**Glossary of main terms in Sikhism**

**ADI GRANTH -** The sacred scripture of the Sikhs; also known as the

*Guru Granth Sahib.*

**AMRIT** - A mixture of water and sugar crystals which is drunk during the initiation

ceremony.

**ATMAN**- The soul.

**BHAKTI** - Loving devotion to God.

**CHAURI** - A fan usually made of nylon feathers which is waved over the *Adi*

*Granth*, symbolizing authority.

**DIWALI** - Although Hindu in origin, this festival is celebrated by Sikhs as a

reminder of when Guru Hargobind was released from prison whilst India

was under the Mughal rulers.

**GIANI** - One who is well read in the *Adi Granth*.

**GURDWARA** - The Sikh place of worship.

**GURMUKH -** The individual who is God-orientated.

**GURMUKHI** - The script in which the *Adi Granth* is written.

**GURPURB** - The birth and death anniversaries of the Sikh Gurus.

**HAUMAI** - The ego.

**HUKAM** - God’s Will/Order.

**JAT -** The caste of farmers which forms the majority caste among Sikhs.

**KHALSA** - Order of the Pure Ones, Sikh brotherhood instituted by the tenth Guru,

Gobind Singh.

**MAN** - The mind.

**MANMUKH** - The individual who is more orientated towards worldly pleasures than

towards God.

**MAZHABI** - A caste of the Hindu outcastes who converted to Sikhism.

**MELA** - A festival or fair.

**NADAR** - The Grace of God.

**NAM** - Name, usually used to refer to the ‘Name of God’.

**NAM SIMRAN** - Meditation on the Name of God.

**NIRGUNA** - God without qualities.

**PANTH**  - The Sikh community.

**PUNJAB** - The ‘Land of the Five Rivers’, the homeland of the Sikhs; now divided

between India and Pakistan.

**RAMGHARIA** - The carpenter caste, also referred to as *Tarkhans*.

**SABAD/SHABAD** - The Word of God.

**SAGUNA** - God with form and qualities.

**SANT** - Saint, holy man.

**SANGAT** - Sikh gathering, congregation.

**SATGURU** - A term used for referring to God.

**SIKH** - A disciple, comes from the term *‘Sikna*’, to learn.

**VAISAKHI** - The main Sikh festival which celebrates the birth of the *Khalsa* as

instituted by Guru Gobind Singh. Since the *v* and *b* are

used interchangeably in Punjabi, the festival is also known as *Baisakhi.*

**WAHEGURU** - The Sikh term for God, meaning the ‘Wonderful One’.

**ZAT** - Punjabi word for ‘caste’.