and design services, readers are invited to visit their store ([www.bookwrightspress.com/wpl/product-category/books](http://www.bookwrightspress.com/wpl/product-category/books)).



# GBC Resolutions 2024

Read the resolutions: [GBCRES24-1.pdf](#)

SCAN ME











**HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA  
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE  
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA  
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE**



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS, LONDON**  
Founder-Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada

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